PREPARATION

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale rates storms by categories 1 through 5 based on their intensity. These categories may change as a hurricane becomes stronger or weaker during the course of the storm.

Category	1	2	3	4	5
Barometric Pressure (Millibars)	980-994	965-979	945-964	920-944	Less than 920
Winds (MPH)	74-95	96-110	111-129	130-156	157+
Summary	Very dangerous winds will produce some damage	Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage	Devastating damage will occur	Catastrophic damage will occur	Catastrophic damage will occur
People, Livestock and Pets	Possibility of getting struck by flying or falling debris that could injure or kill	Substantial risk of injury or death to people, livestock and pets due to flying or falling debris	High risk of injury or death to people, livestock and pets due to flying or falling debris	Very high risk of injury or death to people, livestock and pets due to flying or falling debris	Very high risk of injury or death due to flying or falling debris even if indoors
Mobile Homes	Older mobile homes (pre-1994) could be destroyed, especially if they are not anchored properly	Older mobile homes (pre-1994) have a very high chance of being destroyed. Newer ones are at risk	Nearly all older mobile homes (pre-1994) will be destroyed. Most newer mobile homes will sustain damage	Nearly all older and newer mobile homes will be destroyed	Almost complete destruction of mobile homes
Frame Homes	Some poorly constructed homes can experience damage	Some poorly constructed homes have a high chance of damage	Poorly constructed homes can be destroyed by the removal of roof and exterior walls	Poorly constructed homes' walls can collapse and roof structures can be lost	High percentage of homes will be destroyed
Apartments, Shopping Centers and Buildings	Some buildings' roofs and siding coverings could be removed	Unreinforced masonry walls can collapse	High percentage of roof and siding damage	High percentage of damage to top floors. Steel frames can collapse	High percentage of buildings will be destroyed
Trees	Large branches of trees will snap and shallow-rooted trees can be toppled	Many shallow-rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted	Many shallow-rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted	Most trees will snap or uproot and power poles will be downed	Nearly all trees will snap or uproot and power poles will be downed
Power and Water	Extensive damage to power-lines and poles. Power outages for a few days	Near-total power loss is expected with outages that could last for days to weeks	Electricity and water will be unavailable for days to weeks after the storm	Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks	Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks to months
Example	Hurricane Dolly (2008)	Hurricane Frances (2004)	Hurricane Ivan (2004)	Hurricane Irma (2017)	Hurricane Andrew (1992)