

## wind scale

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale is a one to five rating based on a hurricane's sustained wind speed. This scale estimates potential property damage.

Hurricanes reaching Category 3 and higher are considered major hurricanes because of their potential for significant loss of life and damage. Category 1 and 2 storms are still dangerous, however, and require preventative measures. In the Western North Pacific, the term "super typhoon" is used for tropical cyclones with sustained winds exceeding 150 mph.

**1** 74-95 mph  
64-82 kt  
119-153 km/h

**Very dangerous winds will produce some damage:** Well-constructed frame homes could have damage to roof, shingles, vinyl siding and gutters. Large branches of trees will snap and shallowly rooted trees may be toppled. Extensive damage to power lines/poles likely will result in power outages that could last a few to several days.

**2** 96-110 mph  
83-95 kt  
154-177 km/h

**Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage:** Well-constructed frame homes could sustain major roof and siding damage. Many shallowly rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted and block numerous roads. Near-total power loss is expected with outages that could last from several days to weeks.

**3** 111-129 mph  
96-112 kt  
178-208 km/h

**Devastating damage will occur:** Well-built framed homes may incur major damage or removal of roof decking and gable ends. Many trees will be snapped or uprooted, blocking numerous roads. Electricity and water will be unavailable for several days to weeks after the storm passes.

**4** 130-156 mph  
113-136 kt  
209-251 km/h

**Catastrophic damage will occur:** Well-built framed homes can sustain severe damage with loss of most of the roof structure and/or some exterior walls. Most trees will be snapped/uprooted and power poles downed. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last weeks, possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks/months.

**5** 157+ mph  
137+ kt  
252+ km/h

**Catastrophic damage will occur:** A high percentage of framed homes will be destroyed, with total roof failure and wall collapse. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

## 2015 tropical cyclone names

Ana | Bill | Claudette |  
Danny | Erika | Fred | Grace  
| Henri | Ida | Joaquin | Kate  
| Larry | Mindy | Nicholas |  
Odette | Peter | Rose | Sam  
| Teresa | Victor | Wanda

# Hurricane Guide 2015



Rain and heavy winds from 2003's Hurricane Isabel pound the beach at Naval Station Norfolk, as the storm moves inland. Isabel, which cost the Navy nearly \$130 million in damage in the Mid-Atlantic region.

U.S. Navy file photo

## Stay prepared: Keep you and your family updated in NFAAS

By Micheal Mink  
Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Public Affairs

### NORFOLK

June 1 is the official start of hurricane season, which means accountability will be a priority more than ever. Natural disasters like hurricanes, wild fires, earthquakes, and floods are just some of the disastrous reasons why it is important to make sure your Navy Family Accountability and Assessment System (NFAAS) information is always up to date.

NFAAS is an online accountability tracker, used following a disaster or other events, to help determine the location and well-being of Navy active duty, reserves, Department of the Navy civilians and their immediate family members.

"There are three key things to remember during a disaster. First and foremost is safety followed by accountability and knowing how to get help," said Lt. Catherine Warren, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic's personnel service officer. "NFAAS was created to provide a means for individuals and commands to account for personnel and request assistance when needed. The bottom line is that we want to know if everyone is OK, where everyone is, and how we can help."

The establishment of NFAAS came after the massive destruction of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. With the displacement and evacuation of so many people in a short period of time, it made it difficult to accurately account for each person. To help keep information current in NFAAS, service members are required to take part in the Navy-wide semi-annual updates.

"Although the primary way to muster is still through your chain of command, the updates in NFAAS are in-

credibly important and required. NFAAS serves as the primary reporting system for commands and their In-Service Support Centers (ISSCs) to ensure personnel are accounted for and assistance is provided when needed," Warren said. "The visibility it provides up and down the Navy chain of command helps in so many ways."

One example Warren recalled was from a disaster that occurred when a petty officer on a ship had family members in an affected area that was devastated by the weather. But, because NFAAS was updated with correct information, the family members were able to be reached thousands of miles around the world and assistance was provided by the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society and the Red Cross.

"NFAAS is important because it allows us to help during a disaster. We are one Navy family and we need to ensure our active duty, reserves, civilians and family members are equally accounted for and provided assistance. This tool helps us do just that," Warren commented on why NFAAS is important.

NFAAS is easy to use and there are a few of ways to use it.

- You can go to the website <https://navyfamily.navy.mil> and click on "Navy Military, Civilians, Outside Contiguous United State (OCONUS), Contractors, and their Families." The site will then give you the option to select logging in by Command Access Card (CAC), user name and password, or by personal information (SSN, date of birth and last name);

- Download the NFAAS mobile app;
- Provide updated information to your command's NFAAS representative and they can update the system for you.

A misconception is that the only time NFAAS is used

is during hurricanes or during hurricane exercises.

Some recent examples of NFAAS being used include Super Typhoon Haiyan in the Pacific, tornados in the Midwest and recent assessments were conducted in NFAAS for tornados and flooding in Florida, Alabama, Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee, Warren added.

When an event occurs (real or exercise), the first action is for the member to muster with their command and account for themselves and their dependents. The command can then enter the information into NFAAS for the member which will prevent overloading NFAAS. During times when the service member is unable to update his NFAAS due to no internet connection or evacuation following a disaster, the service member can contact their command with their family information and his command NFAAS representative has the ability to update the information for him.

If a member is unable to reach their command for any reason, they can muster in NFAAS or they can muster by calling the Navy Personnel Command (NPC) Help Desk at (877) 414-5358. Note that during non-emergency events, this is the NPC customer service desk.

Each command's hurricane preparedness and evacuation officer can provide additional information for the service member to take home and share with his family.

"Unfortunately one of the most common challenges we have, whether it's during an exercise or during a real world event, is accurate contact information in NFAAS," Warren said. "When disaster strikes we want to assist our Navy families as quickly as possible. By ensuring your personal and family information is up to date and having contact numbers for your command, NFAAS and NPC we can make a difficult situation a little better."

## terms

**Tropical Depression:** A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 38 mph (33 knots) or less.

**Tropical Storm:** A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph (34 to 63 knots).

**Hurricane:** A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 74 mph (64 knots) or higher. In the Western North Pacific, hurricanes are called typhoons; similar storms in the Indian Ocean and South Pacific Ocean are called cyclones.

**Major Hurricane:** A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 111 mph (96 knots) or higher / category 3, 4 or 5 (see left).

**Storm surge:** an abnormal rise of water generated by a storm's winds which can reach heights well over 20 feet and can span hundreds of miles of coastline.

**Storm tide:** the water level rise during a storm due to the combination of storm surge and the astronomical tide.

The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 to Nov. 30, and the Eastern Pacific hurricane season runs from May 15 to Nov. 30. The Atlantic basin includes the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico. The Eastern Pacific basin extends to 140°W.



## emergency kit

For additional supply kits, go to <http://www.ready.gov/kit>.

- Water: at least 1 gallon daily per person for 3 to 7 days

- Food: at least enough for 3 to 7 days, per person:

- non-perishable packaged or canned food / juices
- foods for infants or the elderly
- snack foods
- non-electric can opener
- cooking tools / fuel
- paper plates / plastic utensils

- Dust masks or cotton t-shirts for every member of the household to help filter the air
- Local maps and your family emergency plan
- Whistle to signal for help

Pet care items:

- proper identification, immunization records, medicine
- ample supply of food and water
- a carrier or cage
- muzzle and leash

- Blankets / pillows, etc.
- Clothing: seasonal / rain gear/ sturdy shoes
- First Aid Kit: medicines / prescription drugs
- Special items: for babies and the elderly
- Toiletries: hygiene items / moisture wipes
- Flashlight / batteries
- Radio: battery operated and NOAA weather radio
- Telephones: Fully charged cell phone with extra battery and a traditional (not cordless) telephone set
- Cash (with some small bills) and credit cards: banks and ATMs may not be available for extended periods
- Keys
- Toys, books and games
- Important documents: in a waterproof container or watertight resealable plastic bag (insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, Social Security Card)
- Tools: keep a set with you during the storm
- Vehicle fuel tanks filled