

## **SAFFIR/SIMPSON HURRICANE SCALE**

### **Category One**

*Winds 74-95 MPH*

Or Storm Surge Above 4-5 feet above normal.\*

### **Category Two**

*Winds 96-110 MPH*

Or Storm surge 6 feet above normal.\*

### **Category Three**

*Winds 111-130 MPH*

Or storm surge 9-12 feet above normal.\*

### **Category Four**

*Winds 131-155 MPH*

Or storm surge 13-18 feet above normal.\*

### **Category Five**

*Winds 155 MPH and greater*

Or storm surge greater than 18 feet above normal.\*

\*Actual storm surge values will vary considerably depending on coastal configurations and other factors.

## **THE TERMS**

### **WATCHES & WARNINGS**

When a tropical storm or hurricane threatens, the National Hurricane Center will issue advisories based on the projected time until landfall of the storm.

#### **Watches**

*A tropical storm or hurricane watch means that tropical storm or hurricane conditions pose a possible threat in a specified coastal region within 36 hours. You should begin preliminary preparations to protect life and property. Stay tuned to local news or the weather channel for continuing updates.*

#### **Warnings**

*A tropical storm or hurricane warning means that tropical storm or hurricane conditions are expected in a specified coastal region within 24 hours. All preparations should be completed. Stay tuned to local news or the weather channel for evacuation orders and additional instructions. Remember—winds and storm surge from tropical storms are not as serious as a hurricane. However, many tropical storms and even tropical depressions may contain tornadoes and torrential, flooding rains.*

## **STORMS DEFINED**

- A tropical disturbance, tropical wave or easterly wave can be defined as a cluster of clouds and thunderstorms moving through the tropics.
- When the tropical wave develops a rotary, cyclonic (counter-clockwise) circulation with sustained (1 minute) winds to 38 mph, it is called a tropical depression.
- When sustained winds reach 39 mph, a tropical storm has formed.
- When sustained winds reach 74 mph, a hurricane has formed.