

Hurricane Intensity Categories Explained

Category 1 hurricane

Sustained winds are 74 mph to 95 mph.

How would this affect you? Very dangerous winds would produce some damage — to roofs, shingles and gutters; toppling trees; damaging power lines; and likely creating power outages.

Category 2 hurricane

Sustained winds are 96 mph to 110 mph.

How would this affect you? Extremely dangerous winds would cause extensive damage — major roof damage, toppled trees, uprooted trees, damaged power lines and likely power outages.

Category 3 (major) hurricane

Sustained winds are 111 mph to 129 mph.

How would this affect you? Devastating damage will occur — extensive roof damage, toppled and uprooted trees, power outages and water shortages.

Category 4 (major) hurricane

Sustained winds are 130 mph to 156 mph.

How would this affect you? Catastrophic damage will occur — severe damage to roofs, exterior walls, toppled trees, downed power poles, power outages, water shortages.

Category 5 (major) hurricane

Sustained winds are 157 mph and higher.

How would this affect you? Catastrophic damage will occur — a high percentage of homes will be destroyed, with total roof failure and wall collapse; fallen trees; downed power poles; power outages; water shortages.