Hurricane Season—Be Prepared—Be Safe!

Be aware that the calm "eye" is deceptive; the storm is not over. The winds do not blow for days, but the eye of the storm may move over your area again. Stay away from floodwaters. If you hear a wind-driven monster roar, prepare to take cover. And to make the most of your preparations, consider these tips:

- Plan an evacuation route and keep a map of your locality handy.
- Bring in outdoor objects and anchor objects that cannot be brought inside.
- Review evacuation plan with family.
- Stay inside, away from windows, skylights, and glass doors.
- Listen constantly to a battery-operated NOAA Weather Radio or local radio.
- Keep listening to NOAA Weather Radio or local radio or TV stations for instructions.
- Keep watches and weather radios charged and ready to use.
- Know what to do after a hurricane is over.

Know What to Do After a Hurricane Is Over

- Stay away from floodwaters.
- Inspect your home for damage.
- Keep listening to NOAA Weather Radio or local radio.
- Store valuables and personal papers in a waterproof container on the highest floor.
- Bring in outdoor objects and anchor objects that cannot be brought inside.
- Plan an evacuation route and keep a map of your locality handy.
- Make trees more wind resistant by removing diseased and damaged limbs, pruning away branches, and pre-drill holes in the plywood so that you can put it up quickly.
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Hurricane Katrina 23–30 August 2005—Tropical Cyclone Report

Hurricane Katrina was an extraordinarily powerful and deadly tropical cyclone that carved a wide swath of catastrophic destruction in the southeastern United States. Tropical Cyclone Katrina is unusual because of its size and strength. The 100-knot winds and incredible rainfall intensity caused extensive damage and loss of life by the hurricane itself, in addition to severe storm surge flooding, deprivation of surface-level livelihoods, and loss of life due to other hazards, including landslides and flash floods. The death toll and economic losses were huge.

Hurricane Katrina was so powerful that it was among only a handful of storms to be characterized as an "extreme tropical cyclone." In the 1990s, there were only about 5% of storms reaching Category 5 strength. The amount of energy released from Katrina was equivalent to that of about 200 megatons of TNT. The amount of energy released from Hurricane Katrina is about equal to the energy released from 750 of the largest nuclear weapons in the world.

The effects of Hurricane Katrina were catastrophic and widespread. The hurricane caused at least 1,836 deaths and left behind a trail of devastation. The storm surge from Hurricane Katrina was the highest ever recorded in the United States, with a surge of 17 feet (5.2 meters) in New Orleans. The storm surge from Hurricane Katrina was so high that it flooded many coastal areas, including parts of New Orleans, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida.

The impacts of Hurricane Katrina were widespread and far-reaching. The hurricane caused widespread flooding, power outages, and water supply disruptions. The hurricane caused widespread damage to infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and water systems. The hurricane caused widespread damage to homes and businesses, including damage to roofs, windows, and doors. The hurricane caused widespread damage to agriculture, including damage to crops and livestock.

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