

Online Information

The Horrendous Hurricane Mystery

Fascinating Facts

Hurricane Trivia

1. A hurricane is most destructive during its first 12 hours onshore.
2. The hurricane is the world's biggest storm.
3. Hurricane Katrina cost \$75 billion in damages—the most expensive hurricane in U.S. history.
4. Ten minutes of one hurricane has as much energy as a nuclear bomb. That's one strong storm!
5. Every hurricane has an "eye" where the wind is perfectly calm and the sky can even be sunny!
6. The U.S. National Weather Service has been naming hurricanes since 1953.
7. The word hurricane comes from "Huracan," the god of big winds and evil spirits in the ancient Mayan culture.
8. If a hurricane is really big and destructive, its name is retired and never used again for any other hurricane.
9. A group of pilots called the Hurricane Hunters actually fly right into the eye of a hurricane so they can track how the storm is developing! Pilots say that it feels like "you're on a roller coaster going down, and then getting shot back up again," while they are in the eye wall.
10. Hurricanes always form and gain power over the water, but they die quickly when they reach land.



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The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale

Categories of Hurricanes: The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale measures hurricanes by current intensity using a 1 to 5 scale.

- A **Category 1** hurricane has wind speeds of 74 to 95 miles per hour (mph). There is some damage to trees, shrubs and signs.
- A **Category 2** hurricane has wind speeds of 96 to 110 mph, and causes damage to windows, roofs and doors.
- A **Category 3** hurricane, which Hurricane Katrina was when it made landfall, has wind speeds of 111 to 130 mph, causing some damage to small homes and destroying mobile homes.
- A **Category 4** hurricane has wind speeds of 131 to 155 mph. There is major damage to roofs, windows and doors.
- A **Category 5** hurricane has wind speeds of 156 mph and higher. It causes extreme damage to buildings, including tearing off roofs.

