

HURRICANE WATCH!

Hurricanes are rated on a scale of 1 to 5 by their wind speed and how much damage they might cause. The scale is called a Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Damage Scale. It is shown in the chart below. Read the chart and then use it to answer the questions.

Hurricane Category	Wind Speed (miles per hour)	Storm Surge (height of waves in feet)	Damage
1	74-95 miles per hour	4-5 feet	• Damage to trees and shrubbery. Possibility of flooding in low-lying areas.
2	96-110	6-8	• Trees and signs may be blown down or damaged. Possible evacuation of people living along the coast.
3	111-130	9-12	• Buildings will be damaged. Serious flooding may occur along the coast. People in low-lying areas will be evacuated.
4	131-155	13-18	• Coastal and inland flooding. Massive evacuation of residents as far inland as six miles.
5	155 or greater	18 or greater	• Severe damage to all buildings. Wind will shatter windows. Massive evacuation of residents as far inland as 10 miles.

1. In 1992, Hurricane Andrew shook southern Florida with wind speeds estimated at 165 miles per hour. What hurricane category did meteorologists assign to Andrew? _____

2. List the maximum wind speed that a category 3 hurricane could reach. _____

3. A storm surge is a huge dome of water about 50 miles wide. What is the greatest height a storm surge can reach and still be considered a category 2 hurricane? _____

What is the lowest storm surge height for a category 2 storm? _____

4. Hurricanes can change categories as they near land. Explain the difference between a category 4 hurricane and a category 5 hurricane.

5. How might the aftermath of a category 2 hurricane look different from the aftermath of a category 5 hurricane? What do you think is the reason for this difference?



With a family member, make a list of five things you could do now to help protect your family during a hurricane or other natural disaster.