Hurricanes and Coastal Storms

INSTRUCTOR GUIDANCE

CONTENT



Hurricanes and Coastal Storms

Display Slide Hu-0



Allow the participants time to respond before displaying the slide.

Hurricanes and Coastal Storms Hurricanes: Violent areas of low pressure forming in tropics Have winds of 75 mph or more Accompanied by torrential rains Coastal Storms Typically form along East Coast Produce similar damage to hurricanes

Hurricanes

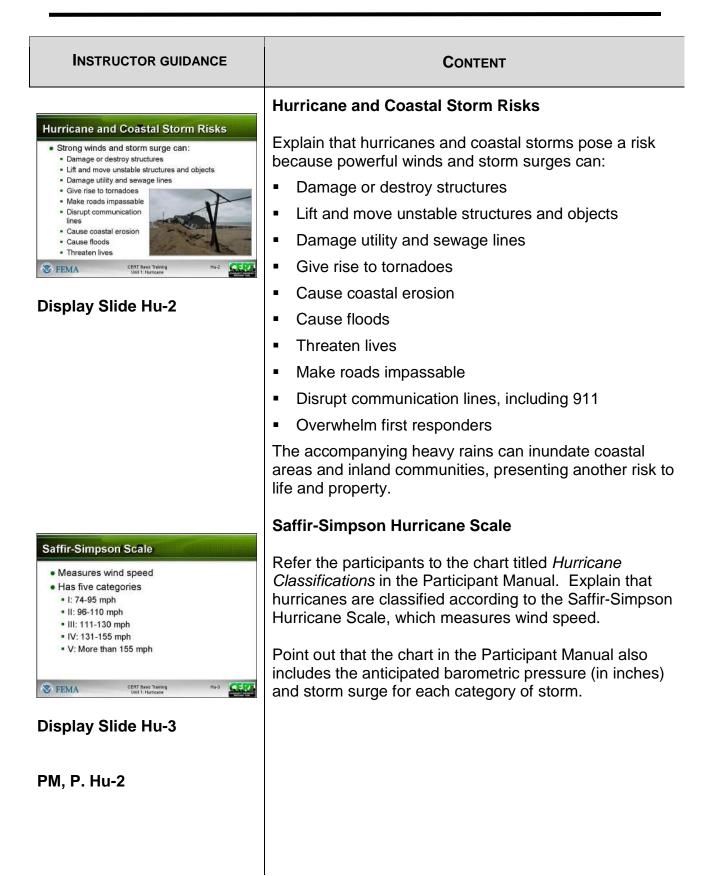
coastal storm?

A hurricane is a violent area of low pressure forming in the tropical Atlantic Ocean from June to November. August and September are peak months. (Similar Western Pacific Ocean storms are called <u>typhoons</u>.) Hurricanes have winds of 75 miles per hour or more and are accompanied by torrential rains and – along coastal areas – a storm surge.

What is the difference between a hurricane and a

Tell the participants that, although coastal storms may have hurricane-force winds and may cause similar kinds and amounts of damage, they are not classified as hurricanes because they do not originate in the tropics. Coastal storms typically form along the east coast from December through March.

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PM, P. Hu-2 Hurricane Classifications

Category	Barometric Pressure (Inches)	Windspeed (Miles Per Hour)	Storm Surge (Feet)
I - Minimal	Above 28.94	74-95	4-5
II - Moderate	28.50-28.91	96-110	6-8
III - Extensive	27.91-28.47	111-130	9-12
IV - Extreme	27.17-27.88	131-155	13-18
V - Catastrophic	Less Than 27.17	More Than 155	More than 18

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	Frequency of Hurricanes
	Point out that the <u>greatest</u> likelihood of a hurricane striking land is along the Gulf Coast and the southeastern seaboard. However, hurricanes also have hit central Pennsylvania and the coasts of New Jersey, New York, and New England.
	Explain that each year an average of 11 storm-strength weather disturbances develop over the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico. Of these, half may grow to hurricane proportion. Two hurricanes are likely to strike the U.S. coast each year.
Statistics 4 To	Statistics
100 million Americans are at risk for hurricanes Almost 14 million live area where winds greater than 125 mph have been recorded	Stress that nearly 100 million Americans are at risk from hurricanes. Specifically:
(i.e., tip of Florida to North Carolina coast) • More than 6 million live in storm surge areas	 Almost 14 million live in the area where winds greater than 125 mph have been recorded (i.e., the tip of Florida to the North Carolina coast).
FEMA CERT Basic Training Hu-4 CERT Basic Training Hu-4	 More than 6 million live in storm surge areas.
Display Slide Hu-4	Emphasize that, although deaths from hurricanes are decreasing as hurricane warning systems improve, property damage is on the rise.
	Preparing for a Hurricane or Coastal Storm
?	How can you prepare for a hurricane or coastal storm?
Allow the group time to respond.	

Preparing for a Hurricane • Know risk and evacuation routes • Develop action plan • Secure needed supplies • Floodproof property • Create personal disaster supply kit for your family • Secure mobile homes

Display Slide Hu-5

CONTENT

Point out that many people do not realize the threat that hurricanes can present – even if they live in hurricane-prone areas – because they have not experienced a major hurricane.

Stress that there are certain preparations that people who live in high-risk areas should take to prepare for a hurricane or coastal storm <u>before</u> one occurs. Describe for the group the following preparations:

- Know the risk and evacuation routes. Being aware of the risk and how to get out of the area as quickly as possible should an evacuation order be issued is one of the key preparedness steps to take. Driving the evacuation routes to ensure familiarity before a storm and identifying shelter locations will make an evacuation smoother.
- Develop an action plan. When will you begin preparing your home for possible high winds and storm surge? How much time will it take you to evacuate, if necessary? Does your evacuation route change based on the direction of the storm? Will you go to a shelter or a hotel? These are all questions that anyone who lives in a high-risk area should answer as part of hurricane or coastal storm planning. While creating this plan, keep in mind any provisions that might be necessary to accommodate the elderly, those with special needs, and pets.
- Secure needed supplies. If you assemble your disaster supply kits as suggested in this unit, you will have everything that you need for hurricane and coastal storm preparedness.

INSTRUCTOR GUIDANCE	CONTENT
Review the techniques for floodproofing properties that are included in the Flood Hazard section of this Instructor Guide.	 Floodproof property. Floodproofing can range from using a water sealer in areas that have basements to sandbagging to elevating utilities to moving furniture to the second floor. Create a personal disaster supply kit for your family. Keep in mind the needs of the elderly, those with special needs, and your pets. Include up to 2 weeks of non-perishable food. Secure mobile homes and any outdoor items that could be picked up by the wind or washed away. Solicit other suggestions from the group. Additional suggestions may include keeping the car's gas tank filled and verifying insurance coverage. Advise participants that they should have flood insurance, even if they're not in a flood zone. It might also be beneficial to have insurance for windstorms and homeowner's insurance for internal belongings. Participants should know the details of their insurance plans, including deductibles and what is and is not included. Take photos and videos of your property at least once a year.
?	After a hurricane watch has been issued, what should you do to prepare?
Allow the group to respond before displaying the next slide.	

Before a Hurricane Board up all windows and glass doors Check batteries Stock up on nonperishable food Listen to EAS

Display Slide Hu-6

CONTENT

Before a Hurricane

Summarize for the group the steps that everyone who is at risk should take before a hurricane strikes:

- Board up all windows and glass doors. Studies have shown that if the wind can be kept out of a structure, the structure will withstand high winds relatively well. If wind is allowed inside, however, additional structural and nonstructural damage will occur very quickly. The best way to prevent wind from getting into a structure is to cover all windows and glass doors with plywood or to close hurricane shutters. Have tarps available for temporary roof repairs.
- Check batteries. Often electricity is disrupted by hurricanes (and coastal storms) and, depending on the extent of damage, may not be restored immediately. Check batteries for flashlights and portable radios to ensure that they are fresh. Replace old batteries, and have extra on hand.
- Stock up on nonperishable food. A 3-day supply of food and water for each family member is a must.
- Listen to the Emergency Alert System (EAS) for local emergency information. Local officials will have the most current emergency information about the storm (including watch and warning information from the National Weather Service) and will provide information and instructions via EAS.

CONTENT INSTRUCTOR GUIDANCE **Deciding to Stay or Go** Stay or Go? . If in evacuation zone, leave immediately If you are in an evacuation zone, LEAVE IMMEDIATELY. . Determine where you will go As CERT members, you set the example for your Leave as early as possible If not in evacuation zone: community. · Follow sheltering guidelines . Determine safe room in home · Fortify house If you are evacuating: · Assist those with special needs Determine where you will go. Identify a family S FEMA CERT Basic Training CELL member's or friend's house, or a public shelter, where you will go if you evacuate. Keep in mind those with Display Slide Hu-7 special needs, including the elderly, and pets. Preregistration and approval at shelters is often required. Check with the shelter to determine what supplies you should bring. Leave as early as possible. If you are NOT in an evacuation zone and decide to stay: Follow the sheltering guidelines. Determine a safe room in your home. Fortify your house. Consult www.flash.org for information on window protection, garage door protection, roof protection, and door protection. Secure outdoor items that could be blown away and cause damage. Assist those with special needs. A wheelchair dependent person who lives in a high rise, for instance, might be "shut-in" if the electricity goes out and the building's elevator is inoperable. He/she will require food, water, and possibly medicine. What should you do during a hurricane? Allow the group to respond before displaying the next slide.

Stay indoors Stay away from flood waters Be aware of the "eye" Be alert for tornadoes CERT Basic Training Little 1 Hardware Hu-8

INSTRUCTOR GUIDANCE

Display Slide Hu-8

If you live in an area that is away from the coast but subject to inland flooding, you should include some discussion on inland flooding that accompanies decaying hurricanes and tropical storms and the risk of cascading events, such as landslides and mudflows. You should also emphasize that hurricane- and tropical storm-force winds can extend well inland from the coast, and that the strongest sustained winds from a hurricane usually occur in the right front quadrant of the storm.



Allow the group to respond before displaying the next slide.

CONTENT

During a Hurricane

Allow the group time to respond. Then, summarize their responses using the slide.

Be sure to make these points:

- Stay indoors. If advised to evacuate, do so. However, do not assume that because an evacuation order is not issued that the situation is safe. Even Category 1 hurricanes are dangerous. Stay indoors and listen to EAS for up-to-date information.
- If advised to take shelter:
 - Take the family disaster supply kit.
 - Go to an interior "safe" room without windows, if possible.
 - Stay in the safe room and listen to EAS for additional instructions.
- Stay away from flood waters. If the home begins to flood, go to a higher level, if possible.
- Be aware of the "eye." The "eye" of a hurricane is typically 20 to 30 miles wide in relation to the storm, which may have a diameter of 400 miles. During the "eye," there are very few clouds, but it is important to remember that the storm is not over.
- Be alert for tornadoes. Tornadoes are frequently associated with hurricanes, and are most common in the right-front quadrant of the storm.

What precautions should you take <u>after</u> a hurricane or coastal storm?

INSTRUCTOR GUIDANCE CONTENT After a Hurricane After a Hurricane . Do not reenter area until it is declared safe Be sure to make these points: . Use flashlight to inspect for damage . Wear protective clothing, sunscreen, and bug Do not reenter the area until it is declared safe. repellant · Check on neighbors Reentry to the area too soon may cause unnecessary . If you use a generator, take safety precautions risk—and may keep first responders and utility . Stay away from downed power lines . Turn off utilities, if necessary workers from doing their jobs. Listen to EAS Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Do not FEMA CERT Basic Training CERT assume that utilities are undamaged following a hurricane or coastal storm. Checking for damage Display Slide Hu-9 with a flashlight reduces the risk of injury, especially from a damaged electric supply. Wear protective clothing, sunscreen, and bug repellant. Be aware that lost pets may be scared and more inclined to bite. Be aware of traffic hazards. Do not drive through flooded areas. Watch for traffic signals that may be out of service. Check on neighbors. If you use a generator, take safety precautions. Follow proper directions for use and never use a generator indoors, including garages. Keep the generator at least 10 feet from any opening of anyone's home or business. Consult your local fire marshal for more information. Stay away from downed power lines. The only sure way to limit risk from downed power lines is to avoid them completely.

INSTRUCTOR GUIDANCE	CONTENT
Remind the group that if they turn off the gas valve, only the gas company can restore the service.	Turn off utilities, if necessary. If there is a gas smell or a fire, turn off the gas valve. If there is damage to electric lines or supply, shut off the electricity by turning off small circuit breakers (or unscrewing fuses) first, then turning off the main breaker (or fuse).
	 Reserve the telephone for emergency use. Telephone lines are invariably overloaded following a disaster or emergency. Reserving telephone use (both landline and cellular) for emergency use helps to ensure that those calls that must go through do so. Listen to EAS for updated information. Local officials will use EAS extensively to provide emergency information and instructions. Be sure to tune in often for updates.
	Does anyone have additional questions, comments, or concerns about hurricanes or coastal storms?

