Ready
Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.

FEMA

Hurricanes

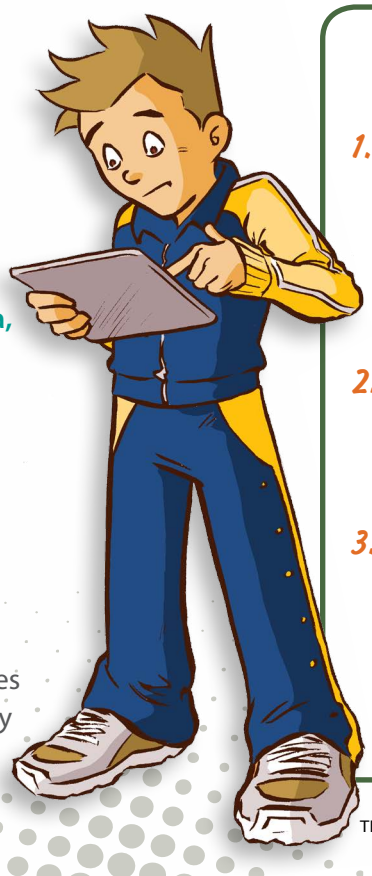
Hurricanes are severe tropical storms that form in the southern Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico, and in the eastern Pacific Ocean. They gather heat and energy through contact with warm ocean waters. Evaporation from the seawater increases their power. Hurricanes rotate in a counter-clockwise direction around an "eye." Hurricanes have winds at least 74 miles per hour. When hurricanes come onto land, their heavy rain, strong winds, and large waves can damage buildings, trees, and cars.

Am I at risk?

Hurricanes are most common between June and November, and most often hit states like Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Georgia, Texas, South Carolina, and North Carolina. But they can affect all states along the eastern shore, all the way up to Maine, and can even occur on the West Coast and Pacific Islands.

Did you know?

There are six lists of names for tropical cyclones and hurricanes. They get rotated every year. There is a committee that comes up with the names. If a storm is particularly devastating, the committee meets to decide on a name to replace it in the list.



FACT CHECK

1. Hurricanes can produce which of the following?
   a. Tornadoes
   b. Storm surges
   c. 155 miles per hour winds
   d. All of the above
2. Hurricane seasons lasts from ____ to ____ .
   a. August to December
   b. June to November
   c. January to July
3. **True or False?** Hurricanes can cause flash floods, landscapes, and mud slides.

ANSWERS
(1) D, All of the above.
(2) B, but the peak season is from mid-August until late October.
(3) True. Hurricanes can produce a lot of rain!

TM

BE A HERO!™

For more facts and info on hurricanes visit
http://www.ready.gov/kids/know-the-facts/hurricanes
http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/

Ready
Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.
FEMA

Hurricanes Be Prepared

BEFORE

- Build an emergency kit.
- Make a family communications plan.
- Help your parents bring in outdoor items like potted plants, patio furniture, decorations, and garbage cans. They can fly in strong winds!

DURING

- Don't open the refrigerator or freezer. In case you lose power, you want the cold air to stay in!
- Stay away from windows and glass doors. They could break and hurt you.
- Don't go outside when the rain or winds stop. This is the eye of the storm, or a short "rest," and it will start again.
- If need be, stay inside a closet or a room without windows. You can also lie on the floor under a table or sturdy object.
- Listen to your parents or safety authorities for important instructions.

AFTER

- Don't go outside without a grown-up.
- Don't go near any wires that are loose or dangling. They could electrocute you!
- Tell your parents if you smell gas.
- Don't drink water from the faucet unless your parents say it's okay.
- Text, don't talk. Unless there's a life-threatening situation, if you have a cell phone, send a text so that you don't tie up phone lines needed by emergency workers. Plus, texting may work even if cell service is down.

WORDS TO KNOW

Eye The center of the storm and the time when winds and rains die down. But it will start up again very quickly.

Tropical An area of the country that is closer to the equator

Storm Surge Heavy waves caused by high wind and a lot of rain. These can be dangerous.

Evacuation Leaving an area declared unsafe by officials. Always follow instructions to evacuate your home or neighborhood and if need be to go someplace safer.

BE A HERO!™

For more facts and info on hurricanes visit
http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/