

# HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS TIPS & TRACKING MAP

A Special Supplement To  
The Virgin Islands Daily News



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## Storm names for 2016

Hurricane season, runs from June 1 through Nov. 30. Official storm names to be used this year are:

Alex	Hermine	Otto
Bonnie	Ian	Paula
Colin	Julia	Richard
Danielle	Karl	Shary
Earl	Lisa	Tobias
Fiona	Matthew	Virginie
Gaston	Nicole	Walter

## V.I. hurricane history

Hurricanes and tropical storms that have hit the Virgin Islands in recent years include:

2012 — Tropical Storm Sandy  
2011 — Tropical Storm Irene  
2010 — Tropical Storm Otto  
2010 — Hurricane Earl  
2008 — Hurricane Omar  
2004 — Tropical Storm Jeanne  
1999 — Hurricane Lenny  
1998 — Hurricane Georges  
1996 — Hurricane Bertha  
1995 — Hurricane Marilyn  
1995 — Hurricane Luis  
1989 — Hurricane Hugo  
1984 — Tropical Storm Klaus  
1979 — Hurricane David  
1979 — Hurricane Frederic

## Hurricane websites

National Hurricane Center  
[www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov)

Stormpulse  
[www.stormpulse.com](http://www.stormpulse.com)

Intellicast  
[www.intellicast.com](http://www.intellicast.com)

The Weather Channel  
[www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)

BoatU.S.  
[www.boatus.com/hurricanes](http://www.boatus.com/hurricanes)

## 2016 Hurricane Tips and Tracking Guide

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# 2016 Atlantic hurricane season forecasted to be near normal

By Jenny Staletovich  
The Miami Herald

MIAMI — The time of year that nobody wants to celebrate is upon us: hurricane season.

While this year Mother Nature got a jump-start this year by throwing two pre-season storms into the mix, the last time a major hurricane struck the United States, Tom Cruise had just proposed to Katie Holmes and the Chicago White Sox were about to celebrate their first World Series title in 46 years. Ancient history, right?

"We know we can't take it for granted," U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz said during a recent briefing at the National Hurricane Center. "We have lived in hurricane alley for far too long to be complacent and we need to make sure we're vigilant each and every year."

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is predicting a near normal year for storms — 10 to 16 named storms, four to eight hurricanes and one to four major storms

VITEMA Director, Elton Lewis, is advising the public to review preparedness measures for the hurricane season. "Now is the ideal time to reassess your emergency supply kit so that in the event a weather system is approaching the territory, you're ready," Lewis said. "Being prepared means that you avoid the

packing winds over 110 mph. That's slightly worse than last year, when an intense El Nino in the Pacific generated strong winds that helped keep hurricanes from building in the Atlantic. Just 12 storms formed, with 11 becoming named storms, four hurricanes and two major hurricanes. This year forecasters are instead calling for a La Nina, which can weaken winds.

When and how intense that pattern develops has led to some uncertainty with the forecast, NOAA officials said last month. A long-term natural variation in Atlantic water temperatures could also be playing out, with the region entering a cooler phase.

This year, emergency managers are focusing their efforts on lethal storm surges, the leading cause of death in hurricanes.

"This is a game-changing new way for us to communicate the deadliest hurricane hazard of all," Knabb said.

But with so much time between storms, emergency managers fear that the warnings won't be heeded or that the public will fail to prepare by coming

last minute dash to the grocery or hardware stores. Make sure you have essential items that address needs of the household in the event of a prolonged power outage or in the event you have to shelter away from home."

Preparations should include maintaining communication with family

members, he said. Stay informed by tuning in to local radio and television for weather updates or by monitoring NOAA weather radios.

For more information about storms and hurricanes and about steps to being prepared, visit [www.VITEMA.gov/plan-prepare](http://www.VITEMA.gov/plan-prepare), [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov) or [www.Listo.gov](http://www.Listo.gov).

with emergency evacuation plans, updating insurance information, gathering supplies and strengthening homes. They repeat the need to follow evacuation orders, particularly with the new level of accuracy, and pay attention to state and local emergency operations.

"The leading cause of death in hurricanes is not wind. But for some reason ... we think wind is what we've got to get ready for," said Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Craig Fugate, a former director of Florida's Division of Emergency Management. "What kills people is water, and the most preventable of those deaths occur from storm surge."

Forecasters have also improved storm tracking over the last five years by 20 percent. Storm intensity forecasts have also improved, but it's not yet clear how much of that is influenced by a lack of intense storms.

"That's our biggest worry," Knabb said. "We haven't had as many storms lately, so we can't tell if the trend in errors going down is real."

## VITEMA preparedness tips

V.I. government officials say residents should get prepared now. Some preparedness tips include:

- Store enough supplies, (water, canned or nonperishable goods, batteries, medicines, etc.) to meet needs for at least three days.
- Have a battery-powered radio and flashlight and an adequate supply of batteries on hand.
- Keep an adequate supply of cash on hand in the events banks are closed and ATMs are not working.
- Pack a disaster supply kit that includes medicines, a change of clothing and easily carried toys or books for children.
- Make disaster plans, including an evacuation plan, a family event.
- Make sure items that could be blown away are secured well ahead of the storm.



Damage from Hurricane Earl in 2010



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# The top 10 of what you'll need

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and American Red Cross have compiled a list of the Top 10 categories of items that every family disaster kit should contain. These agencies recommend that one kit with the items listed below be stored in a secure place at home and a second smaller version be kept in the car.

## 1. First-aid kit

- Sterile adhesive bandages in assorted sizes.
- Assorted sizes of safety pins.
- Cleansing agent/soap.
- Sunscreen.
- 2-inch sterile gauze pads (4-6).
- 4-inch sterile gauze pads (4-6).
- Triangular bandages (3).
- 2-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls).
- 3-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls).
- Scissors.
- Tweezers.
- Needle.
- Moistened towelettes.
- Antiseptic.
- Thermometer.
- Tongue blades (2).
- Tube of petroleum jelly or other lubricant.
- Aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever.
- Anti-diarrhea medication.
- Antacid.
- Laxative.

## 2. Tools and supplies

- Mess kits or paper cups, plates, and plastic utensils.
- Emergency preparedness manual.
- Extra batteries.
- Flashlights.
- Cash or traveler's checks and change for coin-operated machines.
- Non-electric can opener, utility knife.
- Fire extinguisher; small canister ABC type.
- Pliers.
- Tape.
- Compass.
- Matches in a waterproof container.
- Aluminum foil.
- Plastic storage containers.
- Signal flare.
- Paper, pencil.
- Needles, thread.
- Medicine dropper.
- Shut-off wrench, to turn off household gas and water.
- Whistle.
- Plastic sheeting.

## 3. Sanitation

- Toilet paper, towelettes.
- Soap, liquid detergent.
- Feminine supplies.
- Personal hygiene items.
- Plastic bucket with tight lid.
- Disinfectant.
- Household chlorine bleach.

## 4. Clothing and bedding

- At least one complete change of clothing and footwear per person.
- Sturdy shoes or work boots.
- Rain gear.
- Blankets or sleeping bags.
- Hat and work gloves.
- Sunglasses.

## 5. Special items

- For baby: formula, diapers, bottles, medication, powdered milk.
- For pregnant women: special vitamins, medications, extra water, emergency phone numbers.
- For seniors: medications, physical aids, denture needs, extra eyeglasses.
- For persons with disabilities: medications, special equipment and batteries.

## 6. Important family documents

- Keep these records in a waterproof, portable container:
- Wills, insurance policies, contracts, deeds, stocks and bonds.
  - Passports, Social Security cards, immunization records.
  - Bank account numbers.
  - Credit card account numbers and companies.
  - Inventory of valuable household goods; important telephone numbers.
  - Family records (birth, marriage, death certificates).

## 7. Communications

- Battery-operated radio.
- Cellular phone.
- Prepaid phone cards.
- Roll of quarters.
- List of family, friends and emergency contact numbers.

## 8. Extras

- Battery-operated fans.
- A fuel-driven generator.
- Extra toilet paper, kitty litter or a camp toilet.
- A propane stove or plenty of Sterno.
- Several ice chests and plenty of ice or a small propane refrigerator.

## 9. Entertainment and stress relief

- Board games.
- Books, including your religious texts.
- Deck of cards.
- Paper and pencils.
- Jump rope.
- Small ball.

## 10. Food and water

- Allow at least two quarts of drinking liquid per person, per day. It can be water, fruit and vegetable juices, or canned soft drinks. Breast-feeding women may need more fluids.
- Stock enough food to feed your family for two weeks.

— Adapted from the Disaster Supplies Kit developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the American Red Cross

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Here are simple steps to follow when preparing for a hurricane:

- ✓ Make sure that all loose debris is correctly disposed of at the territory's landfills and transfer stations and not left to blow around your yard. This may cause unnecessary property damage to you or your neighbors.
- ✓ Secure loose galvanize roofing and wood and remove low hanging tree limbs.
- ✓ Transport all yard trimmings, ensuring to reduce it to 4-foot lengths and to secure a snug-fitting cover over the bed of the truck while transporting the waste directly to the landfill or transfer station.
- ✓ Secure or store outdoor furnishings, tools, small equipment and other yard items.
- ✓ Stock up on non-perishable items, including medications, infant formula, water, canned goods, batteries, flashlights and personal hygiene items.
- ✓ Place all important documents, such as identification, health and vehicle documents, house and life insurance, property deeds and wills in a water-proof bag and secure it.

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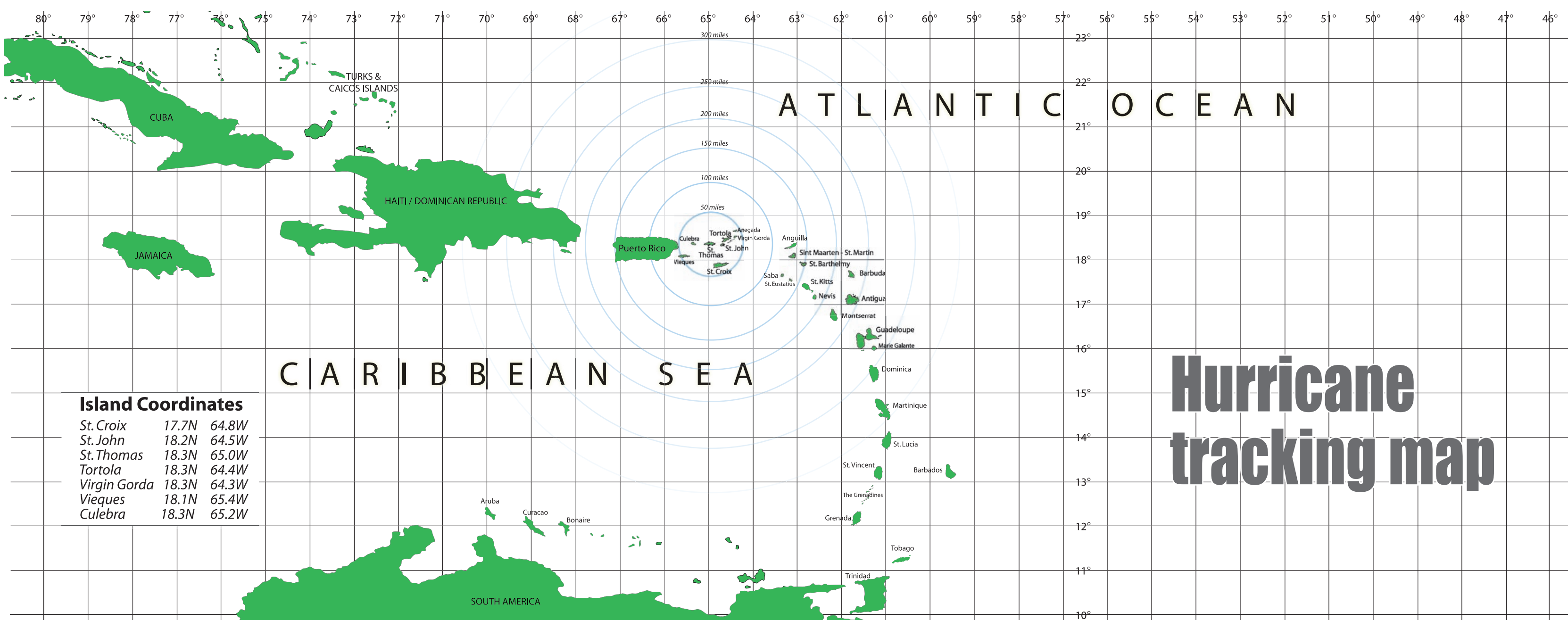
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St. Thomas	18.3N	65.0W
Tortola	18.3N	64.4W
Virgin Gorda	18.3N	64.3W
Vieques	18.1N	65.4W
Culebra	18.3N	65.2W

**Hurricane tracking map**

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- Secure or store outdoor furnishings, tools, small equipment and other yard items.
- Stock up on non-perishable items, including medications, infant formula, water, canned goods, batteries, flashlights and personal hygiene items.
- Place all important documents, such as identification, health and vehicle documents, house and life insurance, property deeds and wills in a water-proof bag and secure it.

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## Hurricane safety

### Items to have in stock

- Stock fuels for emergency cooking.
- Stock up on serving utensils such as paper plates, plastic cups, knives, forks, spoons and napkins.

### Foods to have in stock

Keep enough food to feed your family for two weeks.

Rotate hurricane food supplies every six months. Check for rust on cans and examine boxed dry goods for infestations.

- Dry rice, noodles, macaroni, potato flakes.
- Dry hot or cold cereals.
- Flour, cornmeal.
- Canned vegetables and vegetable juices.
- Canned fruits and fruit juices.
- Dried fruits.
- Canned fish, chicken and meats.
- Peanut butter and nuts.
- Canned or dried beans, baked beans.
- Canned soups.
- Canned combination dishes (beef stew, spaghetti and meatballs, pork and beans).
- Shelf-stable tofu.
- Canned evaporated milk, UHT milk, dry milk.
- Canned cheese spread.
- Cooking oil.
- Sugar, salt, seasonings.
- Tea bags, instant coffee, cocoa mixes.
- Infant formulas and jars of baby foods.
- Pet food.
- Special diet foods for anyone with diabetes, high blood pressure, allergies or heart disease.

### Items to have in your disaster supply kit

- First-aid kit and essential medications. (See page 7 for more details.)
- Canned food and can opener.
- At least three gallons of water per person.
- Protective clothing, rainwear and bedding or sleeping bags.
- Battery-powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries.
- Special items for infants, elderly or disabled family members.
- Written instructions on how to turn off electricity, gas and water.

### Prepare a personal disaster plan

Identify ahead of time where you can go if you don't feel safe staying in your home. Have several options: a friend's home, a hotel or a shelter. Keep handy the telephone numbers of these places and know how to take alternate routes if major roads are closed or clogged.

### Prepare for high winds

- Install hurricane shutters or purchase pre-cut, half-inch outdoor plywood to cover each window in your home. Install anchors for the plywood and pre-drill holes in the plywood so you can put it up quickly.
- Make trees more wind-resistant by removing diseased and damaged limbs, then strategically remove branches so wind can blow through.

## Preparedness and caution are key How to stock your emergency food pantry

### Know what to do in a hurricane watch

- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or local radio or TV stations for up-to-date storm information.
- Prepare to bring inside any lawn furniture, outdoor decorations or ornaments, trash cans, hanging plants and anything else that can be picked up by the wind.
- Prepare to cover all windows in your home. If shutters have not been installed, use pre-cut plywood as described above.
- Fill your vehicle's gas tank.
- Check batteries and stock up on canned food, first-aid supplies, drinking water and medications.

### Know what to do in a hurricane warning and during the storm

- Listen to the advice of local officials.
- Do everything on your preparations list.
- Be aware that the calm eye is deceptive; the storm is not over. The worst part of the storm will happen once the eye passes over and the winds blow from the opposite direction. Trees, shrubs, buildings and other objects damaged by the first winds can be broken or destroyed by the second winds.
- Be alert for tornadoes. Tornadoes can happen during a hurricane and after it passes over.
- Remain indoors, in the center of your home, in a closet or bathroom without windows.

- Stay away from floodwaters. If you come upon a flooded road, turn and go another way. If you are caught on a flooded road and waters are rising rapidly around you, get out of the car and climb to higher ground.


### After a hurricane

- Keep listening to NOAA Weather Radio or local radio or TV stations for instructions.
- If you left your home, return only when officials tell you it is safe to do so.
- Inspect your home for damage.
- Use flashlights in the dark; do not use candles.

### Know how to foil dengue-carrying mosquitoes

- Keep unused tires in a dry place.
- Put plants that are currently in water into soil. Empty flowerpot bases weekly.
- Keep barrels tightly sealed.
- Cover pet dishes and buckets, or turn them upside down.
- Place a screen or mesh over the overflow pipe of cisterns.
- Repair or replace damaged screens, and keep windows and doors without screens closed.
- Cover infant cribs with mosquito netting.
- Use mosquito repellents containing DEET but not on children under the age of 2.


— Information adapted from FEMA Hurricane Fact Sheet



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# Anatomy of a hurricane

- Typical hurricanes are about 300 miles wide, although they can vary considerably in size.
- The eye of a hurricane's center is a relatively calm, clear area approximately 20 to 40 miles across.
- The eyewall surrounding the eye is composed of dense clouds that contain the highest winds in the storm.
- The storm's outer rainbands — often with hurricane-force or tropical storm-force winds — are made up of dense bands of thunderstorms ranging from a few miles to tens of miles wide and 50 to 300 miles long.
- Hurricane-force winds can extend outward to about 25 miles in a small hurricane and to more than 150 miles in a large one. Tropical storm-force winds can stretch out as far as 300 miles from the center of a large hurricane.
- Frequently the right side of a hurricane is the most dangerous in terms of storm surge, winds and tornadoes.
- A hurricane's speed and path depend on complex ocean and atmospheric interactions, including the presence or absence of other weather patterns. This complexity of the flow makes it difficult to predict the speed and direction of a hurricane.
- Do not focus on the eye or the track. Hurricanes are immense systems that can move in complex patterns that are difficult to predict. Be prepared for changes in size, intensity, speed and direction.

## Hurricane

A spinning mass of strong storms with minimum sustained surface winds of at least 74 mph circulating around a calmer center area.

## Hurricane season

The period from June 1 to Nov. 30 when hurricanes are most likely to form in the Atlantic.

## Tropical depression

A mass of storms and warm air with the potential to develop into a tropical storm.

## Tropical storm

A spinning mass of strong storms with minimum sustained surface winds ranging from 39 mph to 73 mph circulating around a calmer center area. When a tropical storm intensifies, it becomes a hurricane.

## Hurricane watch

A hurricane may strike within 24 to 36 hours.

## Hurricane warning

A hurricane is expected to strike in 24 hours or less.

## Tropical storm watch

A tropical storm may strike within 24 to 36 hours.

## Hurricane primer

### Tropical storm warning

A tropical storm is expected to strike in 24 hours or less.

### Hurricane eye

An area of relative calm at the center of the storm. The closer to the eye of the storm, the higher the winds and the lower the barometric pressure.

### Storm surge

A rapid rise in water level as the eye approaches.

### Hurricane scale

The category of the storm does not necessarily relate directly to the damage it will inflict. Lower-category storms, and even tropical storms, can cause substantial — even deadly — damage.

**Category 1** — Minimal damage: winds 74 to 95 mph and a storm surge 4 to 5 feet above normal. No real damage to buildings is likely. Some damage expected to unanchored mobile homes, shrubbery and trees. Some coastal road flooding and minor pier damage may be expected.

**Category 2** — Moderate damage: winds 96 to 110 mph and a storm surge 6 to 8 feet above normal. Buildings will receive some roof, door and window damage.

Considerable damage to vegetation, mobile homes and piers. Coastal and low-lying areas likely will flood two to four hours before the arrival of the hurricane's center. Small craft in unprotected anchorages will lose moorings.

**Category 3** — Extensive damage: winds 111 to 130 mph and a storm surge 9 to 12 feet above normal. Structural damage to residences and utility buildings. Mobile homes frequently are destroyed. Flooding near the coast destroys small structures, and larger structures are damaged by floating debris. Terrain lower than five feet above sea level is flooded.

**Category 4** — Extreme damage: winds 131 to 155 mph and a storm surge 13 to 18 feet above normal. Extensive outside wall failure with complete roof failure on small residences. Major erosion of beaches and major damage to the lower floors of buildings near the shore. Terrain lower than 10 feet above sea level may be flooded.

**Category 5** — Catastrophic damage: winds 156 mph and greater and a storm surge greater than 18 feet above normal. Complete roof failure on many residences and buildings and complete destruction of small utility buildings can be expected. Major flooding damage likely to lower floors of structures.

## How NOAA watches hurricanes

Direct measurements of tropical storm and hurricane dimensions and wind speeds are taken primarily by reconnaissance aircraft, although ships and buoys also take important measurements. Once a hurricane is near or on land, Automated Surface Observation Systems provide surface conditions, and radio sondes take upper-air measurements.

Indirect observation methods include satellite imagery and Doppler radar. In particular, satellites have greatly improved the ability to monitor and understand hurricanes. Radar data are important once the storm comes close to shore and after landfall for forecasting hurricane-related weather.

— National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

# Obtaining a curfew pass

By **ALDETH LEWIN**  
Daily News Staff

Now that hurricane season has officially begun, the V.I. Territorial Emergency Management Agency is accepting applications for new and renewed curfew passes.

During a state of emergency, the governor can impose a curfew to protect the public. The curfew allows first responders, road-clearing crews and emergency utility workers to quickly and safely access roads after a disaster.

A curfew pass grants a person access to passable roadways to secure property after a disaster.

While there is no deadline to apply, VITEMA will stop accepting requests if a storm is on the way.

For businesses applying for the first time, curfew pass application forms are available at VITEMA offices and online at [www.vitema.gov/forms](http://www.vitema.gov/forms).

Offices are located at 7 and 8 King Cross St., Christiansted, on St. Croix; at No. 6 Susannaberg on St. John; and at 8221 Nisky on St. Thomas and applications must be submitted to the Emergency Operations Center manager.

The application includes a liability release form and a curfew pass request form in two parts: one for the authorized representative of the business and one to list the names of employees needing a pass.

Along with the application, a current business license must be provided.

New curfew pass photo ID cards will be issued only to new business applicants. VITEMA will issue a holographic sticker for those renewing passes. The holographic sticker is valid for one year and must be replaced annually.

For V.I. government employees, the sticker will be placed on government ID cards.

To renew curfew passes, businesses must submit an updated list of essential employees to VITEMA.

Commissioners and directors of government agencies also must submit a list of essential employees.

The V.I. Police Department is authorized to deny anyone — including those holding curfew passes — access to certain areas for safety and security reasons, according to VITEMA. Police officers also are authorized to confiscate curfew passes when necessary and can arrest anyone found in violation of curfew or misusing curfew passes.

# Pet safety during a disaster

The Humane Society of St. Thomas urges pet owners to prepare for their pet needs now in case a storm hits the territory this year.

If a need arises to seek shelter away from your home, keep your pet with you or ask a friend or loved one to take care of it while you are at a shelter.

If your home is not safe for you, it is not safe for your pets.

Pets that are turned loose or left behind to fend for themselves are likely to become victims of starvation, predators, contaminated food or water, accidents or exposure to the elements.

Many evacuation shelters do not accept pets, so plan in advance where you will go. "No Pet" restrictions at hotels might be lifted in an emergency, so it's best to ask.

Check with friends and family members to see if they can shelter you or your pets, if needed.

Emergency pet supplies

In addition, the Humane Society suggests that all pet owners have an emergency supply kit for their pets. This kit should include:

- A three-day supply of food and water as well as bowls, cat litter and litter box and a manual can opener.
- Current photos and descriptions of your pets to help others identify them should you and your pets become separated. Pets should wear up-to-date identification, including the phone number of someone out of the area or your employer in case your pet becomes lost while you are not at home.
- Medications, medical records and a first aid kit stored in a waterproof container.
- Sturdy leashes, harnesses, and carriers to transport pets safely as well as blankets or towels for bedding and warmth. Carriers should be large enough to comfortably house your pet for several hours.



Daily News File Photo

*Dogs await to be evacuated from the St. Thomas humane society in 2010 after heavy rains caused flooding. Pet owners should have an emergency plan that includes caring for their animals.*



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