

## Hurricanes in Florida

Hurricanes are huge, powerful storms. The high winds cause a lot of damage. The lightning and thunder storms cause a lot of damage. The tornadoes cause a lot of damage.

But the floods (storm surges and flash floods) cause the most damage.

***Hurricanes are very dangerous.***  
***Hurricanes can kill people.***

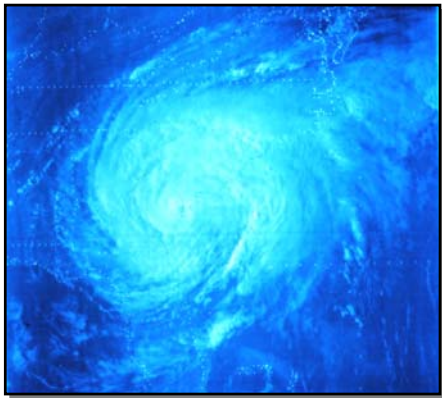
The hurricane season in Florida is from June 1 to November 30. Always be prepared for hurricanes and other big storms. You can never tell exactly which direction they will go. You can never tell exactly how strong they will be.



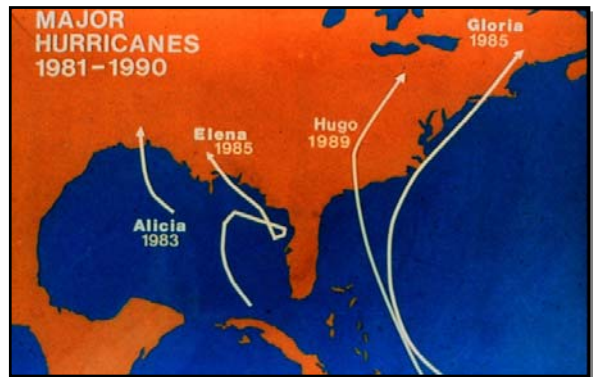
Hurricane Andrew did a lot of damage.



Florida faced a lot of big hurricanes in 1941-1950.



Hurricane David near Jacksonville, FL.



Florida faced only a few big hurricanes in 1981-1990



a tornado

All of the pictures on this page are from the NOAA Photo Library on the internet:

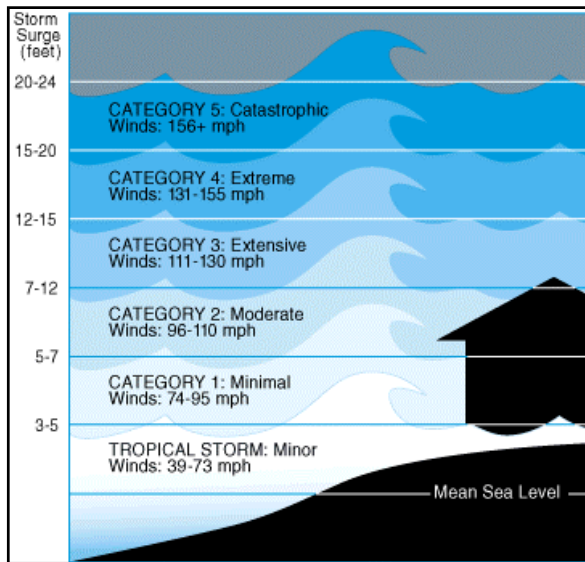
<http://www.photolib.noaa.gov/historic/nws>

There are many good sites about hurricanes on the internet. One of the best is provided by AccuWeather. Go to <http://hurricane.accuweather.com> for lots of maps and photos. Put in your own zip code to get your weather report.

The Florida Department of Health has pamphlets about hurricanes in 3 languages: English, Spanish, and Creole. Go to: <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Hurricane/hurricane2005.html>

The *Pinellas County Hurricane Preparedness Handbook* (18 pages) is on the internet at <http://www.co.pinellas.fl.us/bcc/hurrprep.htm>.

The *Handbook* explains the different categories of hurricanes. It also explains what could happen if a Category 5 hurricane hits Pinellas County. Here are two charts from the *Handbook*.



In a Category 1 storm, the wind is between 74 and 95 miles per hour. In a Category 5 storm, the wind is over 156 miles per hour.



In a Category 5 storm, most of Pinellas County would be under water.