

Florida Tropical Training Week 2025

PRESENTED BY NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OFFICES
SERVING THE STATE OF FLORIDA





TRAINING GOALS

1. Interpreting Watches & Warnings
2. Sheltering Considerations
3. Impacts & Hunker Down Mode

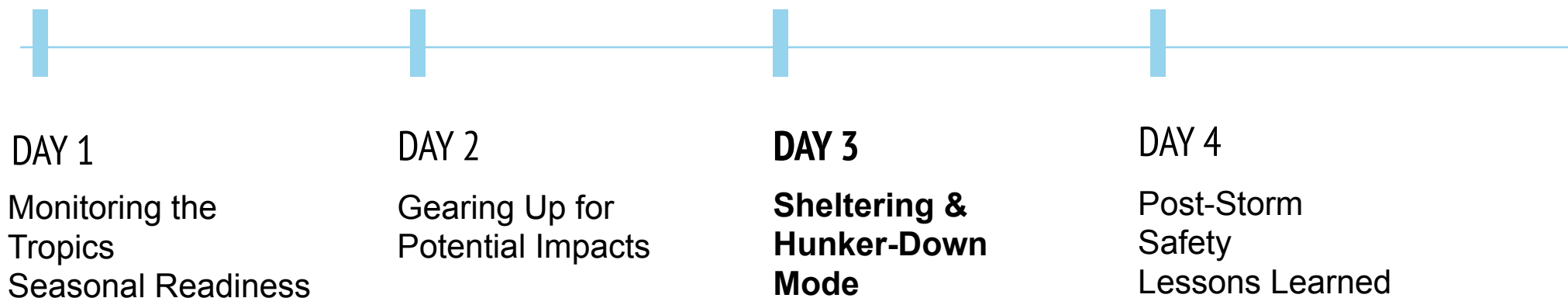
Answer the question...

“What should I be doing *now*?”



TRAINING TIMELINE

TODAY



<https://www.weather.gov/jax/FloridaTropicalTrainingWeek2025>



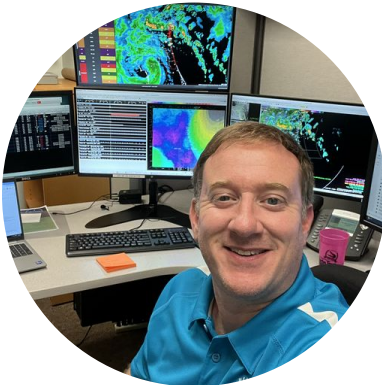
TODAY'S PRESENTERS

HUNKER DOWN

11 AM



Jessie Schaper
NWS Melbourne, FL



Ben Nelson
NWS Jacksonville, FL

1 PM



Jen Hubbard
NWS Tampa Bay, FL



Robert Garcia
NWS Miami, FL

7 PM



Morgan Barry
NWS Mobile, AL



Cameron Young
NWS Tallahassee, FL

TODAY'S CHAT ASSISTANTS



Morgan Barry
NWS Mobile, AL



Sammy Hadi
NWS Miami, FL



Kennedy Tartt
FL Dept of Emergency
Management



Daniela Pirraglia
NWS Key West, FL



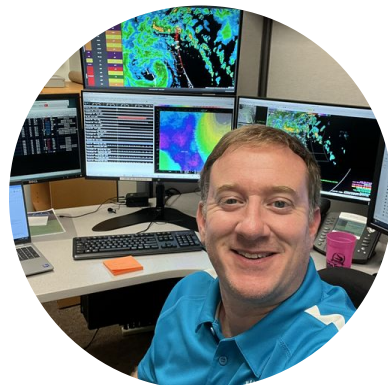
Caitlyn Gillespie
FL Dept of Emergency
Management



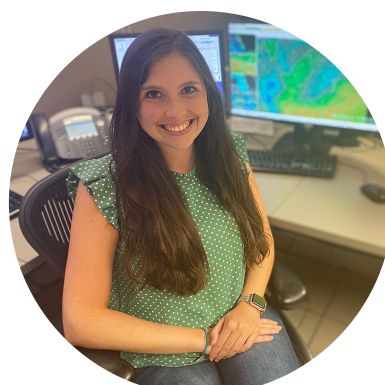
Matt Anderson
NWS Tampa Bay, FL



Jessie Schaper
NWS Melbourne, FL



Ben Nelson
NWS Jacksonville, FL



Cassie Leahy
NWS Melbourne, FL



Angie Enyedi
NWS Jacksonville, FL

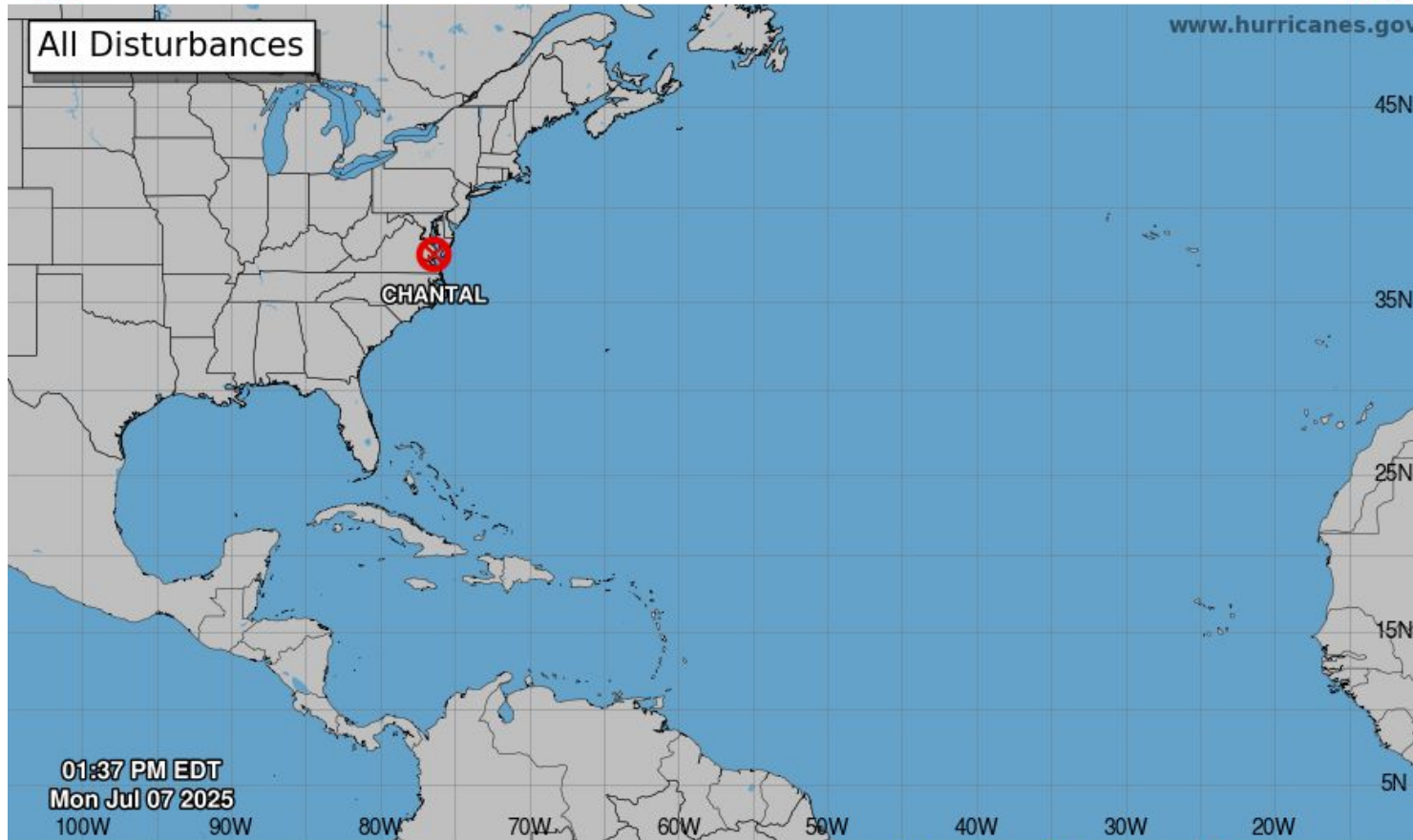


Paige Klingler
NWS Jacksonville, FL

TROPICAL WEATHER OUTLOOK



Seven-Day Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook
National Hurricane Center Miami, Florida



Current Disturbances and Seven-Day Cyclone Formation Chance: < 40% 40-60% > 60%
Tropical or Sub-Tropical Cyclone: Depression Storm Hurricane
 Post-Tropical Cyclone or Remnants

There is no threat from tropical activity across FL over the next 7 days

What to do now:

- Stock Supply Kits
- Review Hurricane Plans
- Know your Evacuation Zone
- Monitor here: www.hurricanes.gov





The background features a map of the Southeastern United States, including parts of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina. A white dashed circle highlights a region in the Gulf of Mexico and the Florida panhandle. Various labels are present on the map, including state abbreviations (TX, LA, MS, AL, GA, FL, SC), city abbreviations (S, M), and time markers (2 AM Sat, 2 AM Fri, 2 AM Wed). The text 'Bermuda' and 'Bahamas' are also visible.

Sheltering & Hunker Down

What do you do & when?

**Seasonal
Preparedness**

Monitor
Days 6-7

**Gearing Up
for Impacts**
Days 3-5

Hunker Down
< 48 hrs to Impact

**Post-Storm
Safety**

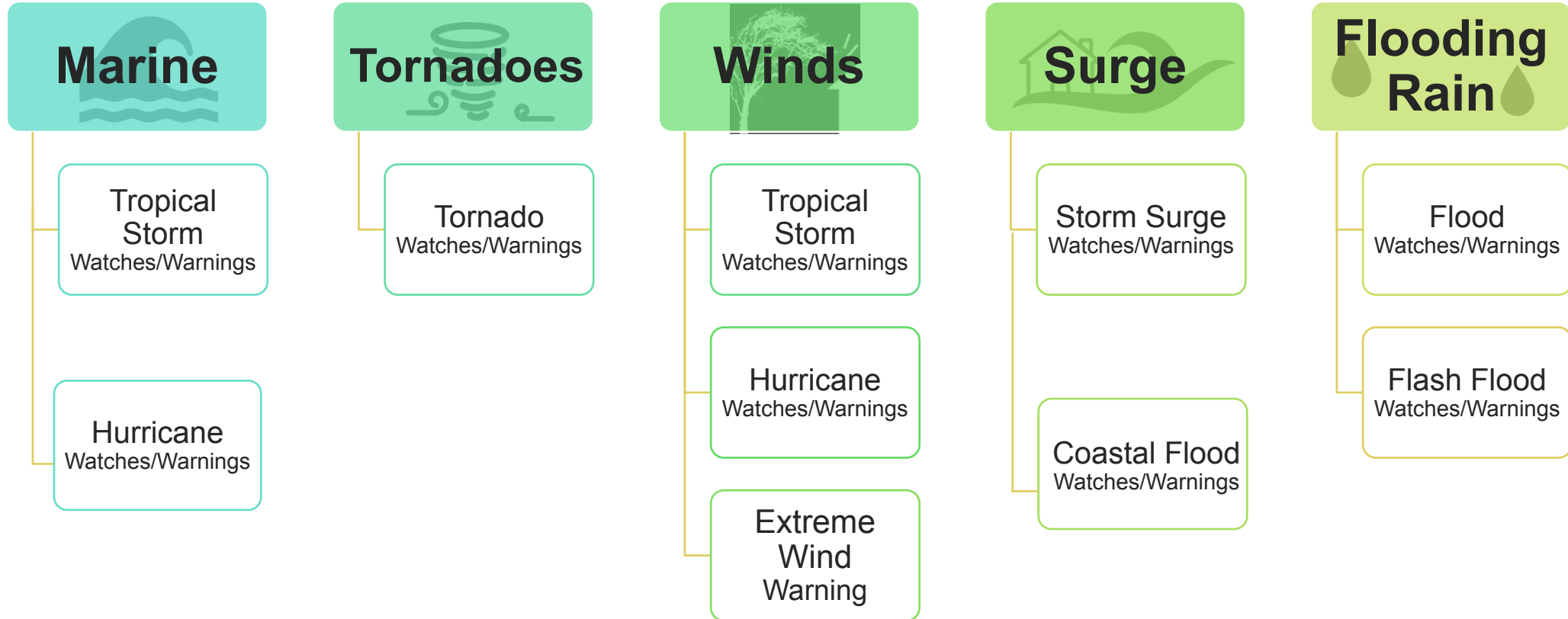
Interpreting Watches & Warnings

Sheltering Considerations

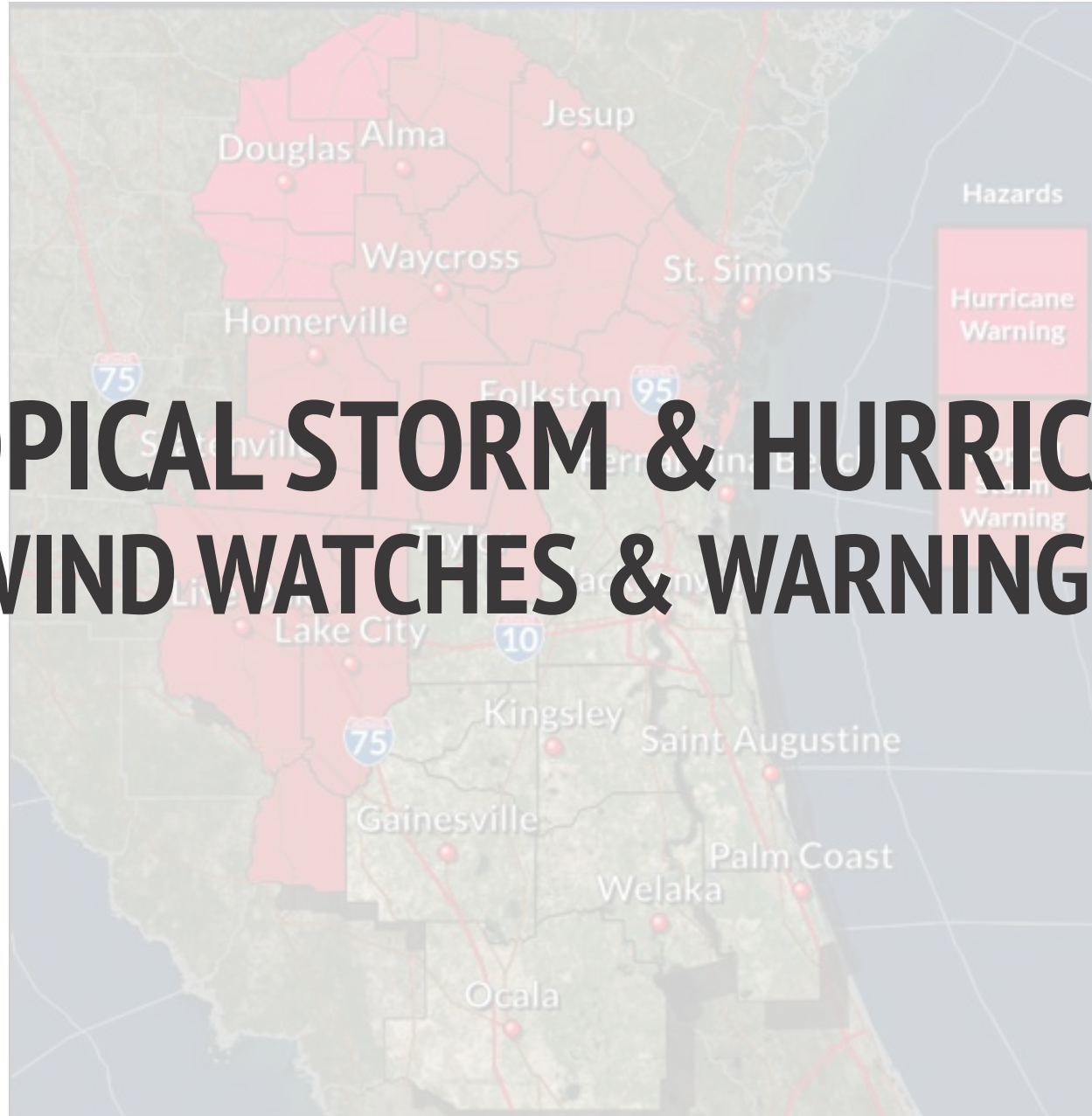
Impacts & Hunker Down Mode

WATCHES & WARNINGS

MULTIPLE HAZARD PRODUCT NOTIFICATIONS



TROPICAL STORM & HURRICANE WIND WATCHES & WARNINGS



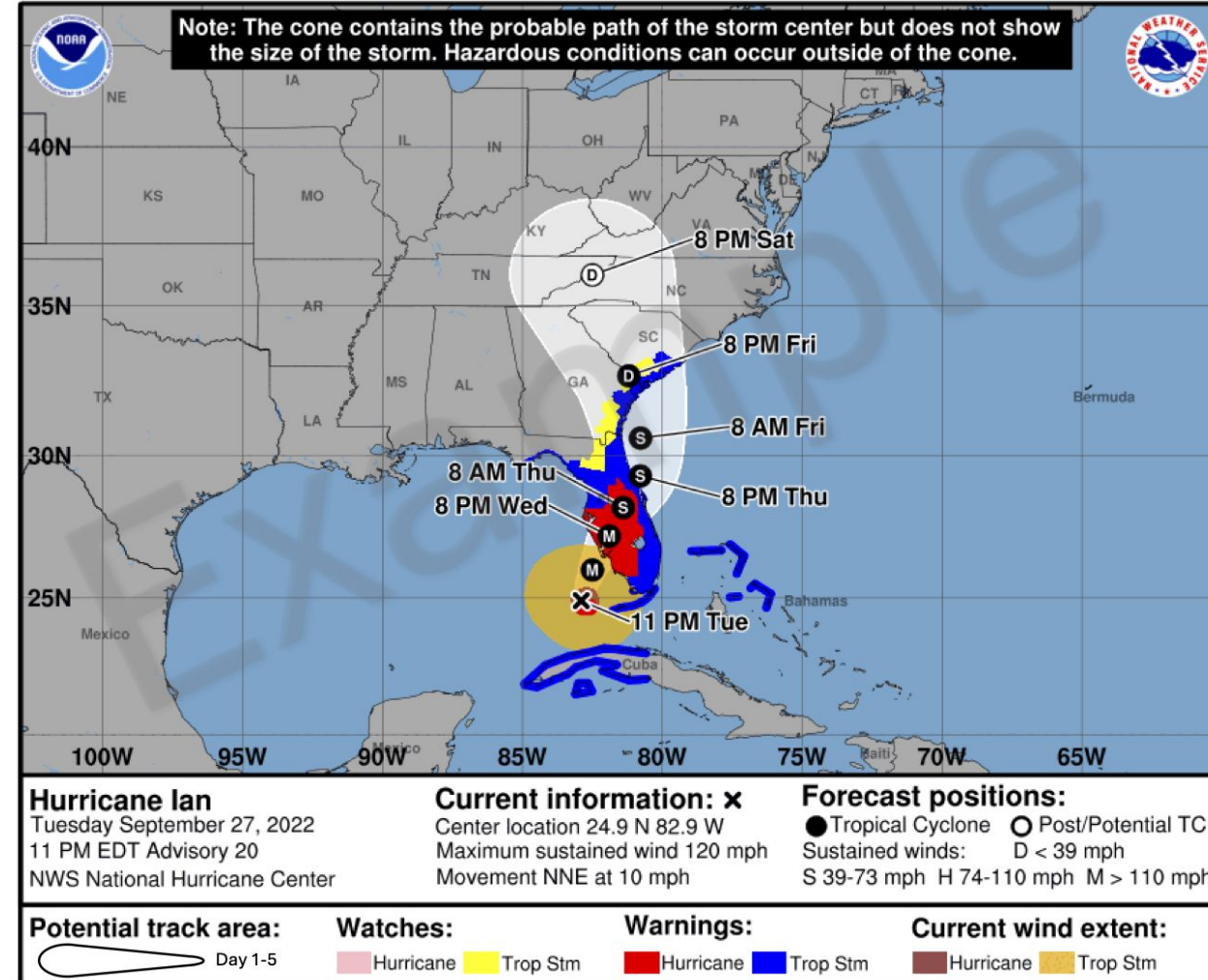
INTERPRET WATCHES & WARNINGS

HUNKER DOWN

Watches	Warnings
<p>Conditions possible</p> <p>Finalize preparedness</p> <p>Stay aware</p> <p>Evacuate or be ready to evacuate</p>	<p>Conditions expected</p> <p>Plan to hunker down</p> <p>Stay sheltered</p> <p>Listen for warnings to shelter-in-place</p>

~ 48 hours out

~ 36 hours



TROPICAL STORM WATCH

A Tropical Storm Watch is issued when **tropical storm conditions are *possible*, typically within 48 hours.**

Prepare your home by securing loose items outside or moving them indoors. Have an emergency supply kit ready and charge your devices.

Tropical Storm Winds Possible.

TROPICAL STORM WARNING

A Tropical Storm Warning is issued when **tropical storm conditions are *expected*, typically within 36 hours.**

Follow the advice of local officials and be ready to seek shelter in a sturdy structure.

Tropical Storm Winds Expected!



weather.gov

HURRICANE WATCH

A Hurricane Watch is issued when **hurricane force winds are *possible***.

Prepare your home by boarding up windows and moving loose items indoors. Have an emergency supply kit ready.

Hurricane Possible.

HURRICANE WARNING


A Hurricane Warning is issued when **hurricane force winds are *expected***.

Seek shelter in a sturdy structure or evacuate if ordered.

Hurricane Expected!



weather.gov

An aerial photograph showing a coastal town, likely in a tropical region, with significant damage from a storm surge. The foreground and middle ground are dominated by floodwaters that have inundated the land. Debris, including palm trees, wooden structures, and household items, is scattered throughout the water. Several buildings are visible, some partially submerged or surrounded by water. In the background, a larger town or city is visible along the coastline under a clear sky.

STORM SURGE WATCHES & WARNINGS

STORM SURGE RUN FROM THE WATER



Understanding Storm Surge Flooding

Storm surge is destructive, life-threatening coastal flooding. It accounts for about half of the deaths associated with tropical cyclones in the U.S. To help you determine the best way to prepare, NOAA coastal flooding **forecasts are expressed as feet of water above ground level.**

Greater
than 9 feet

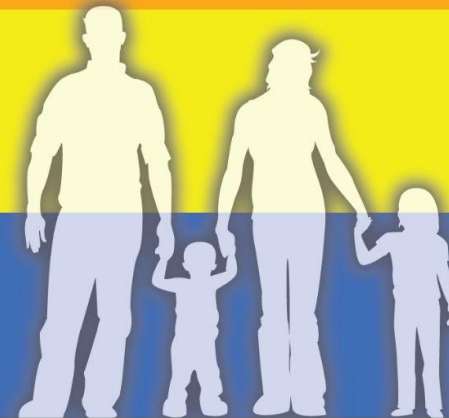
6 - 9 feet

3 - 6 feet

0 - 3 feet



[weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov)
[hurricanes.gov](https://www.hurricanes.gov)



STORM SURGE WATCH

A Storm Surge Watch is issued when *life-threatening storm surge is possible*, typically within 48 hours.

Promptly follow evacuation and other instructions from local officials.

Surge Possible.



weather.gov

STORM SURGE WARNING

A Storm Surge Warning is issued when *there is a danger of life-threatening storm surge*, typically within 36 hours.

Promptly follow evacuation and other instructions from local officials.

Surge Expected!

WATCHES & WARNINGS

FORECAST CHANGES CAN OCCUR

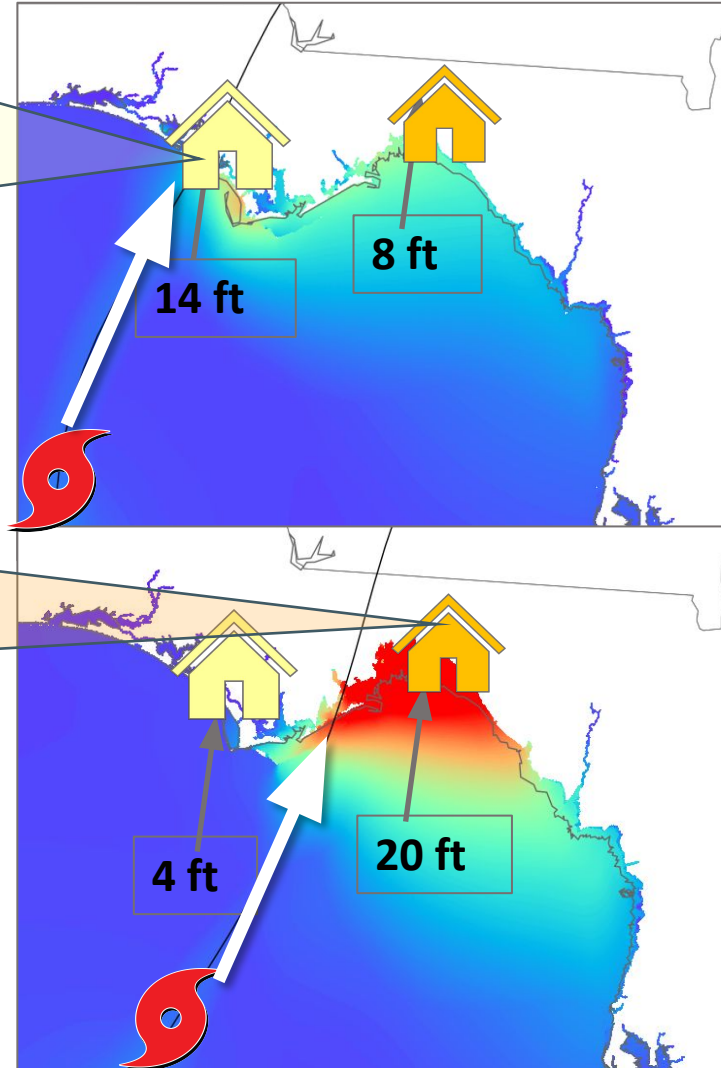
HUNKER DOWN

Just this morning they said 10-14 ft of surge, now it's 3-5 ft.

Can't they make up their mind?

They don't know what this storm's going to do.

We were fine last time...



Coastline shape & tropical cyclone track strongly influence storm surge values at specific locations

Do not base preparedness on specific "numbers" days in advance

**Prepare for
THREAT & IMPACT
POTENTIAL**

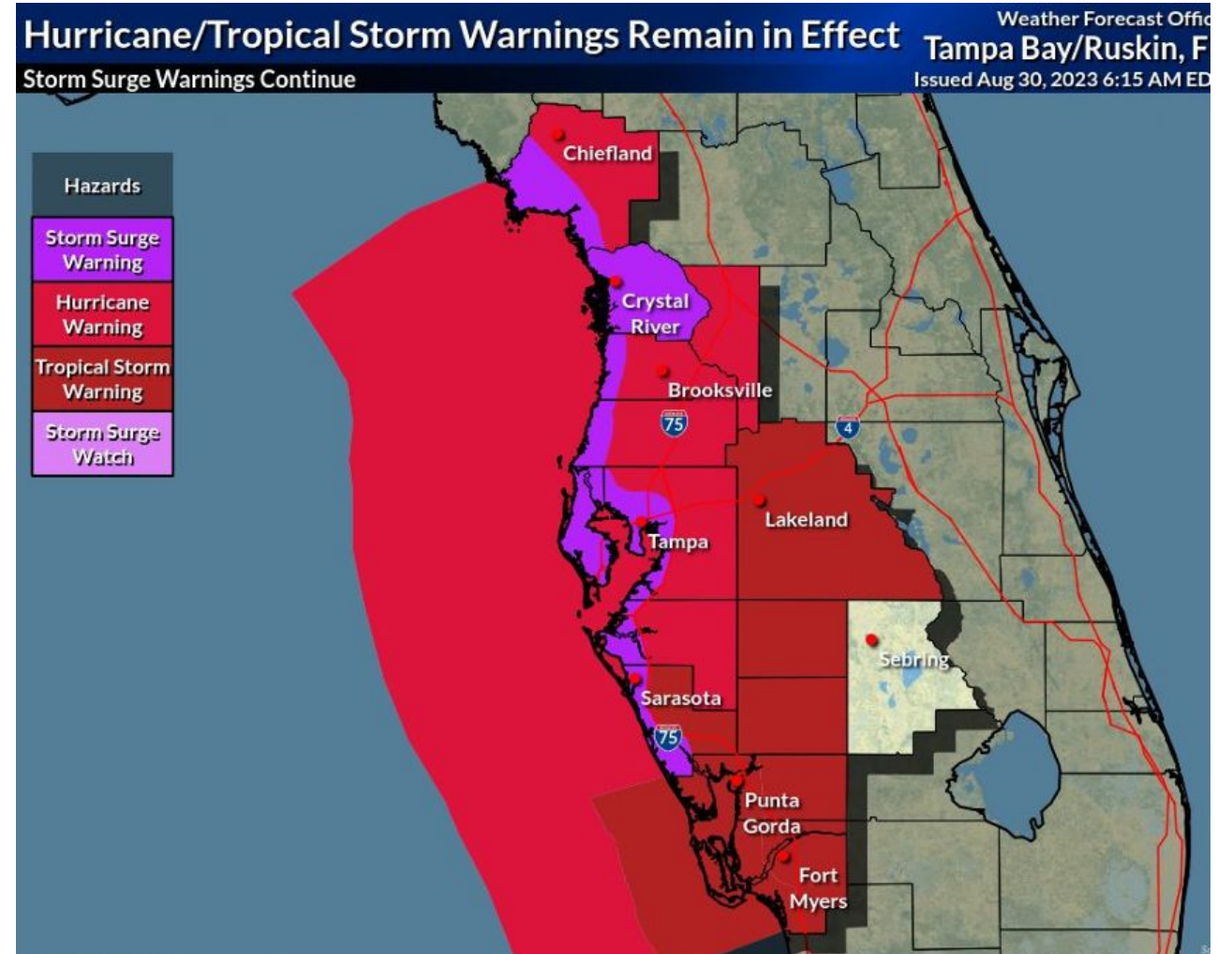
WATCHES & WARNINGS

WATER & WIND THREAT AREAS

Storm surge threat area & tropical storm/hurricane wind threat areas are not identical

Issued based on life-threatening potential of each specific hazard

Keep in mind, not everywhere in the warning will receive conditions



A large, light blue circular sign with a white upward-pointing arrow at the top. Below the arrow, the words "HURRICANE EVACUATION ROUTE" are written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters, stacked in three lines. Overlaid on the center of the sign is the text "MOTIVATING EVACUATION" in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters.

MOTIVATING EVACUATION

HUNKER DOWN

POLL QUESTION



—
What would most influence your decision to evacuate? 🤔

- A.** Seeing my neighbors leave
- B.** Fear of storm strength or category
- C.** Official evacuation orders
- D.** Family or friends urging me to leave
- E.** I'm not leaving...no matter what

EVACUATION

VOLUNTARY VS MANDATORY

EVACUATE WHEN TOLD TO
DO SO BY EMERGENCY
OFFICIALS



**Disclaimer: Orders will be different from location to location.
Follow the direction of your emergency officials!*

Voluntary orders*

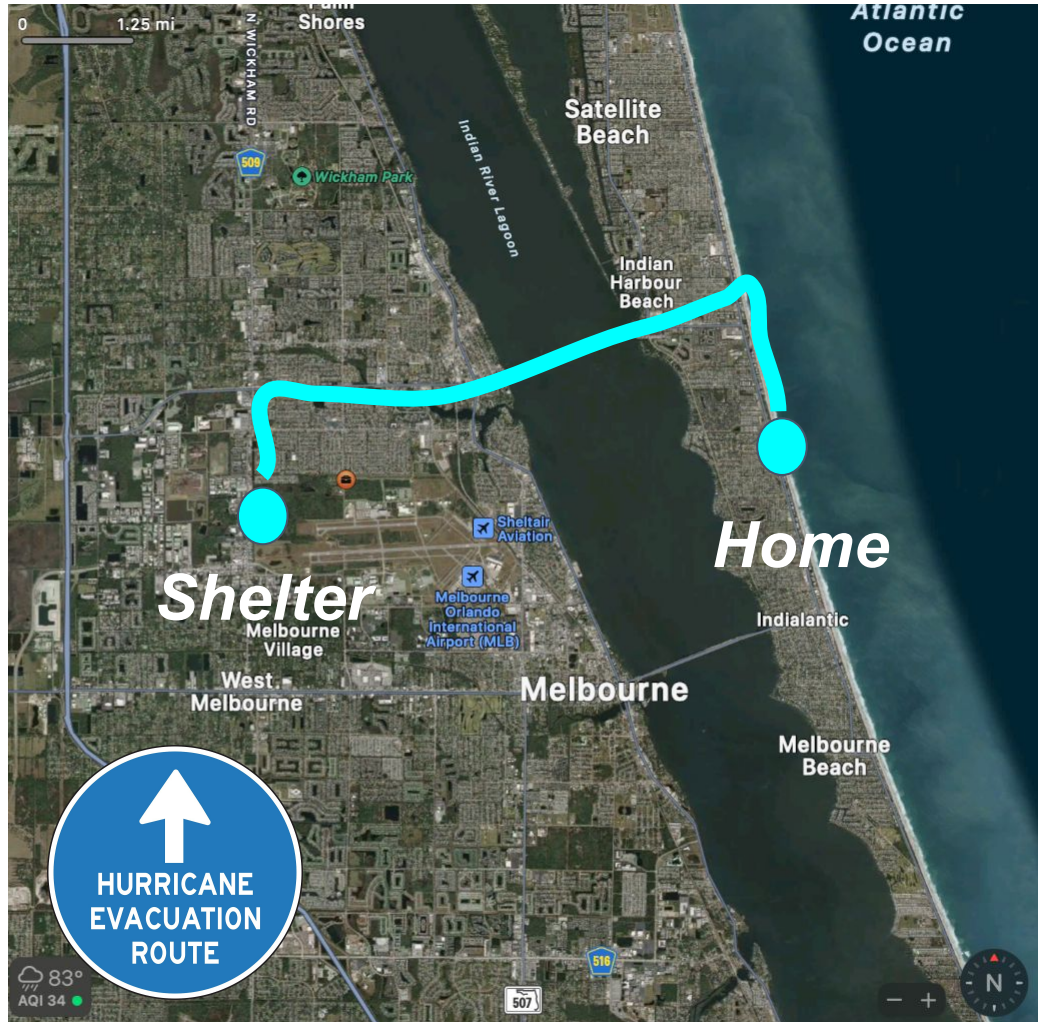
- Highly suggested to evacuate
- Consider special needs and the condition/safety of your home
- **Threat to life and property may still escalate!**

Mandatory orders*

- Life-threatening conditions expected
- Know your evacuation zone ([FDEM](#))
- Resources likely to be limited and you may become partially/entirely isolated
- **You assume 100% responsibility**

EVACUATION

WHERE TO EVACUATE



“MOVE AWAY FROM THE WATER”

- ✓ If your evacuation zone is requested to evacuate, your location is vulnerable to storm surge inundation
- ✓ Consider reaching out to local family, friends, nearby hotels & county shelters

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO EVACUATE FAR to find safe shelter from storm surge

10s of miles, not 100s of miles!

HUNKER DOWN

POLL QUESTION

If you had to evacuate right now, what would be your biggest concern? 🤔

- A.** Finding a pet-friendly place to go
- B.** Cost of evacuating
- C.** Traffic or road closures
- D.** Leaving my house behind
- E.** Not knowing where to go





SHELTERING – HUNKER DOWN

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

SHELTER IN PLACE

- ✓ Close Windows
- ✓ Charge Devices
- ✓ Lock Door

✓ Stay Tuned

Ready ✓

SHELTERING – AT HOME

WHAT DO YOU DO?

- Stay indoors –
Do **not** conduct outdoor assessments during the storm
- Remain away from windows, doors, exterior walls
- Shelter away from where large trees could fall into/onto structure
- **Monitor** for tornado, flash flood & extreme wind warnings



SHELTERING – AT SHELTERS

WHAT DO YOU DO?

Consider other options first

Only basic necessities may be provided

Bring only medical & personal items

Check if pet friendly

Remain away from windows, doors, exterior walls



FEMA

SHELTERING – ELDERLY AND SPECIAL NEEDS

WHAT DO YOU DO?

- **Medical equipment** - Have backup power resources in case of a power outage
 - snr.flhealthresponse.com
- **Home care or treatment** - Understand their emergency plans and identify backup service providers
- **Identify yourself** - Wear a medical alert bracelet or pendant to help first responders treat you properly.
- **Helping others help you** - Make others aware of how to access your home, emergency supplies, medication, and other lifesaving equipment.
- **Considerations for deaf/hard of hearing & blind**
Have special devices to help you communicate, extra hearing aid batteries, label supplies in Braille



SHELTERING – PET AND SERVICE ANIMALS

WHAT DO YOU DO?

HUNKER DOWN

- **Crate/transportation** - Sturdy, transportable carrier ready for evacuation
- **Food and water** - 7 day supply on hand
- **Comfort items** - Treats, toys and bedding can help reduce the stress of the storm for your pet
- **Documentation** - Picture of you and your pet, vaccination and medication records in case you become separated



Heading to a community shelter?
Be sure they are pet-friendly!

SHELTERING – TOURISTS & VISITORS

WHAT DO YOU DO?

HUNKER DOWN

Alter travel plans or leave ahead of time

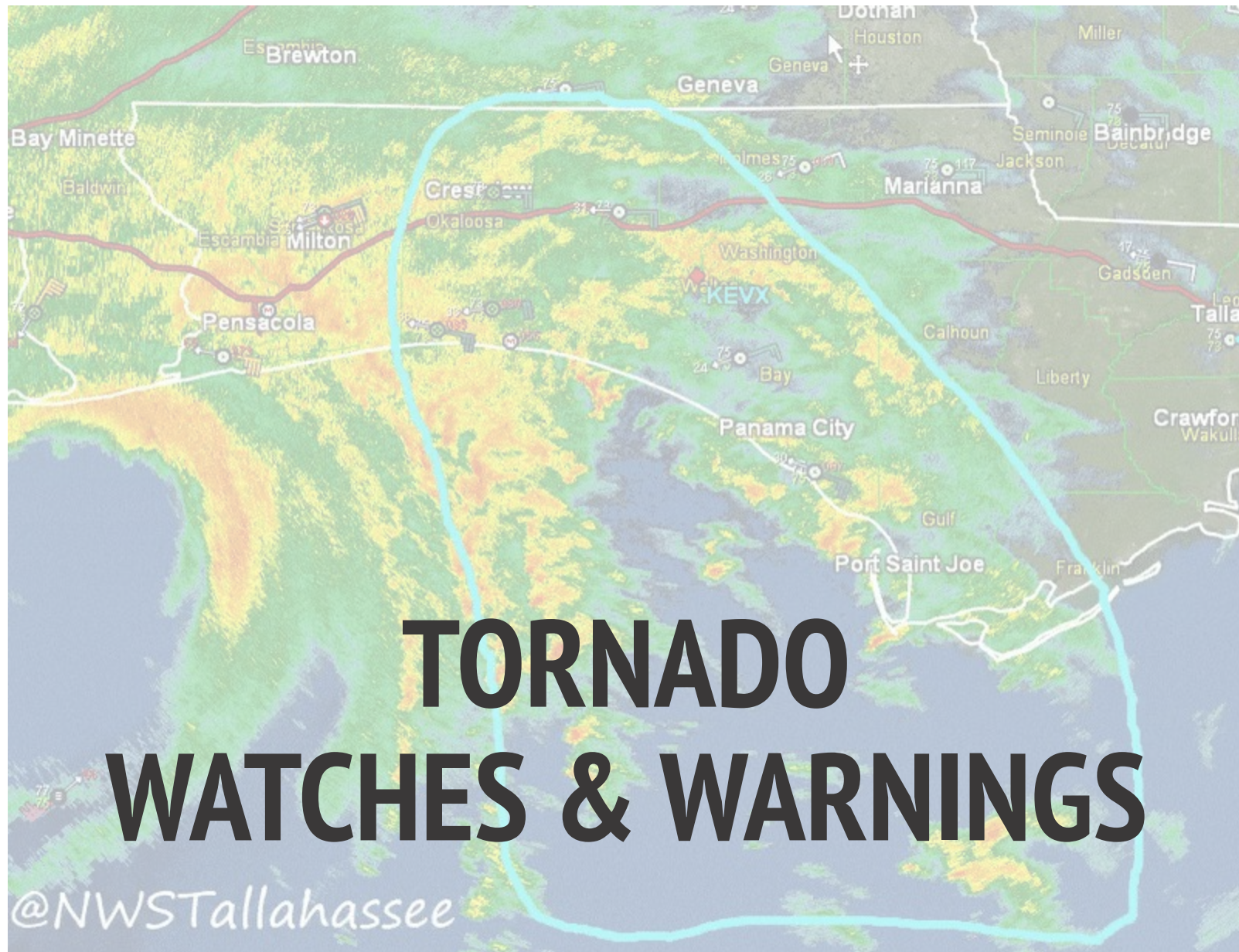
Know your zone - Find out what county you are in and if in an evacuation zone

Evacuation ordered - Follow the instructions of emergency officials and know where to shelter

Sheltering - Stay inside, have reliable methods to receive warnings, and move to a higher floor or interior room if water or wind threaten

Post-storm travel - Check with transportation companies for their emergency or post-storm travel policies. *Do not travel until safe to do so and avoid disaster areas!*





TORNADO WATCHES & WARNINGS

@NWSTallahassee

SHELTERING

TORNADO WATCHES & WARNINGS

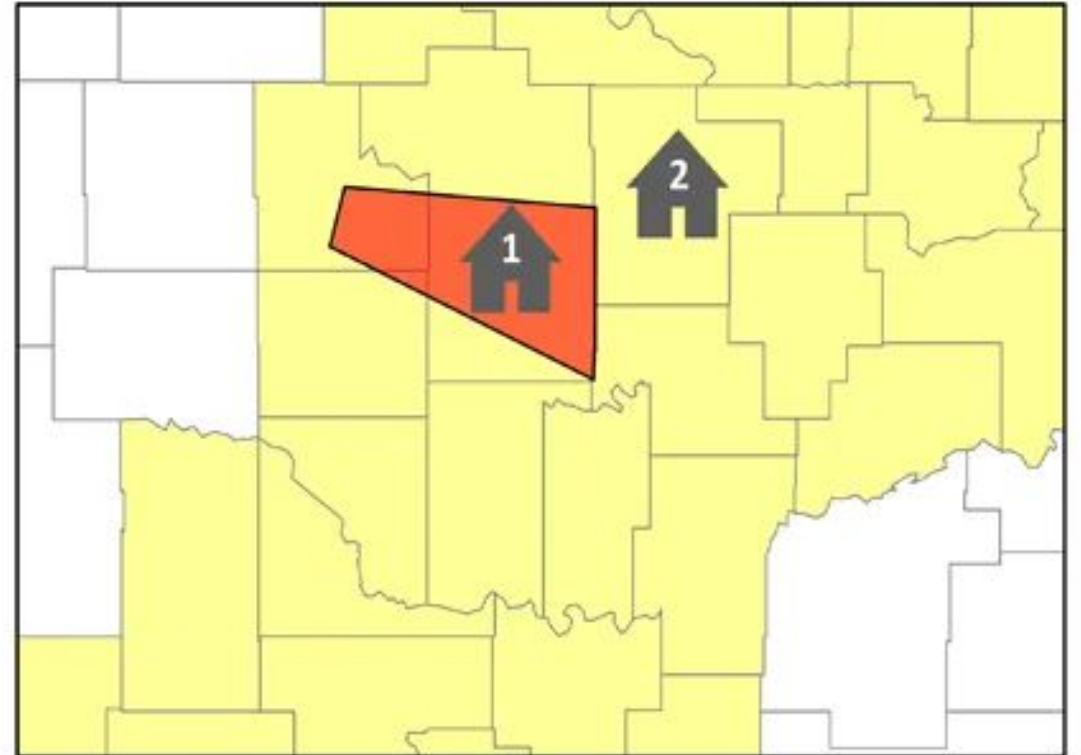
Tornado Watch

- ✓ Threat for tornadoes increasing in watch area
- ✓ Monitor for tornado warnings
- ✓ Be ready to quickly shelter



Tornado Warning

- ✓ Shelter within shelter immediately
- ✓ Tornado is imminent in the warning area



Know Where to Go

When Sheltering from a Tornado



If you have no basement, move to an interior room with no windows.

Top floor rooms DO NOT protect you.

Exterior rooms and rooms with windows DO NOT protect you.

NO PLACE OUTSIDE is safe from a tornado.

Quickly move to your basement and bring your emergency supply kit.



weather.gov/tornado



FLASH FLOOD WATCHES & WARNINGS

Image Brian Carlson
Bloomberg, Getty
Images

EVACUATION & SHELTERING

FLOOD WATCHES & WARNINGS

FLOOD WATCH

A Flood Watch is issued when
flooding is possible.

Stay tuned to trusted news sources
and be ready to seek higher ground.

Be Prepared.

FLOOD WARNING

A Flood Warning is issued when
**flooding is happening or about
to happen.**

Move to higher ground immediately!
Never drive or walk through
floodwaters.

Take Action!

Flash Flood EMERGENCY

ISSUED FOR...

Exceedingly rare situations when a severe threat to human life and catastrophic damage from a flash flood is happening or will happen soon.



This is a life-threatening situation! Do not attempt to travel unless you are fleeing an area subject to flooding or under an evacuation order.

Flash Flood WARNING

ISSUED WHEN...

Dangerous flash flooding is happening or will happen soon. Some roads will be flooded. Homes and businesses may flood.



Move to higher ground.
Never drive through flooded roads.



EVACUATION & SHELTERING

FLOOD WATCHES & WARNINGS

HUNKER DOWN



Even if your shelter is not flood prone, consider roads to access your location that could flood

You may be isolated for an extended period during & after the storm due to flooding

Do not wait until flooding begins - many flood deaths occur in vehicles!

EVACUATION & SHELTERING

VERTICAL EVACUATION

HUNKER DOWN



Life-threatening flooding compromises shelter

Forces evacuation to higher level

Keep an axe in the attic

You may be isolated for extended period of time

EVACUATION & SHELTERING

MULTIPLE CONCURRENT THREATS



Know Where To Go

The diagram shows a cross-section of a house with a tornado on the left and rising water at the bottom. The house is divided into two floors. The top floor has a large red 'X' over the central area and a small red 'X' over the right side. The bottom floor has eight small icons: a bedroom (red X), a bathroom (green check), a hallway (green check), a bedroom (red X), a living room (red X), a bathroom (green check), a hallway (green check), and a kitchen (red X). A large green arrow points from the text 'Know Where To Go' towards the right side of the diagram.

Top floor rooms DO NOT protect you from a tornado- these will be an absolute last resort if the water is forcing you to shelter this high.

Exterior rooms and rooms with windows DO NOT protect you from tornadoes.

NO PLACE OUTSIDE is safe from a tornado. Particularly, when flooding is ongoing and ditches are full of water and unable to be used to attempt to shelter.

When a ***Tornado Warning & a Flash Flood Warning*** are ongoing ***at the same time*** for your location

It's best to seek shelter in an ***interior room with no windows*** ***on the lowest floor safely possible***. Ideally, with quick access to move to higher ground if needed to flee rising water.

When the National Weather Service issues an
Extreme Wind Warning

Extreme hurricane winds are imminent or happening NOW.

Sustained winds of 115 mph or greater are expected.

Take immediate shelter in an interior portion of a well-built structure.



EVACUATION & SHELTERING EXTREME WIND WARNING



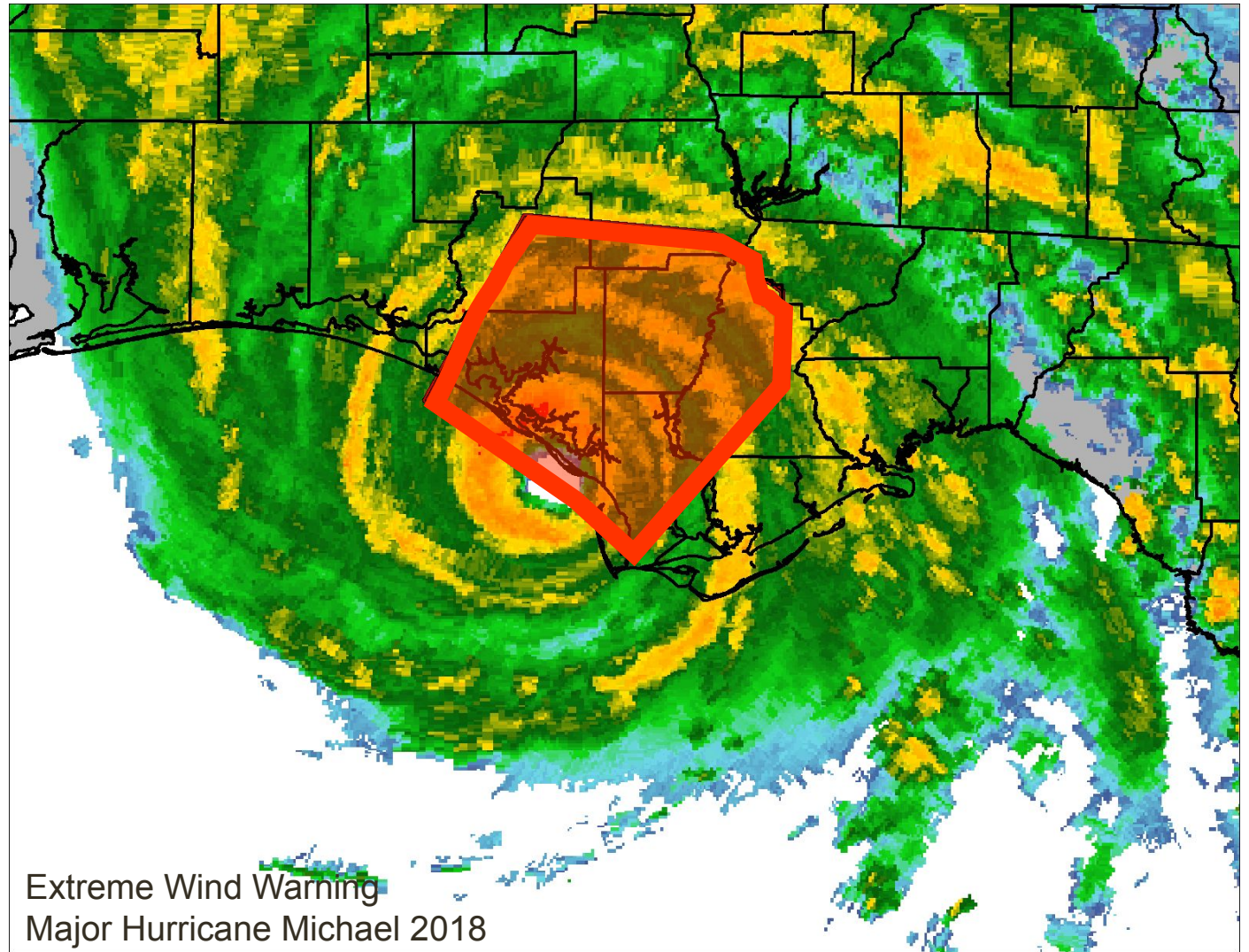
HUNKER DOWN

Shelter-within-Shelter

Go to your interior safe room

Put as many walls between
you and the outside as
possible

Wireless Emergency Alert on
your cell phone



SHELTER WITHIN SHELTER

—
“Hide” from the wind

An enclosed space within your shelter, away from doors and windows on the lowest floor

Examples: bathroom, closet, interior bedroom

Bring everyone! Children, pets, supplies & communication devices



SHELTER WITHIN SHELTER

DAMAGE OUTSIDE...



... SAFETY INSIDE!



You are not safe here.

During high winds **tree damage is expected.**

Stay safe by avoiding exterior rooms and vehicles while the winds are strong.



EVACUATION & SHELTERING

HUNKER DOWN... WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS



Never try to “ride the storm out” alone!

Ask a neighbor or friend if you can join them in their shelter.

Think about elderly neighbors who may have no family nearby - could you take them in or offer assistance?

EVACUATION & SHELTERING

DON'T COMPARE THIS STORM TO "LAST TIME"

All Storms are Different
Don't Let Past Experiences Dictate Your Planning

- Impacts can be much worse for some hurricanes compared to others, even of similar strength, due to differences in landfall location, size, and forward speed
- The storm's scale only tells you about the strongest winds near the center of the storm and does not tell you about potentially life-threatening flooding from rain or storm surge
- Stay informed of the latest forecasts as changes in track, intensity, and landfall location can result in changes in potential impacts

Delivering the Right Message

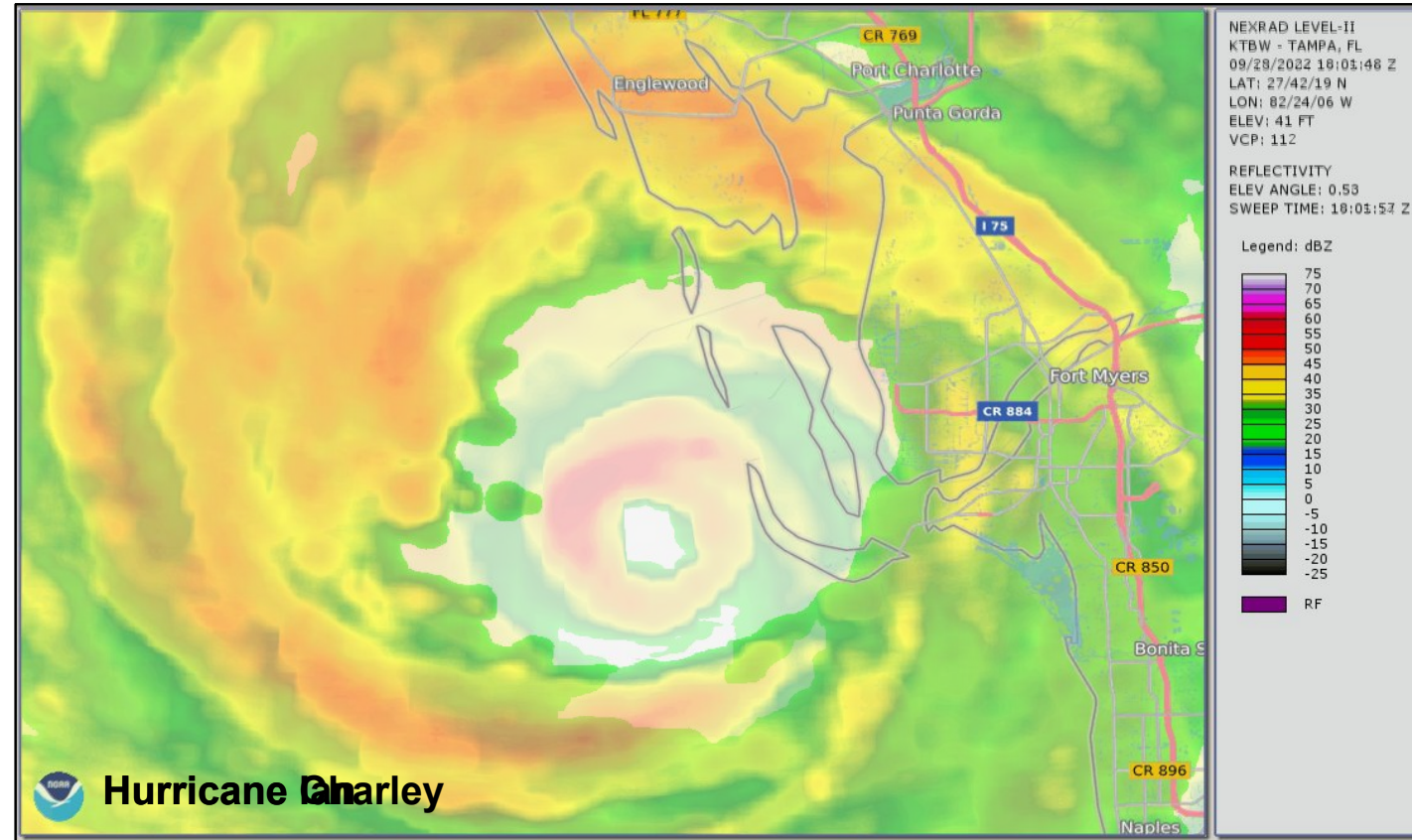
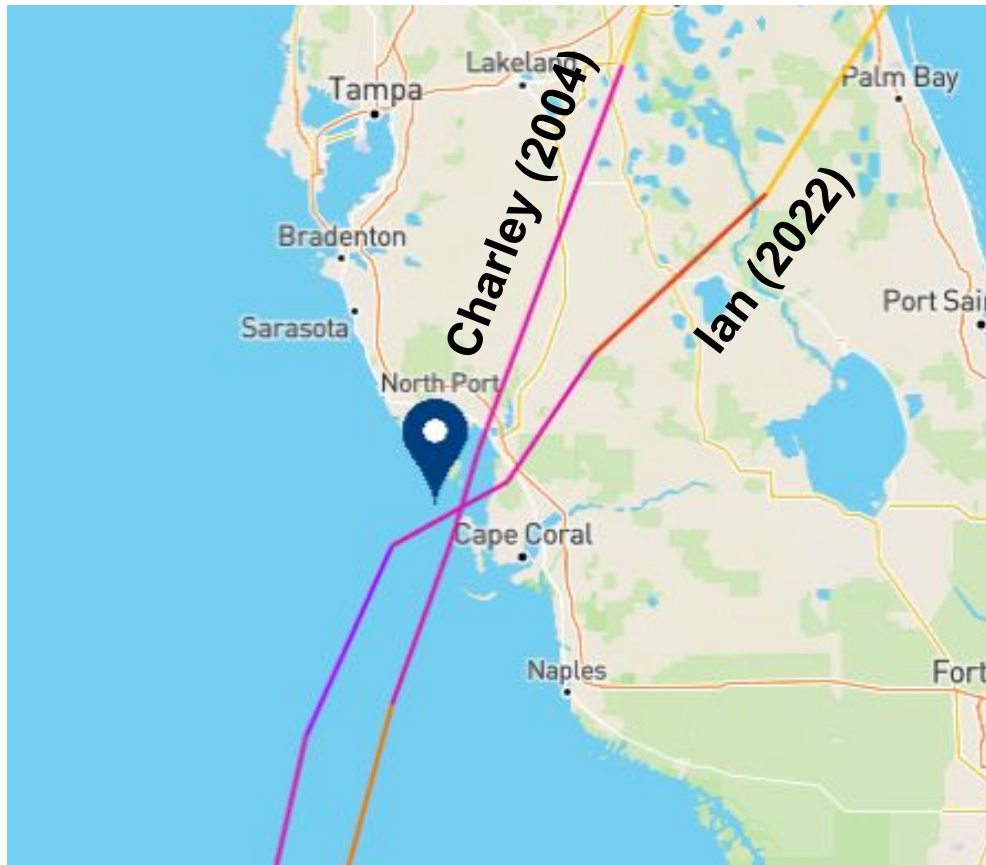
weather.gov



EVACUATION & SHELTERING

DON'T COMPARE THIS STORM TO “LAST TIME”

Tracks of Hurricane Charley (2004) and Hurricane Ian (2022)



[Why Tropical Cyclone Size Matters: A Comparison of Hurricanes Charley \(2004\) & Ian \(2022\)](#)

HUNKER DOWN

POLL QUESTION

—
What would be your biggest challenge while waiting out the storm? 🤔

- A.** Losing power or AC
- B.** Staying calm / reducing stress
- C.** Lack of entertainment / boredom
- D.** Not knowing what's happening outside
- E.** Keeping pets or kids occupied



HUNKER DOWN

POLL QUESTION

—
What's your biggest concern for your pets or children while waiting out the storm? 🤔

- A.** Keeping them calm
- B.** Having enough food / water
- C.** Keeping them entertained / distracted
- D.** Ensuring they stay safe if conditions worsen
- E.** I don't have pets or children





WATCH & WARNING NOTIFICATION

WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERTS

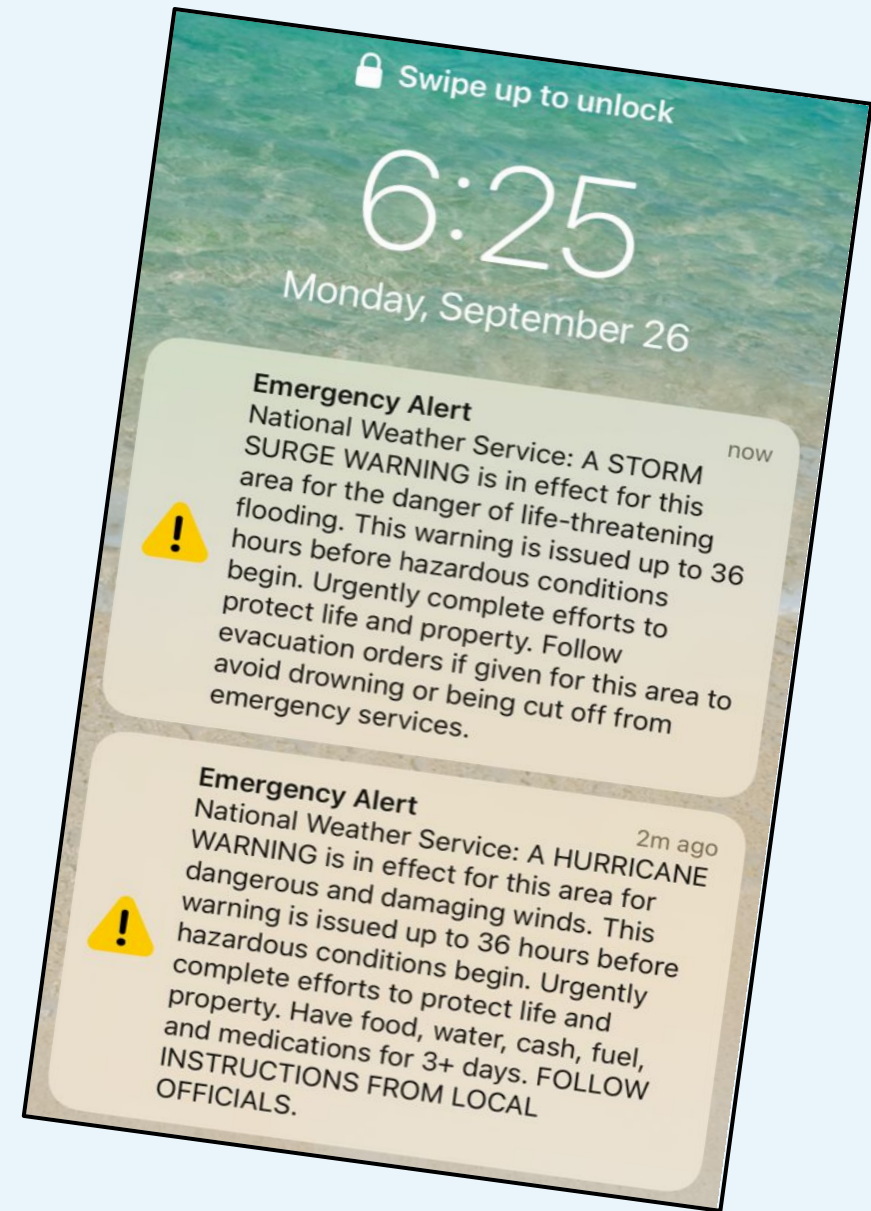
US alerting network to disseminate emergency alerts to mobile devices

Triggered by the NWS for:

- Hurricane Warnings
- Storm Surge Warnings
- Extreme Wind Warnings
- Tornado Warnings
- Flash Flood Warnings

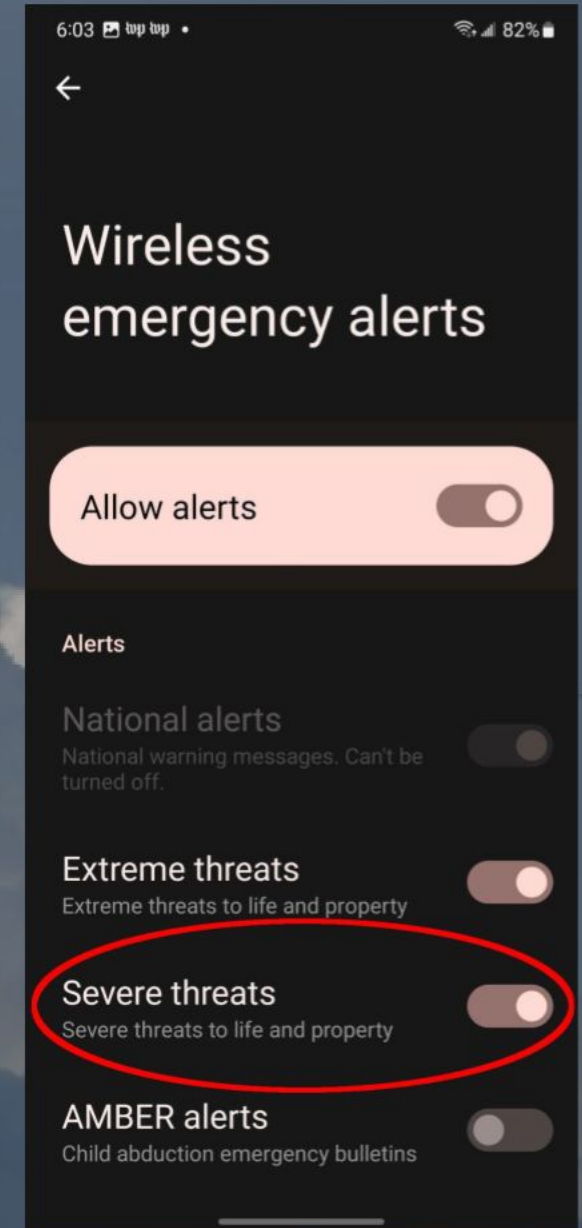
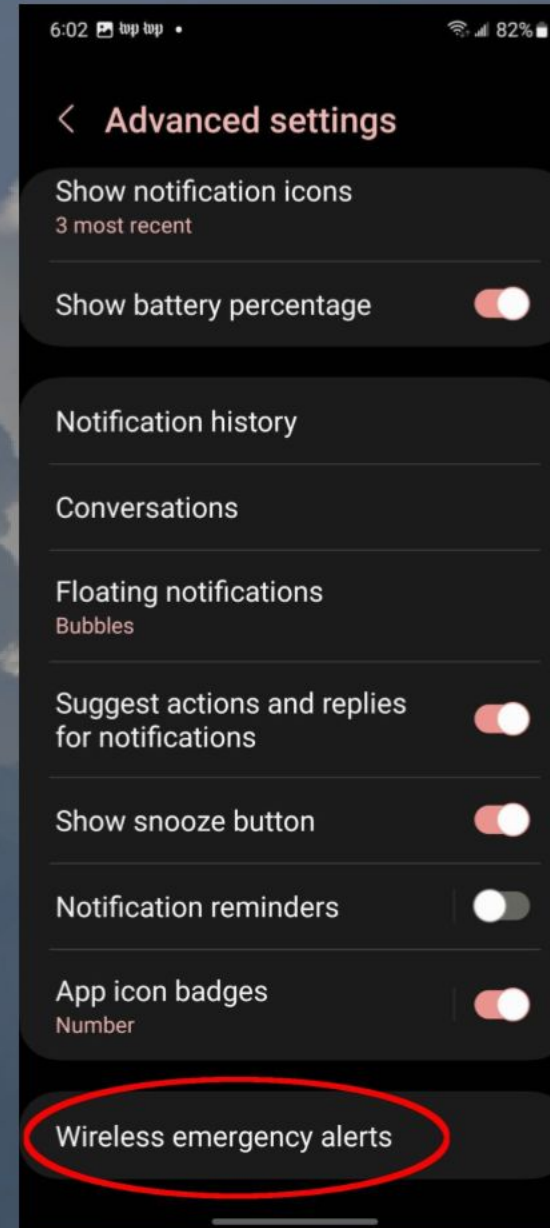
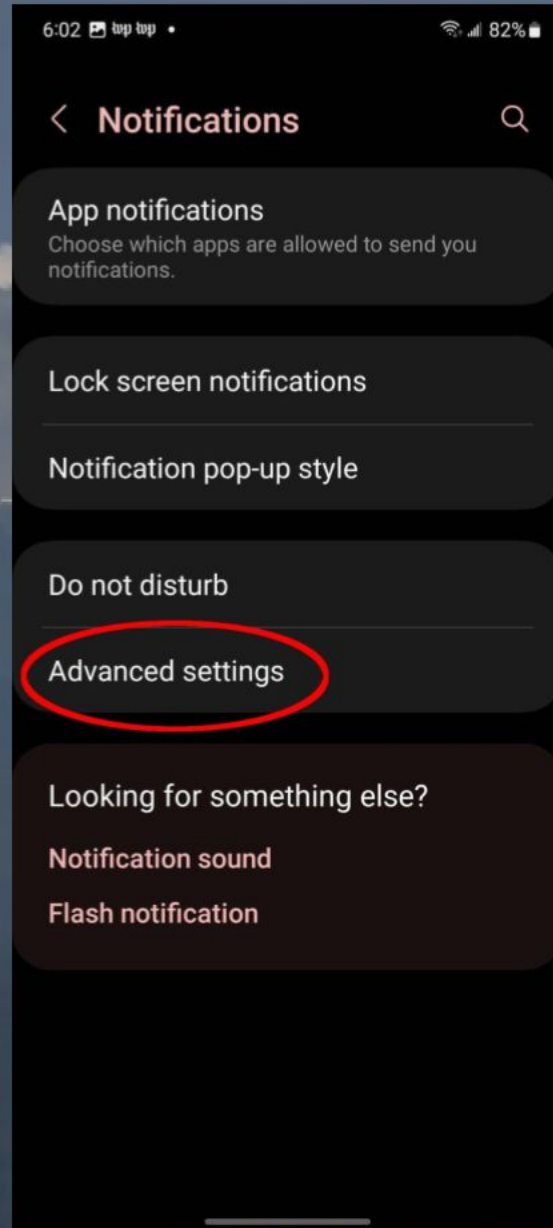
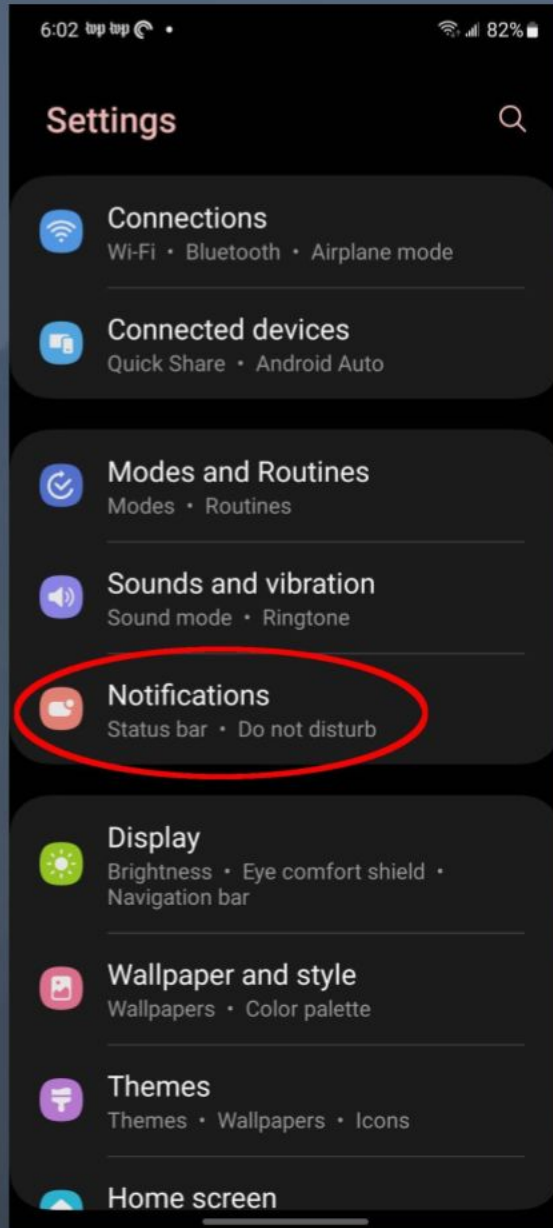
Local officials can send messages about resources too!

Make sure they're enabled!



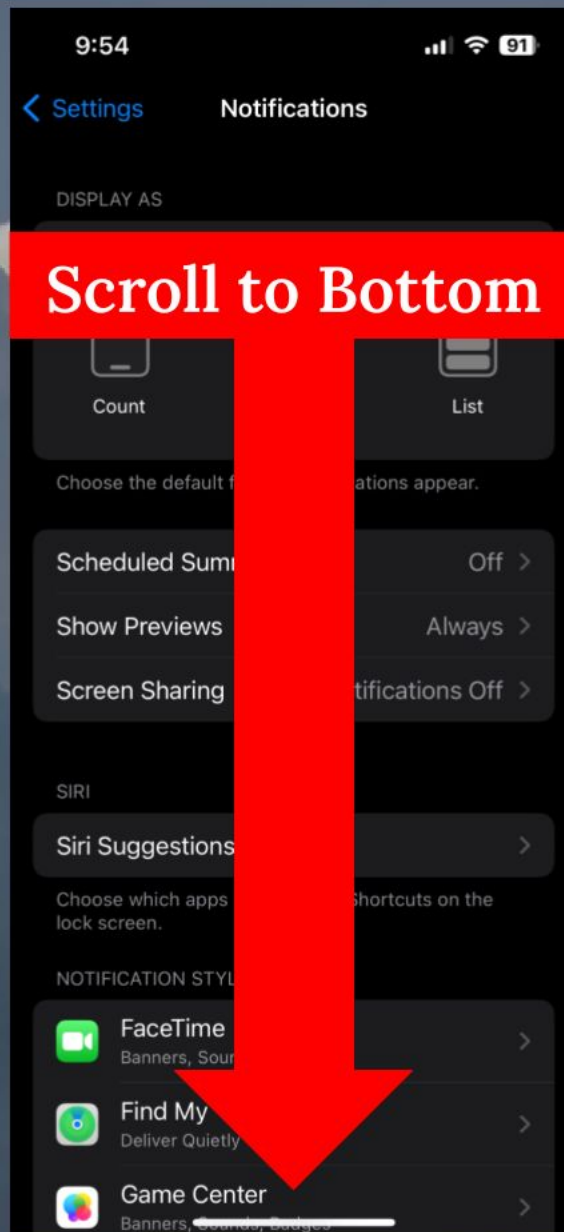
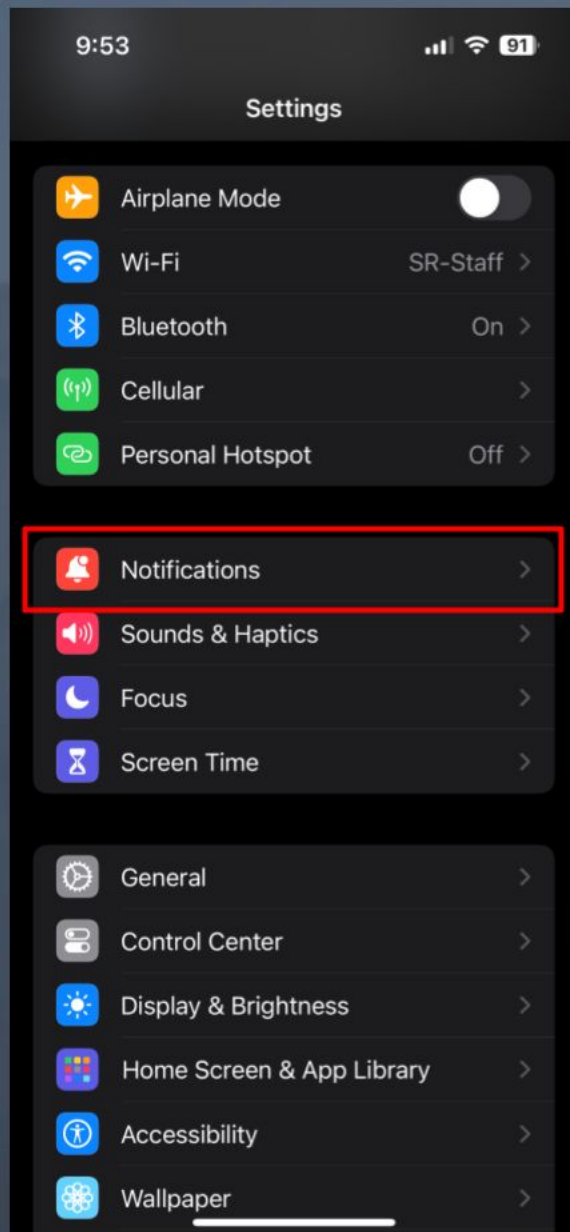


Ensure WEAs are Enabled - Android

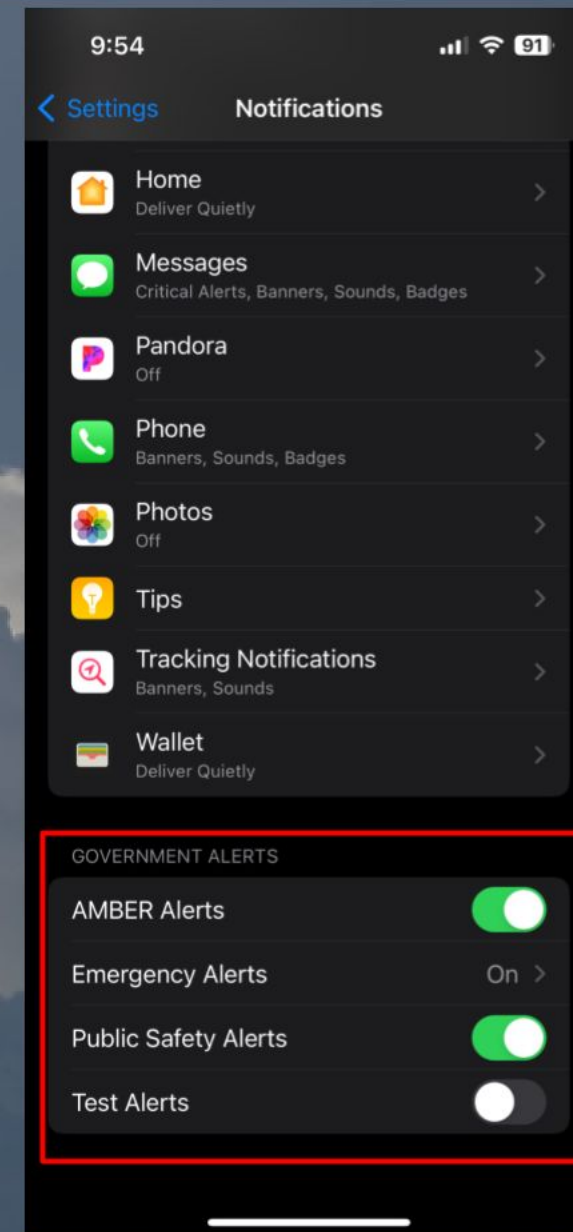




Ensure WEAs are Enabled - iPhone



Scroll to Bottom



WATCH & WARNING NOTIFICATIONS

MULTIPLE SOURCES

Have redundancy – if one method fails, you need a back up

Many communities offer free text & phone call alerts when warnings are issued

Visit your county and state Emergency Management website



Have multiple ways to get warnings
[weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov)



HUNKER DOWN

POLL QUESTION

If the power goes out 🤯 what is your top method to still get emergency updates?

- A.** NOAA Weather Radio
- B.** Cell phone with battery backup
- C.** Battery-powered or crank radio
- D.** Asking friends or neighbors
- E.** I'll figure that out during landfall



HUNKER DOWN

POLL QUESTION

When the lights go out 💡 how will you keep up with emergency updates

- A. My trusty NOAA Weather Radio
- B. Cell phone + battery backup
- C. Old-school battery radio
- D. Check with my neighbors
- E. Um... I might be in trouble 😬



HUNKER DOWN

POLL QUESTION

Power's out! 💡 How are you going to stay in the loop with emergency updates?

- A.** Battery-powered NOAA Weather Radio - I'm old-school cool
- B.** Cell phone + battery backup - tech saves the day!
- C.** Hoping the cat knows what's going on
- D.** Neighbors yelling updates over the fence
- E.** ...Wait, I need a backup?? 😬





You have completed “Day 3”...well done!
Thank you for participating

Session certificates will be emailed to each attendee



TOMORROW

DAY 1

Monitoring the
Tropics
Seasonal Readiness

DAY 2

Gearing Up for
Potential Impacts

DAY 3

Sheltering &
Hunker-Down
Mode

DAY 4

**Post-Storm
Safety
Lessons
Learned**

<https://www.weather.gov/jax/FloridaTropicalTrainingWeek2025>



Submit questions





Program Website

FLTropTraining25



Submit questions



**BE PREPARED.
STAY AWARE.**

<https://www.weather.gov/jax/FloridaTropicalTrainingWeek2025>

WWW.WEATHER.GOV



WWW.HURRICANES.GOV