

# 2017 Hurricane Awareness Tour Terminology

## *Fact Sheet*

### FUNDAMENTAL DEFINITIONS

<b>Tropical Cyclone</b>	A warm-core, non-frontal synoptic-scale cyclone, originating over tropical or subtropical waters with organized deep convection and closed surface wind circulation about a well-defined center.
<b>Tropical Disturbance</b>	A discrete tropical weather system of organized convection, generally 100 to 300 mi in diameter, originating in the tropics or subtropics, having a non-frontal migratory character and maintaining its identity for 24 hours or more.
<b>Tropical Depression</b>	A tropical cyclone with winds less than 39 miles mph.
<b>Tropical Storm (TS)</b>	A tropical cyclone with winds between 39 and 73 mph.
<b>Hurricane (HUR)</b>	A tropical cyclone with winds of 74 mph or stronger.
<b>Eye</b>	The relatively clear, calm area at the center of a hurricane.
<b>Eyewall</b>	The doughnut-shaped region of extremely strong winds and rain which immediately surrounds the eye.
<b>TS/Hurricane Watch</b>	A National Weather Service (NWS) bulletin stating that tropical storm or hurricane conditions may occur, within 48 hours.
<b>TS/Hurricane Warning</b>	A National Weather Service (NWS) bulletin stating the tropical storm or hurricane conditions are expected in the warned area within 36 hours.
<b>Storm Surge Watch</b>	NWS bulletin stating the possibility of life-threatening inundation from rising water moving inland from the shoreline somewhere within the specified area, generally within 48 hours, in association with a tropical, subtropical, or post-tropical cyclone.
<b>Storm Surge Warning</b>	NWS Bulletin stating the danger of life-threatening inundation from rising water moving inland from the shoreline somewhere within the specified area, generally within 36 hours, in association with a tropical, subtropical, or post-tropical cyclone.
<b>Extreme Wind Warning</b>	NWS Bulletin stating the expected onset of extreme sustained winds of a major hurricane ( $\geq$ Category 3), usually associated with the eyewall of a hurricane.

### SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE WIND SCALE

Herbert Saffir and Robert Simpson, two pioneering hurricane researchers, developed a scale for rating hurricane intensity. Their scale, called the "Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale", identifies hurricanes on a scale from 1 to 5. The scale is shown below:

CATEGORY	SUSTAINED WIND SPEED
1	74 to 95 mph
2	96 to 110 mph
3	111 to 129 mph
4	130 to 156 mph
5	157 mph +