

The Hurricane season is that portion of the year having a relatively high incidence of hurricanes (or tropical cyclones). In the Atlantic, the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico, it is the period from June 1 to November 30.

A tropical cyclone can be simply defined as a low pressure system that develops over tropical waters with an organized and established circulation. Once formed, the cyclone may go through three stages of development, assuming conditions are favourable.

Tropical Depression

Tropical cyclone with maximum sustained wind speed up to 62 km/h =33 knots=38mph.

Tropical Storm

A well organized tropical cyclone with maximum sustained wind speed in the range 63—117 km/h = 34 –63 knots = 39 –73 mph.

Hurricane

Tropical cyclone with maximum wind speed equal to or greater than 118km/h = 64knots=74mph.

Warning Messages

These are disseminated by the Meteorological Service to indicate the what, when and where of the significant weather phenomena. There are various examples, as follows:

A Severe Weather Alert Indicates that weather conditions could be expected to deteriorate soon. This can be considered the first level of warning.

A Thunderstorm Warning is issued when severe thunderstorm activity has been reported or will occur shortly.

A Flash Flood Watch advises that flash flooding is possible.

A Flash Flood Warning indicates that flooding has been reported or will occur shortly.

A bulletin is issued in the event of the occurrence of a tropical storm or hurricane that will pose a possible threat to Jamaica.

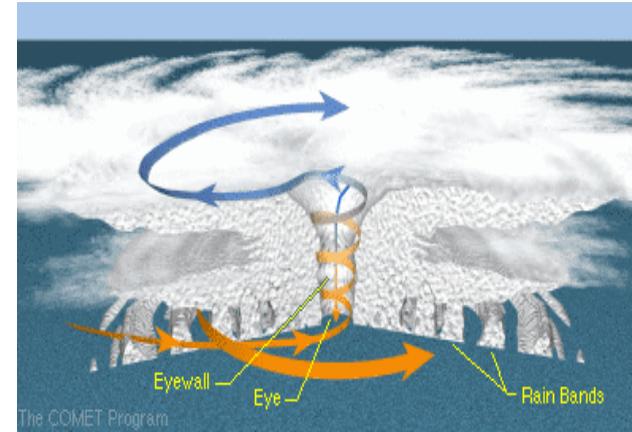
A Tropical Storm or Hurricane Watch indicates that tropical storm or hurricane conditions pose a possible threat to Jamaica within 48 hours.

A Tropical Storm or Hurricane Warning indicates that tropical storm or hurricane conditions are expected to affect Jamaica within 36 hours or less.

Symbols



Cross Section of Hurricane



For further information contact:

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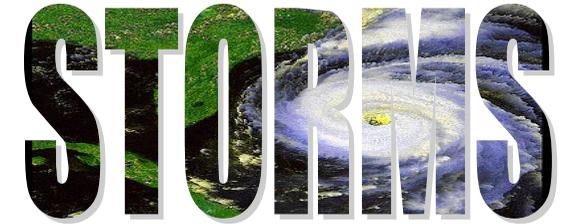
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**Meteorological Service,
Jamaica**



SAFFIR/SIMPSON HURRICANE SCALE

CATE- GORY	CENTRAL PRESSURE	WINDSPEED		DAMAGE
	MILLIBAR	KM PER HR.	KNOTS	
1	> 980	118 -153	64 - 83	MINIMAL
2	965 - 979	154 -177	84 - 96	MODERATE
3	945 - 964	177 – 209	97 - 115	EXTENSIVE
4	920 - 944	209 – 249	116 - 135	EXTREME
5	< 920	>249	>135	CATA- STROPHIC

**Development
and Movement**

The Meteorological Service records and reports all measurements in **metric units only** except when a **bulletin is issued** then dual units are used.

For example, if an approaching tropical storm or hurricane poses a possible threat to Jamaica, warning messages will quote the distance from a particular reference point in kilometers only.

CONVERSION TABLE

MEASUREMENT	UNITS
Distance	Km (kilometre) 1 km = 1000m = 0.621 mile
Rainfall	mm (millimeter) 1 mm = 0.039 inch
Temperature	°C (degree Celsius) $C = 5/9 * (F-32)$ or $F = (9*C)/5 + 32$
Wind speed	Km/h (kilometre per hour) 1 km/h = 3.6 m/s = 0.627 mph

Be aware that: Adverse weather conditions associated with hurricanes and tropical storm occurs well in advance of the centre of the eye.

Tropical storm winds, high tides and torrential rains occur hours before the wind reaches hurricane force.

Flooding will therefore be likely well before winds reach hurricane force. If you are tracking the storm: When plotting the hurricane location, remember that the location given on the radio or Television is for the centre or eye of the storm.

Tropical storm and hurricane force winds extend out from this point a distance that is stated in advisories.

HURRICANE TRACKING MAP

