Hurricanes and Coastal Storms

CERT Basic Training

Hazards

Hurricanes and Coastal Storms

- Hurricanes:
  - Violent areas of low pressure forming in tropics
  - Have winds of 75 mph or more
  - Accompanied by torrential rains
- Coastal Storms
  - Typically form along East Coast
  - Produce similar damage to hurricanes

Hurricane and Coastal Storm Risks

- Strong winds and storm surge can:
  - Damage or destroy structures
  - Lift and move unstable structures and objects
  - Damage utility and sewage lines
  - Give rise to tornadoes
  - Make roads impassable
  - Disrupt communication lines
  - Cause coastal erosion
  - Cause floods
  - Threaten lives

Saffir-Simpson Scale

- Measures wind speed

- Has five categories
  - I: 74-95 mph
  - II: 96-110 mph
  - III: 111-130 mph
  - IV: 131-155 mph
  - V: More than 155 mph

Statistics

- 100 million Americans are at risk for hurricanes

- Almost 14 million live in an area where winds greater than 125 mph have been recorded (i.e., tip of Florida to North Carolina coast)

- More than 6 million live in storm surge areas

Preparing for a Hurricane

- Know risk and evacuation routes

- Develop action plan

- Secure needed supplies

- Floodproof property

- Create personal disaster supply kit for your family

- Secure mobile homes

FEMA

Before a Hurricane

- Board up all windows and glass doors

- Check batteries

- Stock up on nonperishable food

- Listen to EAS

Stay or Go?

- If in evacuation zone, leave immediately
  - Determine where you will go
  - Leave as early as possible
- If not in evacuation zone:
  - Follow sheltering guidelines
  - Determine safe room in home
  - Fortify house
  - Assist those with special needs

During a Hurricane

- Stay indoors
- Stay away from flood waters
- Be aware of the "eye"
- Be alert for tornadoes

After a Hurricane

- Do not reenter area until it is declared safe
- Use flashlight to inspect for damage
- Wear protective clothing, sunscreen, and bug repellant
- Check on neighbors
- If you use a generator, take safety precautions
- Stay away from downed power lines
- Turn off utilities, if necessary
- Listen to EAS

FEMA