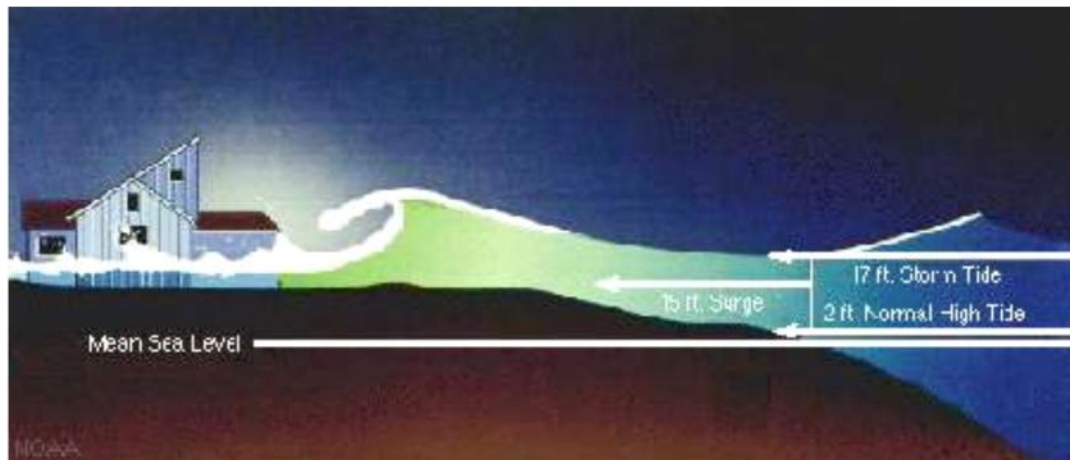


Hurricane Hazards Summary



Storm Surge

- Storm surge is the greatest potential threat to life and property associated with hurricanes.
- A storm surge is a large dome of water, 50 to 100 miles wide, that sweeps across the coastline near where a hurricane makes landfall. It can be more than 15 feet deep at its peak.
- The level of surge in a particular area is primarily related to the intensity of the hurricane and slope of the continental shelf.
- The Sea, Lake, and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH) model is used by communities to evaluate storm surge threat from different categories of hurricanes striking from various directions.
- Because storm surge has the greatest potential to kill more people than any of the other hurricane hazards, it is wise to err on the conservative side by planning for a storm that is one category more intense than is forecast.

High Winds

- Typically, the more intense the storm (in terms of the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale), the more wind damage a community will sustain, particularly if it does not have an effective mitigation program and has not prepared in advance for the storm.
- Tropical storm-force winds (39-73 mph) can also be dangerous, and it is wise to have evacuations completed before they reach your area.

Heavy Rains

- Hurricanes (and some tropical storms) typically produce widespread rainfall of 6 to 12 inches or more, often resulting in severe flooding.
- Inland flooding has been the primary cause of tropical cyclone-related fatalities over the past 30 years.
- Rains are generally heaviest with slower moving storms (less than 10 mph).
- The heaviest rain usually occurs to the right of the cyclone track in the period 6 hours before and 6 hours after landfall. However, storms can last for days, depending on what inland weather features they interact with.
- Large amounts of rain can occur more than 100 miles inland where flash floods and mudslides are typically the major threats.

Hurricane Hazards Summary (cont.)

Tornadoes

- Tornadoes are most likely to occur in the right-front quadrant of the hurricane. However, they are also often found elsewhere in the rainbands.
- Typically, the more intense a hurricane is, the greater the tornado threat.
- Tornado production can occur for days after landfall.
- Most tornadoes occur within 150 miles of the coast.
- The National Weather Service's Doppler radar systems can provide indications of tornados from a few minutes to about 30 minutes in advance. Consequently, preparedness is critical.