

Terms to Know

FLASH FLOOD WARNING- Means a flash flood is imminent; take immediate action.

FLASH FLOOD WATCH - Means a flash flood is possible in the area; stay alert.

GAIL FORCE WINDS - Sustained winds of 45 knots or greater.

HURRICANE - Pronounced rotary circulation, constant wind speed of 74 miles per hour (64 knots) or greater.

HURRICANE WARNINGS - Issued when hurricane conditions are present 350 miles from the coastline.

HURRICANE WATCH - Issued for a coastal area when a hurricane enters or forms in the Gulf of Mexico.

SMALL CRAFT CAUTIONARY STATEMENTS - When a tropical cyclone is located in the Gulf of Mexico, small craft operators are advised to remain in port or not to venture into the open water.

STORM SURGE - An abnormal rise of the water along the shore as the result, primarily, of the winds of a storm.

TROPICAL DEPRESSION - Rotary circulation at surface, highest constant wind speed 38 miles an hour (33 knots) or less.

TROPICAL DISTURBANCE - A moving area of thunderstorms in open waters that maintains its identity for 24 hours or more.

TROPICAL STORM - Distinct rotary circulation, constant wind speed ranges 39 - 73 miles an hour (34-63 knots).

TROPICAL STORM WARNINGS - May be issued when winds of 39 - 73 miles an hour (34 - 63 knots) are expected.

TROPICAL STORM WATCH - Issued for a coastal area when there is the threat of tropical storm conditions within 24 - 36 hours.