



# Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale

## Category 1

Very dangerous winds will produce some damage

- No significant structural damage to most well-constructed permanent structures.
- Can topple unanchored mobile homes.
- Uproot or snap weak trees.
- Poorly attached roof shingles or tiles can blow off.
- Coastal flooding and pier damage.
- Widespread to extensive power outages.
- Widespread damage and life-threatening.

## Category 2

Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage

- Damage roofing material (sometimes exposing the roof).
- Damage to poorly constructed doors and windows.
- Damage to poorly constructed signs and piers.
- Many trees are uprooted or snapped.
- Mobile homes, whether anchored or not, are typically damaged and sometimes destroyed.
- Many manufactured homes suffer structural damage.
- Small craft in unprotected anchorages may break their moorings.
- Extensive to near-total power outages.
- Scattered loss of potable water are likely, possibly lasting many days.

## Category 3

Major

Devastating damage will occur

- Some structural damage to small residences and utility buildings, particularly those of wood frame or manufactured materials with minor curtain wall failures.
- Buildings that lack a solid foundation, such as mobile homes, are usually destroyed.
- Gable-end roofs are peeled off.
- Manufactured homes usually sustain severe and irreparable damage.
- Large number of trees are uprooted or snapped, isolating many areas.
- Near-total to total power loss is likely for up to several weeks.
- Water will likely be lost or contaminated.

## Category 4

Major

Catastrophic damage will occur

- Extensive curtainwall failures, with some complete structural failure on small residences.
- Heavy, irreparable damage and near complete destruction of gas station canopies and other wide span overhang type structures
- Mobile and manufactured homes are flattened.
- Most trees, except for the heartiest, are uprooted or snapped, isolating many areas.
- Extensive beach erosion.
- Total and long-lived electrical and water losses.

## Category 5

Major

Catastrophic damage will occur

- Complete roof failure on many residences and industrial buildings
- Complete building failures with small utility buildings blown over or away.
- Collapse of many wide-span roofs and walls, especially those with no interior supports.
- Very heavy and irreparable damage to many wood frame structures and total destruction to mobile/manufactured homes.
- Only a few types of structures are capable of surviving intact. They include office, condominium and apartment buildings and hotels that are of solid concrete or steel frame construction, public multi-story concrete parking garages, and residences that are made of either reinforced brick or concrete/cement block and have hipped roofs with slopes of no less than 35 degrees from horizontal and no overhangs of any kind, and if the windows are either made of hurricane-resistant safety glass or covered with shutters. Unless all of these requirements are met, the absolute destruction of a structure is certain.