

## Saffir-Simpson Wind Scale

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale is a 1 to 5 rating based on a hurricane's sustained wind speed. This scale estimates potential property damage. Hurricanes reaching Category 3 and higher are considered major hurricanes because of their potential for significant loss of life and damage. Category 1 and 2 storms are still dangerous, however, and require preventative measures. In the western North Pacific, the term "super typhoon" is used for tropical cyclones with sustained winds exceeding 150 mph.

Scale Number (Category)  
& Sustained Winds (mph)

Type of Damage Expected

**1**  
**CATEGORY**  
**HURRICANE**  
SUSTAINED WINDS (MPH)  
**74-95**



**Very dangerous winds will produce some damage:**

People, livestock, and pets struck by flying or falling debris could be injured or killed. Masonry chimneys can be toppled. Failure of aluminum, screened-in, swimming pool enclosures can occur. Some roofs could be partially removed. Failures to overhead doors and unprotected windows will be common. Windows in high-rise buildings can be broken by flying debris. Falling and broken glass will pose a significant danger even after the storm. There will be occasional damage to commercial signage, fences, and canopies. Large branches of trees will snap and shallow rooted trees can be toppled. Extensive damage to power lines and poles will likely result in power outages that could last a few to several days.

**2**  
**CATEGORY**  
**HURRICANE**  
SUSTAINED WINDS (MPH)  
**96-110**



**Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage.**

There is a substantial risk of injury or death to people, livestock, and pets due to flying and falling debris. Windows can be broken by flying debris. Falling and broken glass will pose a significant danger even after the storm. Commercial signage, fences, and canopies will be damaged and often destroyed. Many shallowly rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted and block numerous roads. Near-total power loss is expected with outages that could last from several days to weeks.

**3**  
**CATEGORY**  
**HURRICANE**  
SUSTAINED WINDS (MPH)  
**111-130**



**Devastating damage will occur.**

There is a high risk of injury or death to people, livestock, and pets due to flying and falling debris. There will be a high percentage of damage to roofs. Numerous windows can be blown out resulting in falling glass, which will pose a threat for days to weeks after the storm. Most commercial signage, fences, and canopies will be destroyed. Many trees will be snapped or uprooted, blocking numerous roads. Electricity and water will be unavailable for several days to a few weeks after the storm passes.

**4**  
**CATEGORY**  
**HURRICANE**  
SUSTAINED WINDS (MPH)  
**131-155**



**Catastrophic damage will occur.**

There is a very high risk of injury or death to people, livestock, and pets due to flying and falling debris. Extensive damage to roofs, windows and doors will occur. Large amounts of windborne debris will be lofted into the air. Windborne debris damage will break most unprotected windows and penetrate some protected windows. Nearly all commercial signage, fences, and canopies will be destroyed. Most trees will be snapped or uprooted and power poles downed. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last for weeks.

**5**  
**CATEGORY**  
**HURRICANE**  
SUSTAINED WINDS (MPH)  
**Over 155**



**Catastrophic damage will occur.**

People, livestock, and pets are at very high risk of injury or death from flying or falling debris, even if indoors. Windborne debris damage will occur to nearly all unprotected windows and many protected windows. Significant damage many buildings will occur. Many windows will be blown out creating broken glass which which will pose a threat for days to weeks after the storm. Nearly all commercial signage, fences, and canopies will be destroyed. Nearly all trees will be snapped or uprooted and power poles downed. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months.