Fact Sheet - Hurricanes

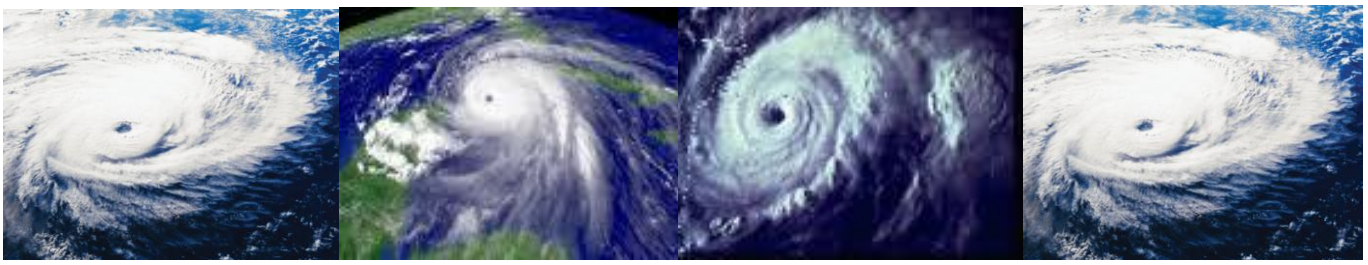
- August and September are the peak months of the hurricane season which lasts from June 1 to November 30.
- Hurricanes can be as much as 400 miles wide.
- Hurricanes bring destructive winds, storm surge, torrential rain, flooding and tornadoes.
- Many coastal communities, especially the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, will be in the direct path of future hurricanes.
- Major Hurricanes in Maine from January, 1950 to March, 2010: -4-
- Funnel Clouds in Maine from January, 1950 to March, 2010: -15-
- The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale expresses a hurricane's strength by its sustained wind speed –
  - Category 1: 74-95 mph
  - Category 2: 96-110 mph
  - Category 3: 111-130 mph
  - Category 4: 131-155 mph
  - Category 5: in excess of 155 mph

WHEN A WATCH IS ISSUED

* Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or Local Radio or TV Stations
* Prepare to bring inside any lawn furniture, outdoor decorations or ornaments, trash cans, hanging plants, and anything else that can be picked up by the wind.
* Prepare to cover all windows of your home or business.
* Fill your car's gas tank.
* Recheck manufactured home tie-downs.
* Check batteries and stock up on canned food, first-aid supplies, drinking water and medications.

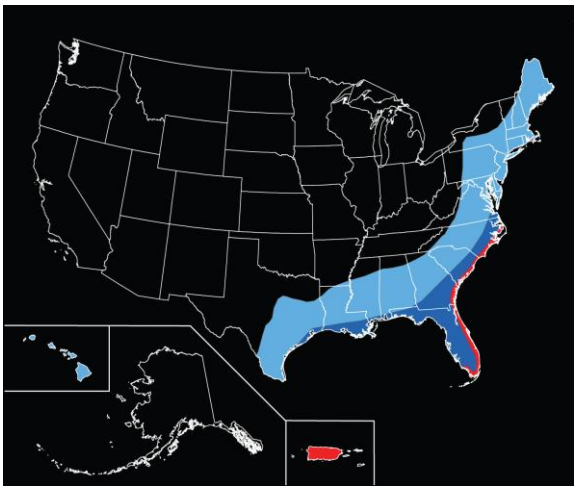
WHEN A WARNING IS ISSUED

* Listen to the advice of local officials, and leave if they tell you to do so.
* Complete preparation activities.
* If you are not advised to evacuate, stay indoors, away from windows.
* Be aware that the calm "eye" is deceptive; the storm is not over. The worse part of the storm will happen once the eye passes over and the winds blow from the opposite direction.
* Be alert for tornadoes. Tornadoes can happen during and after it passes over. Remain indoors, in the center of your home, in a closet or bathroom without windows.



Structure of a Hurricane

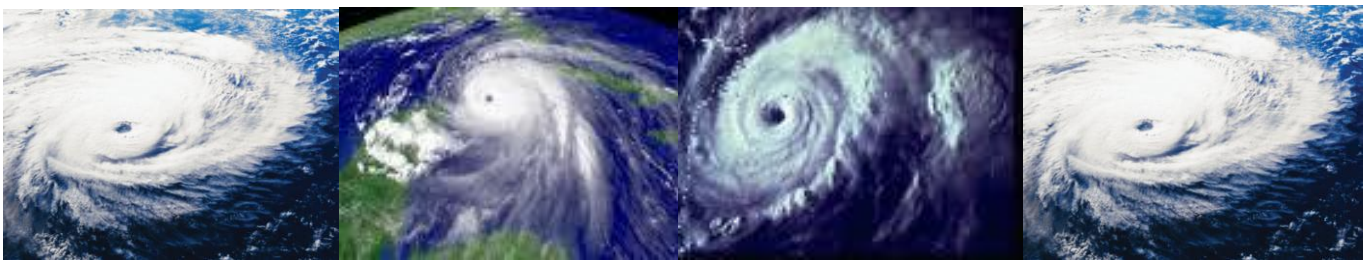
Hurricanes are made up of spiral bands of thunderstorm and areas of heavy rain. These spiral bands flow toward the center of the storm. At the center of the storm is an area of light winds, low pressure and sometimes clear skies. This area is known as the eye.



Source: the National Atlas and the USGS

The number of hurricanes expected to occur during a 100-year period based on historical data—light blue area, 20 to 40; dark blue area, 40 to 60; red area, more than 60. Map not to scale.

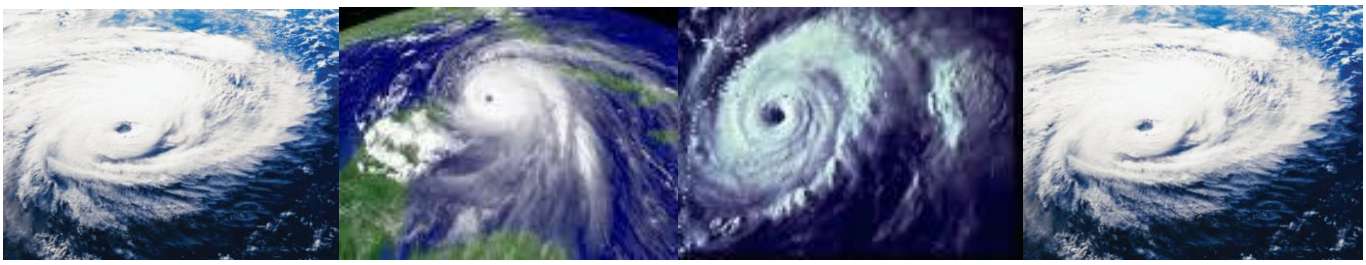
Northern Maine Development Commission
KVCOG Kennebec Valley Council of Governments
EMDC Eastern Maine Development Corporation
AVCOG Western Maine Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments



HURRICANE FACTS:

- The average frequency of storms over the past 360 years was one every eight years, but since 1960, the frequency is closer to one storm every two years.
- The total number of storms to have hit this area is around 45.
- Over the past 60 years, there have been a total of 7 hurricanes that have caused major damage, and 7 storms that have caused moderate damage.
- Below is a list of the most costliest hurricanes, which are listed by their national ranking. Damage amounts have been adjusted for inflation to 1990 dollars:

Hurricane	Rank	Year	Damage
New England	7	1938	$3,593,853,000
Carol	10	1954	$2,370,215,000
Donna	12	1960	$1,823,605,000
Bob	15	1991	$1,500,000,000
Gloria	22	1985	$1,002,739,000
New England	23	1944	$925,055,000
			$11,215,467,000



How Hurricanes Got Their Names:

The idea for the use of women's names to identify hurricanes came from a novel written in 1941 called "Storm" by George R. Stewart. In this novel, a meteorologist referred to hurricanes by giving them lady's names. During World War II, this became even more popular with military meteorologists. So in 1953, the first list of women's names was developed and was placed in alphabetical order to identify hurricanes.

In 1979, men's names were added to the list, and were interspersed alternately with the women's names. This system continues today, with a total of six different sets of names that are rotated every year. If a storm causes extensive damage and destruction, it is retired from the list. Examples of these retired storms include Andrew, Bob, David, Gloria, and Hugo

DID YOU KNOW?

- To be considered hurricane force, winds must be greater than 74 mph.
- Heavy rains accompany hurricanes and tropical storms and cause flooding in very short periods of time.
- For coastal areas, the storm surge is the most destructive force of a hurricane and is responsible for 90% of the flooding deaths in a hurricane.
- Hurricanes often produce tornadoes.
- The destructive power of a hurricane in one day is equivalent to the detonation of approximately 800 atomic bombs. Or the power produced by a hurricane in one day could supply the entire United States with electrical power for 6 months.
- In the Atlantic and eastern Pacific, whirling storms are called hurricanes, but in the western Pacific, they are known as typhoons. In the Indian Ocean, they are known as cyclones.