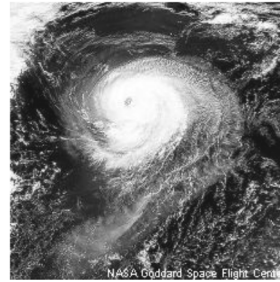
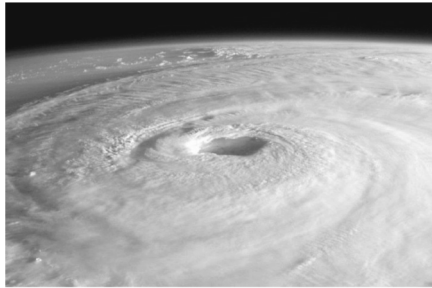




Hurricanes



Hurricanes are strong tropical storms that form in the southern Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean Sea, the Gulf of Mexico, and in the eastern part of the Pacific Ocean. Hurricanes produce strong winds, heavy rains, and thunderstorms. Hurricanes can cause tremendous damage. Winds can exceed 155 miles per hour. Hurricanes and tropical storms can generate tornadoes and cause flooding. High winds and heavy rains can destroy buildings, roads, and bridges as well as tear down power lines and trees. In the coastal areas, very high tides called surges can cause extensive damage.

Hurricanes are classified as five categories according to the wind speed, central pressure, and potential damage. While category 3 and higher hurricanes are considered major hurricanes, categories 1 and 2 remain extremely dangerous and deserve your full attention.