

# HURRICANE

STORM SURGE

CATEGORY 5

TROPICAL STORM

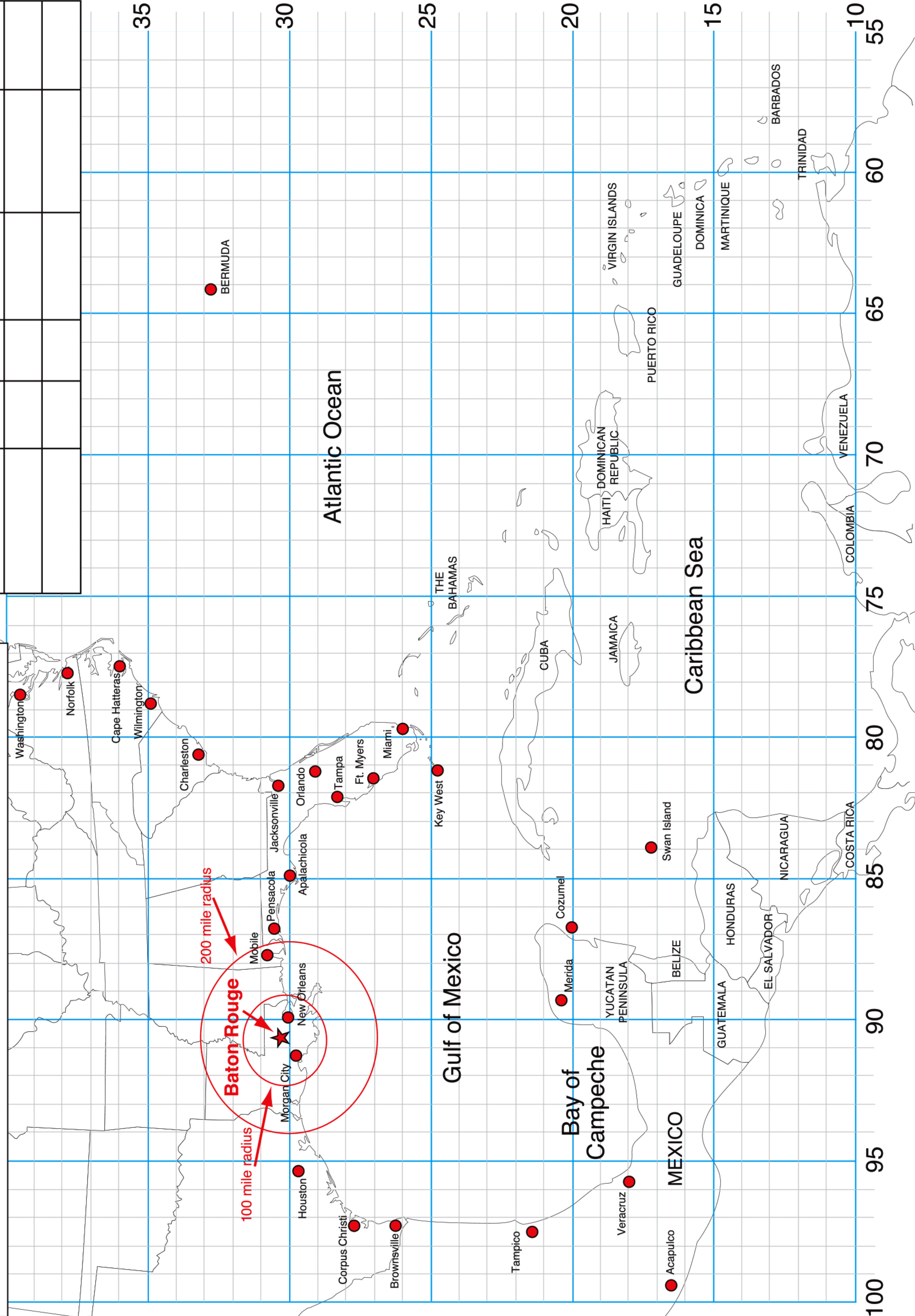
STORM NAME	DATE	TIME	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	SPEED

## HURRICANE WATCH: Hurricane may threaten within 36 hours.

- Be prepared to take action if a warning is issued.
- Keep informed of the storm's progress

## HURRICANE WARNING: Hurricane expected to strike within 24 hours.

- Leave beach front and low-lying areas
- Leave mobile homes for more substantial shelter
- Stay in your home if it is sturdy, on high ground, and not near the beach, but if you are asked to leave by authorities—GO
- Stay tuned to radio, NOAA weather Radio, or television for hurricane advisories and safety information



WWW.ASCENSIONPARISH.NET/OHSEP





## Hurricane Information

### HURRICANE SEASON OFFICIALLY BEGINS ON JUNE 1 AND LASTS UNTIL NOVEMBER 30

Contact the National Weather Service or NOAA to obtain storm predictions for this year.

[www.WEATHER.gov](http://www.WEATHER.gov)

[www.NOAA.gov](http://www.NOAA.gov)

### BEFORE THE HURRICANE SEASON BEGINS

Residents of Southeast Louisiana should be prepared for tropical storms and hurricanes, no matter the general outlook for the hurricane season. Historically, the region has been impacted by hurricanes even during seasons of below normal tropical activity. Regardless of the outlook for the upcoming season, it is important for residents to have hurricane preparedness plans.

### WHAT IS A HURRICANE?

A hurricane is a type of tropical cyclone. Hurricane winds rotate in a counterclockwise direction around the center of the storm, which is called the "eye" where the winds are nearly calm. Tropical cyclones are classified as follows:

#### Tropical Disturbance

Organized thunderstorm activity in the tropics and subtropics, not associated with a front, maintaining its identity for 24 hours or more.

#### Tropical Depression

An organized system of clouds and thunderstorms with a defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 38 mph (33 knots) or less.

#### Tropical Storm

An organized system of strong thunderstorms with a defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph (34-63 knots).

#### Hurricane

An intense tropical weather system with a well defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 74 mph (64 knots) or higher.

### SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE SCALE

Category	Pressure (millibar)	Sustained Winds (mph)	Damage
1	980 or more	74-95	Minimal
2	965-979	96-110	Moderate
3	945-964	111-130	Extensive
4	920-944	131-155	Extreme
5	less than 920	greater than 155	Catastrophic

### IF STAYING AT HOME

Only stay in a home if you have NOT been ordered to evacuate by local officials. Stay inside a well constructed building. In structures, such as a home, examine the building and plan in advance what you will do if winds become strong. Strong winds produce deadly missiles and structural failure.

- ✓ Know how to turn off utilities if told to do so by authorities. Post a set of instructions that can be easily followed by others in the family.
- ✓ Fill bathtub and large containers with water for sanitary purposes.
- ✓ Insure that you have a battery operated radio, flashlights, extra batteries, a supply of canned goods, and a non-electric can opener.
- ✓ Remove objects from around your home that could become dangerous wind-driven projectiles.
- ✓ Turn refrigerator to maximum cold and open only when necessary.
- ✓ Freeze water to create ice. Insure adequate supply by storing extra in large bags.
- ✓ Turn off propane tanks.
- ✓ Board up windows.

### IF EVACUATING

When advised or ordered to evacuate:

- ✓ Stay calm.
- ✓ Fill your vehicle's gas tank.
- ✓ Bring a disaster supply kit for each person (3-day water supply, non-perishable food, a change of clothes and footwear, blanket or sleeping bag, and a first-aid kit including prescription medication).
- ✓ Take a battery-powered Weather Radio, portable radio, and flashlight with extra batteries.
- ✓ Make sure you have an extra set of car keys, credit cards, cash, and important papers.
- ✓ Bring special items for infants and elderly or disabled family members.
- ✓ Remember to do the following:
  - Turn off all the lights, household appliances, gas, heating, cooling, and ventilation systems.
  - Leave the refrigerator and freezer on.
  - Secure your home and make arrangements for pets.
  - Let others know when you leave and where you are planning to go.





## Floods

### WHEN FLOODING IS PREDICTED FOR YOUR AREA

- Check TV and radio often for official bulletins.
- Fuel car.
- Check mobile home tiedowns.
- Adjust moorings on watercraft or move to safer shelter.
- Stock up on canned provisions.
- Check supplies of special medicines and drugs.
- Check batteries for radio and flashlights.
- Secure lawn furniture and other loose material outdoors.
- Elevate lawn equipment and machinery.
- Inventory flood protection supplies and equipment.

### WHEN A FLOOD WARNING IS ISSUED

- Stay tuned to TV and radio for official bulletins.
- Move valuables to upper floors or attic.
- Raise appliances above predicted flood levels.
- Bring in pets.
- Fill containers with several days' supply of drinking water.
- Use the phone only for emergencies.
- Implement a flood protection plan (sandbagging, wrapping, closing levee gaps).

### STAY OR LEAVE

When a flood threatens your area, you will have to make the decision to either evacuate or stay safely at home. **IF LOCAL AUTHORITIES RECOMMEND EVACUATION, YOU SHOULD LEAVE!**

If you decide to leave, follow this advice:

- Leave early – in daylight if possible.
- Shut off water and electricity at main stations.
- Take small valuables and papers, but travel light.
- Provide for animals and pets that shelters will not take.
- Lock your house.
- Use recommended evacuation routes to carefully drive to safe shelter.
- Avoid driving through standing or flowing water.

### DURING THE FLOOD EVENT

To minimize damage to property and loss of life, the National Weather Service will issue a **FLASH FLOOD WATCH**. Local flooding can be expected within 12-24 hours. A **FLOOD WARNING** is issued for the river when flood waters are expected to exceed flood stage at any point on the river. In the Amite Basin, flood warnings may be issued 24-60 hours in advance of the crest. For your own well being and that of others, please take flooding very seriously.

- Stay tuned to the TV and radio for information and official instructions.
- Stay out of disaster areas.
- Do not drink tap water until it has been determined to be safe.
- Do not attempt to travel until roads have been declared open.
- Drive carefully along debris-filled streets. Roads may be undermined and may collapse under weight.
- Stay clear of any downed or low hanging power lines, and report them to the power company.
- Report broken sewers or water mains.

- Be exceptionally careful to prevent fires.
- **DO NOT USE THE TELEPHONE, EXCEPT FOR EMERGENCIES.**
- Check with neighbors to see if help is needed.
- When cooking without gas or electricity, good ventilation is extremely important. Bottled gas burners or several candles taped together are safe and efficient for cooking. NEVER burn charcoal indoors. Always have a fire extinguisher handy.
- Always follow manufacturers recommendations for ventilation.

### RETURNING TO YOUR FLOOD DAMAGED HOME

- **USE EXTREME CAUTION!**
- Before entering a damaged building, check for structural damage and possible imminent collapse.
- When entering a damaged building, do not use an open flame as a light source.
- Be sure children are safe and in good hands.
- Keep chemicals used for disinfecting and poisons used for insect and rodent control out of the reach of children.
- Wear protective clothing and rubber gloves when cleaning.
- Disconnect main electrical switches and circuits. Remove covers from all outlets and fuses or multi-breaker boxes. When dry, spray outlets and boxes with contact cleaner/lubricant.
- Check refrigerated foods for spoilage if power has been off during the event.

### DRINKING WATER AFTER FLOODING

In case of localized flooding, please call the LDH, Louisiana Dept. of Health at 225-644-9030 for information regarding safety actions for your private water well.

### PROTECTIVE MEASURES

#### Floodplain Management Available

"Basic homeowner's" insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. However, because Ascension Parish participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, federally subsidized flood insurance is available to everyone in the parish. Flood insurance is available on buildings and personal property (contents of your home or business). Remember, there is a 30-day waiting period before a policy becomes effective.

Information on the 100-Year Base Flood Elevations, Flood Zone Determinations, and Elevation Certificates for certain properties in the Special Flood Hazard Area can be from the Ascension Parish Department of Planning and Development, 615 E. Worthy St. in Gonzales. The telephone number is 225-450-1002. Residents needing this information can also access information at the Ascension Parish Library or via the website [www.ascensionparish.net](http://www.ascensionparish.net) under Floodplain Management tab.

If you experience flooding, call the Department of Public Works at 225-450-1013 and someone will respond and visit the site to verify and address the issue. For advice in how to protect your property from Flooding, call 225-450-1002 and someone will assist you.

#### For More Information

If you would like more information please call or email the following:  
 National Weather Service (NWS) .....985-645-0565  
[www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov)    [www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc)  
 U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).....225-298-5481  
[www.la.water.usgs.gov/floodmaps/ascensionparishflood.html](http://www.la.water.usgs.gov/floodmaps/ascensionparishflood.html)  
 Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District ...225-296-4900  
[www.amitebasin.org](http://www.amitebasin.org)

[WWW.ASCENSIONPARISH.NET/OHSEP](http://WWW.ASCENSIONPARISH.NET/OHSEP)





## Tornadoes

- ✓ Conduct tornado drills each tornado season. Designate an area in the home as a shelter, and practice having everyone in the family go there in response to a tornado threat.
- ✓ Discuss with family members the difference between a tornado watch and a tornado warning.
- ✓ Have emergency supplies on hand.

### During a tornado, if you are:

1. In a **CAR**, do not get under an overpass or bridge. Get out of the car immediately and take shelter in a nearby building or low-lying area away from the vehicle. Be cautious seeking shelter in ditches due to flash flooding in some areas.
2. In a **MOBILE HOME**, get out and find shelter elsewhere!
3. In a **HOME**:  
Go at once to a windowless, interior room, storm cellar, or lowest level of the building.

Go to an inner hallway or smaller inner room without windows, such as a bathroom or closet.

Stay away from the windows.

Go to the center of the room. Stay away from the corners because tend to attract debris.

Get under a piece of sturdy furniture such as a heavy table or desk and hold on to it.

Crouch down on your knees and protect your head with your arms.

### 4. In a **SCHOOL**:

Every school should have a disaster plan and have frequent drills.

Schools without basements should use interior rooms and hallways on the lowest floor away from windows.

Crouch down on your knees and protect your head with your arms.



## Fire Safety

1. Make sure all family members know what to do in the event of a fire.  
Draw a floor plan with at least two ways of escaping every room.  
Make a drawing for each floor. Dimensions do not need to be correct.  
Make sure the plan shows important details: stairs, hallways and windows that can be used as fire escape routes.
2. Test windows and doors—do they open easy enough?  
Are they wide enough, or tall enough?
3. Choose a safe meeting place outside the house.
4. Practice alerting other members. It is a good idea to keep a bell and flashlight in each bedroom.
5. Practice evacuating the building blindfolded. In a real fire situation, the amount of smoke generated by a fire most likely will make it difficult to see.

6. Practice staying low to the ground when escaping.

7. Feel all doors before opening them. If a door is hot, get out another way.

8. Learn to stop, drop to the ground, roll if clothes catch fire.

### IN CASE OF FIRE: (ADULTS)

**Have everyone leave the building, then call (or have someone call) the fire department (911)**

**Fight the fire only if it's small and not spreading  
— and you have a clear escape path.**

### WHEN IN DOUBT, GET OUT!

**Louisiana State Fire Marshall**

**(Non-Emergency Phone Number) 1-800-256-5452**

[www.lasfm.org](http://www.lasfm.org)