

### **Hurricane hazards**

- Storm surge is the abnormal rise of water generated by a storm's winds. This hazard is historically the leading cause of hurricane-related deaths in the United States. Storm surge and large battering waves can result in large loss of life and cause massive destruction along the coast.
- Storm surge can travel several miles inland, especially along bays, rivers, and estuaries.
- Flooding from heavy rains is the second leading cause of fatalities from landfalling tropical cyclones. Widespread torrential rains associated with these storms often cause flooding hundreds of miles inland. This flooding can persist for several days after a storm has dissipated.
- Winds from a hurricane can destroy buildings and manufactured homes. Signs, roofing material, and other items left outside can become flying missiles during hurricanes.
- Tornadoes can accompany landfalling tropical cyclones. These tornadoes typically occur in rain bands well away from the center of the storm.
- Dangerous waves produced by a tropical cyclone's strong winds can pose a significant hazard to coastal residents and mariners. These waves can cause deadly rip currents, significant beach erosion, and damage to structures along the coastline, even when the storm is more than 1,000 miles offshore.

## **Storm surge & storm tide**

- Storm surge and large waves produced by hurricanes pose the greatest threat to life and property along the coast.
- Storm surge is an abnormal rise of water generated by a storm's winds. Storm surge can reach heights well over 20 feet and can span hundreds of miles of coastline.
- Storm tide is the water level rise during a storm due to the combination of storm surge and the astronomical tide – this was one of the contributing factors to the flooding seen in downtown Jacksonville with Hurricane Irma.
- The destructive power of storm surge and large battering waves can result in loss of life, buildings destroyed, beach and dune erosion, and road and bridge damage along the coast. Storm surge can travel several miles inland. In estuaries and bayous, saltwater intrusion endangers public health and the environment.
- Visit <https://bit.ly/2RKMSna> to determine your storm surge risk. It is so important to know if you are in an area susceptible to storm surge prior to a hurricane