



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.

Source: NOAA <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutsshws.php>

- 1** **Very dangerous winds, some damage:** Well-constructed frame homes could have damage to roof, shingles, vinyl siding and gutters. Large tree branches will snap and shallowly rooted trees may topple. Extensive damage to power lines/poles likely, result in outages that could last a few to several days. *Sustained Winds: 74 - 95mph*
- 2** **Extremely dangerous winds, extensive damage:** Well-constructed frame homes could sustain major roof/siding damage. Many shallowly rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted and block roads. Near-total power loss is expected, outages could last from several days to weeks. *Sustained Winds: 96 - 110mph*
- 3** **Devastating damage:** Well-built framed homes may incur major damage or removal of roof decking and gable ends. Many trees will be snapped or uprooted, blocking roads. Electricity and water will be unavailable for several days to weeks after the storm passes. *Sustained Winds: 111 - 129mph*
- 4** **Catastrophic damage:** Well-built framed homes can sustain severe damage with loss of most of the roof structure and/or some exterior walls. Most trees will be snapped or uprooted and power poles downed. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months. *Sustained Winds: 130 - 156mph*
- 5** **Catastrophic damage:** A high percentage of framed homes destroyed, with total roof failure and wall collapse. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months. *Sustained Winds: >156mph*