Storm surge is an abnormal rise of water generated by a storm, over and above the predicted astronomical tides.

Along the coast, storm surge is often the greatest threat to life and property from a hurricane. In the past, large death tolls have resulted from the rise of the ocean associated with many of the major hurricanes that have made landfall. Hurricane Katrina (2005) is a prime example of the damage and devastation that can be caused by surge. At least 1500 persons lost their lives during Katrina and many of those deaths occurred directly, or indirectly, as a result of storm surge.

Storm surge is produced by water being pushed toward the shore by the force of the winds moving cyclonically around the storm. The impact on surge of the low pressure associated with intense storms is minimal in comparison to the water being forced toward the shore by the wind.

Storm surge should not be confused with storm tide,.

- **Storm Surge** is an abnormal rise of water generated by a storm, over and above the predicted astronomical tide.
- **Storm Tide** is the water level rise during a storm due to the combination of storm surge and the astronomical tide

Source: NOAA http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/surge/