



HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS AND MANAGEMENT

Outcomes

In this session you should be able to:

- Identify steps taken by the individual, agencies and the government to prevent loss of life and damage to property during the passage of a hurricane.
- Prepare a Hurricane Preparedness Plan for their home

Hurricane Preparedness and Management

Each year the hurricane season begins June 01st and ends November 30th. Several steps are taken at the level of the Caribbean Region, Governments, Agencies, Communities and the Individual to prevent significant injury, loss of life and damage to property in the event that a hurricane makes landfall.

Preparedness

- Measures taken to prepare for or reduce the chance of a natural event (hurricane) causing major damage, injury and loss of life.
- It looks at predicting, preventing disaster, using steps to reduce the severity of the impact and coping with the consequences.

Management

- The organisation of resources to deal with emergencies related to natural events, such as hurricanes.
- The focus is on preparedness, response and recovery in order to lessen the impact of the event.

Preparedness and Management

In Trinidad and Tobago the **Meteorological Services Division** (TTMS) of the Ministry of the Public Utilities to provide us with information regarding weather.

The **Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management** (ODPM) **coordinates** the local relief and recovery operations in order to protect the people and the environment during hurricanes and other natural events.

External Support

Our local agencies liaise with regional and international agencies such as:

- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (United States)
- The National Hurricane Centre (United States)
- The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency

Hurricanes in Trinidad and Tobago

- The TTMS has predicted above normal tropical cyclone activity for this country in 2020.
- Because of this country's geographic location Trinidad and to a lesser extent Tobago, have not experienced major effects of hurricanes.
- This has led many to believe that **“God is ah Trini”**. This belief has resulted in a failure by many individuals to adhere to the recommendations provided to the public.

History of Hurricanes in Trinidad and Tobago

Review the following attachment which is an article for 1933 retrieved from the TTMS Facebook page.

Citation: 1933 'HURRICANE IN TRINIDAD. THOUSANDS HOMELESS.', *Advocate* (Burnie, Tas. : 1890 - 1954), 3 July, p. 1, viewed 13

November, 2012, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article68029063>



The Table below shows some of the storms that have affected Trinidad and Tobago. Although the impact is not as significant as our Caribbean neighbours, there is still need to prepare.

Name of Tropical Storm/Hurricane	Year
Flora	1963
Alma	1974
Arthur	1990
Fran	1990
Bret	1993
Joyce	2000
Isidore	2002
Ivan	2004
Bret	2017

Click on the links below and view

- [1963 Atlantic Hurricane Season Animation](#)
- [The Horror of Hurricane Flora](#) based on an interview conducted in 2013



Question?

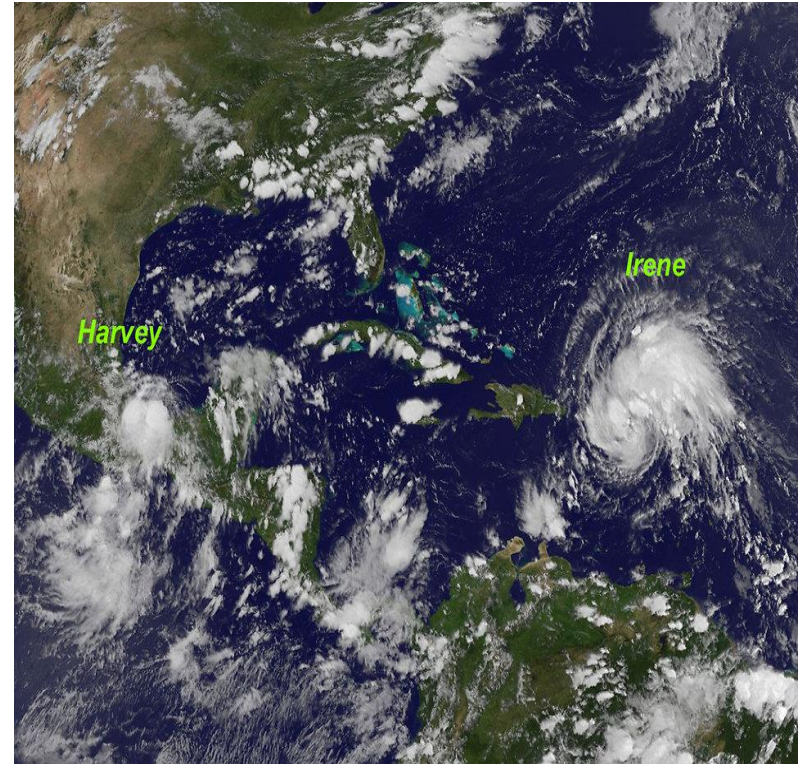
- What is the term used to describe **the wind bringing sea water inland** as mentioned by the then eighty six year old Mrs. Idris Sheila Crooks?
- Why was Mrs. Crooks unprepared for the passage of Hurricane Flora?
- What has changed in preparing for hurricanes since 1963?



Hurricane Tracking

The Meteorological Services Division monitors weather conditions using several sources.

- Satellite Imagery
- Radar
- Weather stations at ground level
- Hurricane Hunters at The US National Hurricane Centre fly into the eye of the hurricane to record elements of weather and inform countries.



Once information is gathered scientists track the path of the system and its development and alert and issue warnings to countries that are at risk. These countries then send out public advisories or alerts.

Hurricane Alerts

Watches and Warnings

A **Hurricane Watch** is issued when hurricane conditions are possible in an area.

The public is notified about 48 hours before the storm arrives.

A **Hurricane Warning** is issued when hurricane conditions are expected within a specified area.

A warning is typically issued 36 hours prior to the anticipated hazard onset.

Being Prepared

- Complete a Family Emergency Plan
- Assemble an emergency supplies kit
- Secure your home – clean drains, protect windows, trim tree branches.
- Identify closest shelters to your home.
- Stay alert and listen to updates from official sources.





Strengthen your
HOME
 against a
 Tropical Storm/Hurricane

Here are some tips to protect your home:

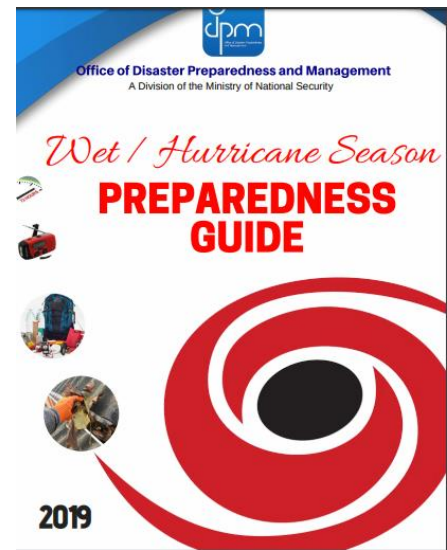
- 1 Trim Trees 
- 2 Create shutters - Pre-cut plywood to cover windows & doors 
- 3 Strengthen your roof - Install hurricane straps 
- 4 Identify a safe location for your vehicle 
- 5 Secure loose outdoor items 

LET'S GET READY & STAY READY! 

Preparations

Click on the link below which is a document prepared by the ODPM about hurricanes and preparedness.

[Hurricane Preparedness Guidelines](#)



Before the Hurricane

Be aware of the following.

- Contact numbers for the police, fire etc.
- Emergency relief shelters – these are usually published by the ODPM
- Secure your pets and animals
- Ensure all family members are aware of the emergency plan.

During the Hurricane

- Remain indoors and stay away from windows.
- Listen to updates from the radio/television/internet
- Check emergency supplies kit.
- Secure valuables
- Secure important documents in zip lock bags.

After the Hurricane

- Do not drive in flood waters
- Throw away all food, medicines and cosmetics that have come into contact with flood waters.
- Ensure all family members are safe.
- Boil water unless you are told it's safe.
- Stay clear of downed electricity lines, report to the relevant authorities
- Avoid /limit contact with flood waters
- Assist members in your community.

Activity

Using the Hurricane Preparedness Guidelines and your own research, prepare the following for the upcoming 2020 hurricane season.

- A Family Emergency Plan on a letter size (8 ½ x 11) sheet of paper.
- Assemble an emergency supplies kit outlining the purpose of each item.

Answers

Questions on slide 11

- Storm surge
- Mrs. Crooks was unaware because in 1963
 1. There was an absence of modern communication such as telephones
 2. The science and technology was not as developed to monitor, track and forecast hurricanes.
- Satellite, radar and other tools have been created to monitor, track and forecast hurricanes.

Sources

- <https://www.metoffice.gov.tt/>
- <http://www.odpm.gov.tt/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W0O0VKYwwE0>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y5XsD7GpKkw>