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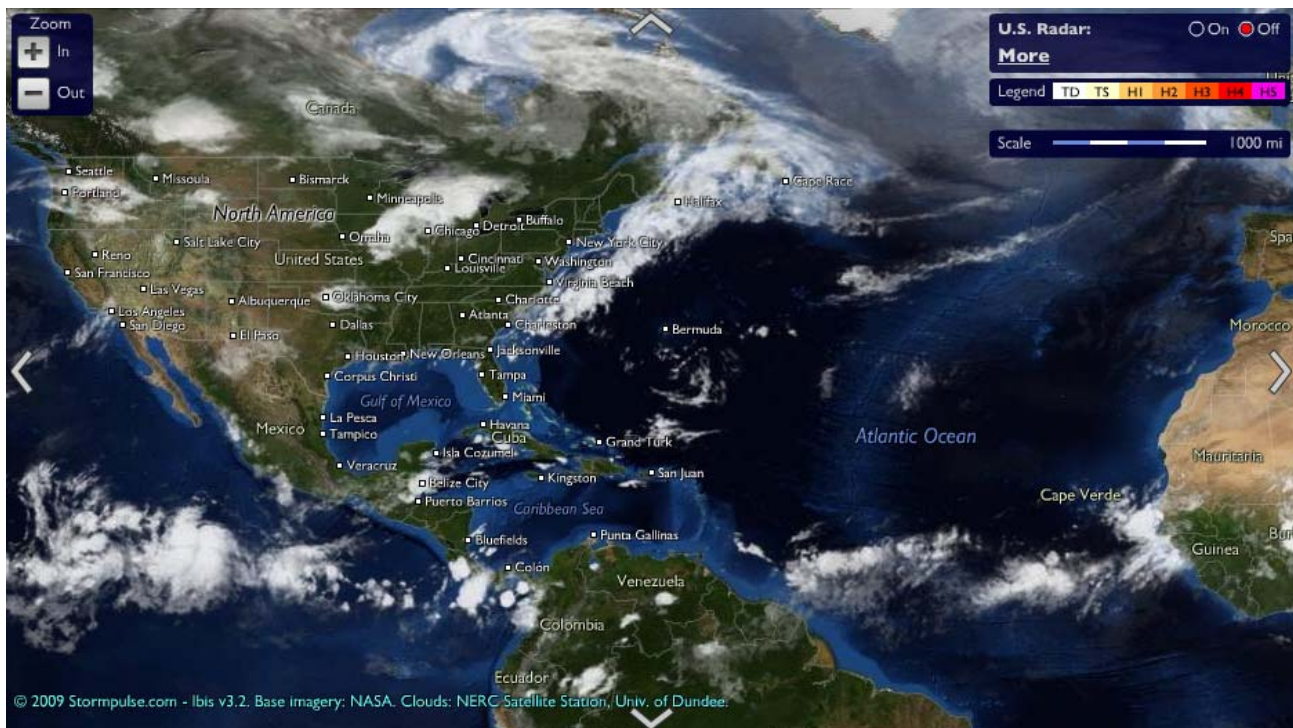
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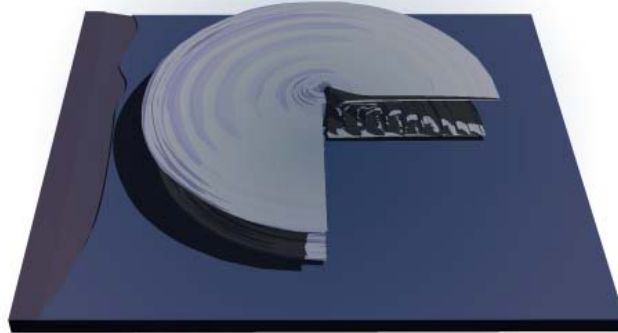
Graphic provided by [Stormpulse.com](#).

	 TROPICAL DEPRESSION	 TROPICAL STORM	 SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE INTENSITY SCALE					▶ MORE DETAIL? Visit NOAA's National Hurricane Center	
			1	2	3	4	5		
Wind speeds (in mph)	Less than 39	39-73	74-95	96-110	111-130	131-155	More than 155		
Damage level	None	Minimal	Minimal	Moderate	Extensive	Extreme	Catastrophic		
Storm surge	None 	Less than 4 feet 	4-5 feet 	6-8 feet 	9-12 feet 	13-18 feet 	More than 18 feet 		
Coastal evacuation (depends on sea level)	--	--	None	None	Several blocks	Up to six miles	5-10 miles		
Barometric pressure (in inches)	Greater than 29.73 (est.)	29.53-29.73	28.94-29.53	28.50-28.91	27.91-28.47	27.17-27.88	Less than 27.17		

Sources: The Weather Channel, "The USA TODAY Weather Book," "Hurricane Watch," by Dr. Bob Sheets and Jack Williams, NOAA, USA TODAY research
 Produced by: Anne R. Carey, Ron Coddington, Doyle Rice, Juan Thomassie, and Joshua Hatch, USA TODAY

Explore key elements of a hurricane

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Sources: The Weather Channel, "The USA TODAY Weather Book," "Hurricane Watch," by Dr. Bob Sheets and Jack Williams, NOAA, USA TODAY research
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Rank	DEADLIEST		STRONGEST (at U.S. landfall)			COSTLIEST		
	1900-present	Storm	U.S. deaths	Storm	Category	Minimum air pressure (inches)	Storm	Cost (billions)
1	Galveston, Texas (1900)		8,000 - 12,000	Florida Keys (1935)	5	26.35	Katrina (2005)	\$81.2
2	Lake Okeechobee, Fla. (1928)		2,500	Camille (1969)	5	26.84	Andrew (1992)	\$40.7
3	Katrina (2005)		1,570	Katrina (2005)	3	27.11	Ike (2008)	\$31.5
4	New England (1938)		682	Andrew (1992)	5	27.23	Wilma (2005)	\$29.1
5	Florida Keys (1935)		408	Florida Keys, Texas (1919)	4	27.37	Ivan (2004)	\$18.1
6	Audrey in La., Texas (1957)		390	Lake Okeechobee, Fla. (1928)	4	27.43	Gustav (2008)	\$18.0
7	Miami, Pensacola, Fla.; Miss., Ala. (1926)		372	Donna (1960)	4	27.46	Charley (2004)	\$16.2
8	Grand Isle, La. (1909)		350	New Orleans (1915)	4	27.49	Agnes (1972)	\$15.2
9	Florida Keys, Texas (1919)		287	Carla (1961)	4	27.49	Hugo (1989)	\$14.1
10	New Orleans (1915)		275	Hugo (1989)	4	27.58	Rita (2005)	\$10.5

Sources: The Weather Channel, "The USA TODAY Weather Book," "Hurricane Watch," by Dr. Bob Sheets and Jack Williams, NOAA, USA TODAY research
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2009 Atlantic hurricane season underway

Updated 7/16/2009 2:06 PM | Comment | Recommend

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By Doyle Rice, USA TODAY

In May, the [National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration](#) predicted that there would be nine to 14 named storms in the [Atlantic Ocean](#) in 2009, of which four to seven could become hurricanes, including one to three major hurricanes (category 3, 4 or 5).

Colorado State University's research team, the nation's most well-known hurricane forecasters, predicted 11 tropical storms this year, of which five will become hurricanes. Of those five, they said that two would be major hurricanes.

The Atlantic hurricane season began on June 1 and runs until November 30. Most hurricane activity occurs from mid-August to mid-October.

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