

# TROPICAL CYCLONES

## CLASSIFICATION

Tropical cyclones are rotating weather systems that generate large clouds, causing heavy rains and strong winds, which can cause flooding due to rising tides, flooding due to overflowing rivers and lack of sewage capacity, landslides, and torrential floods.



**Tropical Depression:** Maximum sustained winds of 62 Km/h or less.








**Tropical Storm:** Maximum sustained winds between 63 to 118 km/h

**Hurricane:** Maximum sustained winds of 119 km/h or higher

**\*Hurricane:** it is the maximum stage of tropical cyclones. They are categorized on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the most destructive.

## PREPARATION ACTIONS







Preparation actions from December to May 2021

-  Check the structure of your house, primarily the beams, columns, roofs, and their ties. If you have elevated tanks, secure them.
-  Develop and implement a family emergency plan, including the responsibilities of each member, even children and older adults.
-  Learn about the mechanisms for turning off the electricity, water, and gas in the home (everyone in the family).
-  Participate in the construction and implementation of community emergency plans and drills.
-  Find out about the location of collective shelters in case of tropical cyclones.
-  Identify if there are trees or power poles that could fall on your home and ask the competent authorities to cut the trees, verify, and revise cables and poles.
-  Prepare an emergency kit and check the operation and expiration date of each item (batteries, radio, flashlight, non-perishable food, water, etc.) Constantly check the expiration date of these items.



## GETTING READY BEFORE THE NEAR ARRIVAL OF A HURRICANE

In the event of a tropical cyclone alert, DO NOT WASTE TIME and start preparation work:






-  Avoid putting objects on the roof such as rocks, bricks or others that can be blown away by strong winds.
-  If your house is located near the beaches, try to evacuate to the refuge sites that the authorities have identified in your area.
-  During hurricane season, remain attentive to the information that the authorities announce through social networks, television, radio, press, megaphoning and other official communication channels of the UNGRD, IDEAM and local authorities. In this manner, alerts, and recommendations on the proximity of a tropical cyclone will be informed.
-  If you have animals, put them in a safe place.
-  Take boats and canoes to a safe place and secure them properly.
-  If your home serves as a self-shelter, store drinking water ahead of time.



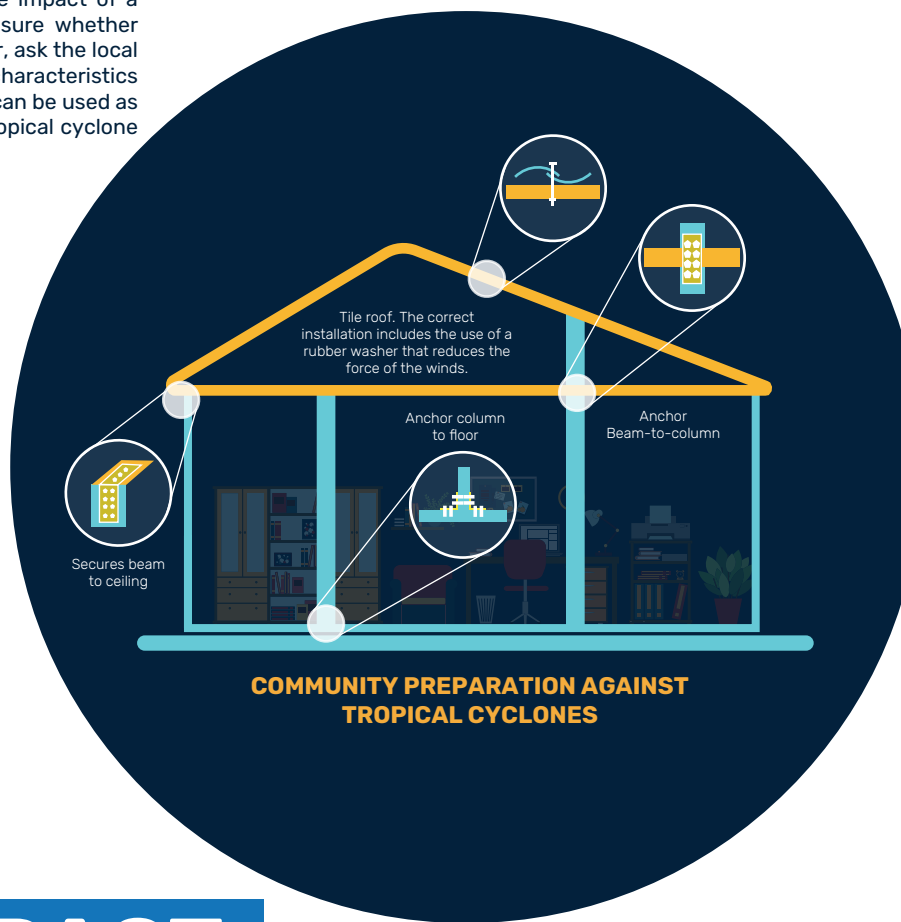
# SELF SHELTER

Self-shelter refers to homes in which families can protect themselves from the impact of a tropical cyclone. If you are not sure whether your home works as a self-shelter, ask the local authorities for support. Some characteristics that may indicate that the home can be used as a self-shelter in the event of a tropical cyclone are the following:

## Characteristics of Self Shelter:

-  Roofs have secure anchors or ties that are resistant to strong winds.
-  The entire house or a room inside it has walls that are resistant to strong winds; bathrooms often have this feature.
-  Sufficient space for the family. Remember that not much is required, you will remain there only during the impact of the hurricane.
-  The house must NOT be in a flood zone.
-  Make the needed adjustments in your home:

Sheet of boards over the windows to prevent them from breaking violently. Nails use to secure the boards should be long enough and should not be nailed all the way in, leave a part sticking out and bend it.



# BEFORE THE IMMINENT IMPACT OF A HURRICANE

- Remain calm and protect the people who are accompanying you, especially children, senior citizens, people with disabilities, and pregnant women.
- If you can't get home and the danger is imminent, seek refuge with friends, relatives, or at shelters provided by local authorities.
- Do not use kerosene lamps or candles, prefer the use of flashlights or battery-powered lamps or generators. Beware of stove flames when using, a gust of air coming in through a window can start a fire and firefighters may not be able to come to your aid.
- Disconnect or turn off gas or electrical systems in your home.
- Watch for building fragments or other items that could fall.
- Remember that when the "eye" of a hurricane passes, there is a moment of apparent calm, this means that only half of the storm has passed, and that the other half is yet to pass. Do not go out for any reason because strong winds and rains will return.
- Keep the radio on, it is likely that there will be radio transmission, although it can also happen that the hurricane will interrupt it.
- Avoid cell phone use to save batteries and preferably keep only one on.
- During the hurricane, it is possible that water sources have been contaminated, be careful.



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Gobernación del Archipiélago de San Andrés, Providencia y Santa Catalina

# WHAT IS A TROPICAL CYCLONE?

It is a meteorological system caused by very strong winds in maritime areas under certain conditions of temperature in the ocean and humidity in the environment that, added to a rotating behavior of the wind, can generate enormous masses of cloudiness.

