

Hurricane Watch vs Warning

Definitions: Watch vs Warning

- **Hurricane Watch:** An announcement that hurricane conditions are *possible* within the specified area.

Because outside preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, ***watches are issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.***

Action: During a watch, prepare your home (remove everything from your balcony) and review your plan for evacuation in case a Hurricane or Tropical Storm Warning is issued. Listen closely to instructions from local officials.

- **Hurricane Warning:** An announcement that hurricane conditions are *expected* within the specified area.

Because outside preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, ***warnings are issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.***

Action: During a warning, complete storm preparations (close shutters and lock all windows and doors) and immediately leave the threatened area if directed by local officials. See section below for more detail on what to do.

- **Extreme Wind Warning** - Extreme sustained winds of a major hurricane (115 mph or greater), usually associated with the eyewall, are ***expected to begin within an hour.***

Action: Take immediate shelter in the interior portion of a well-built structure.

Reference: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/prepare/wwa.php>