

A Hurricane is Coming!

CARD

Center for Autism & Related Disabilities

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

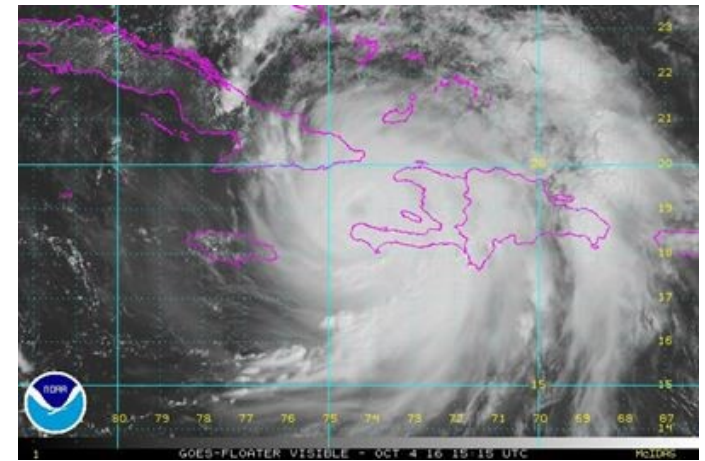
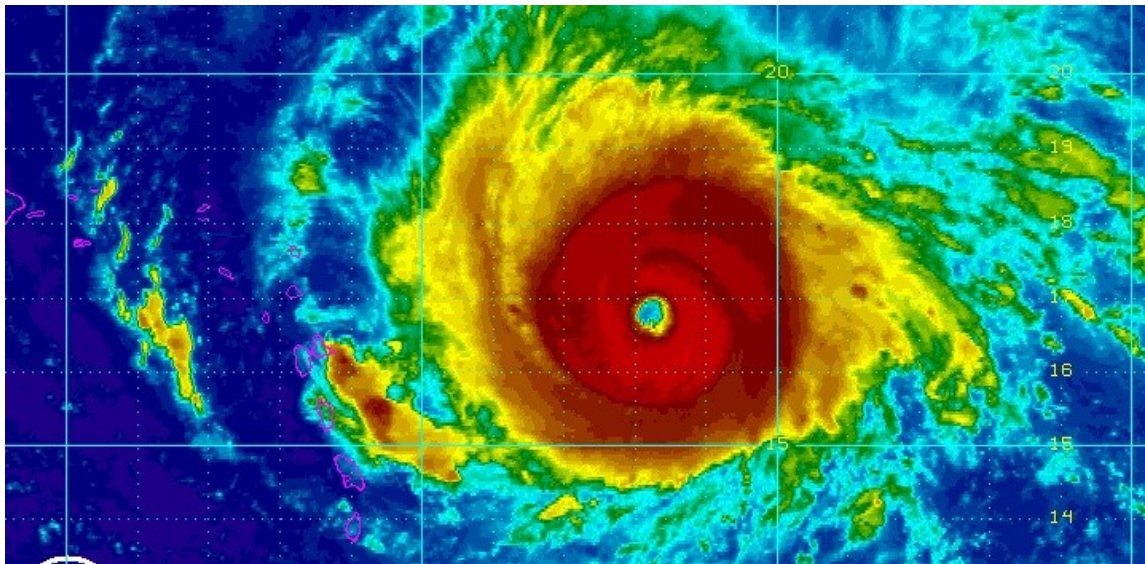
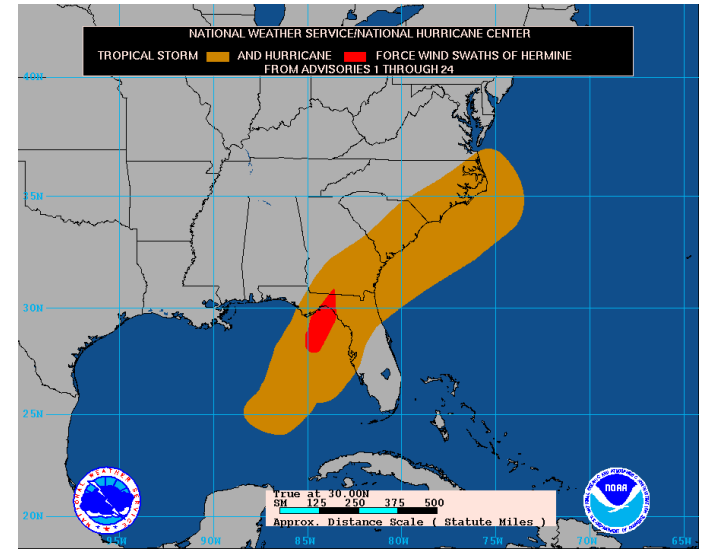
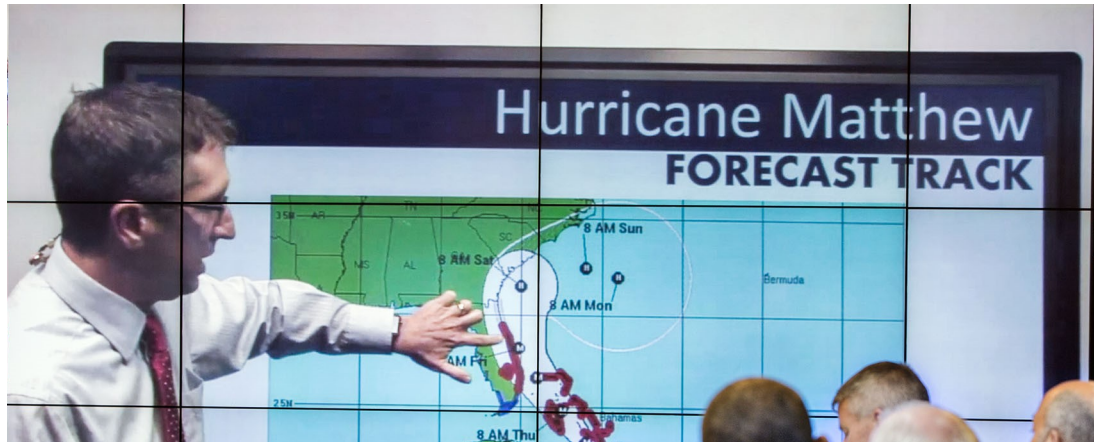




Hurricanes are giant, spiraling tropical storms that sometimes cause damage and flooding. Hurricanes will usually just be some wind and some rain but it is important for us to prepare for a big storm that might last a while just in case.



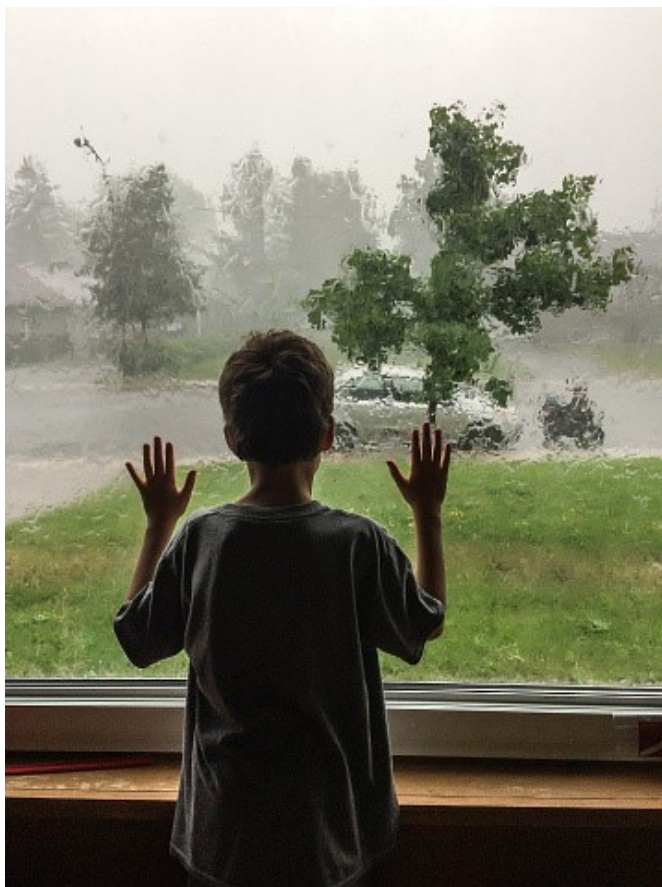
Before the hurricane comes we will have to get the house ready for the storm. This might mean covering the windows to make sure they don't break and putting sand bags in front of the doors to keep water out. If the hurricane is going to be small or if we live in an apartment, we may not have to do anything to get ready.



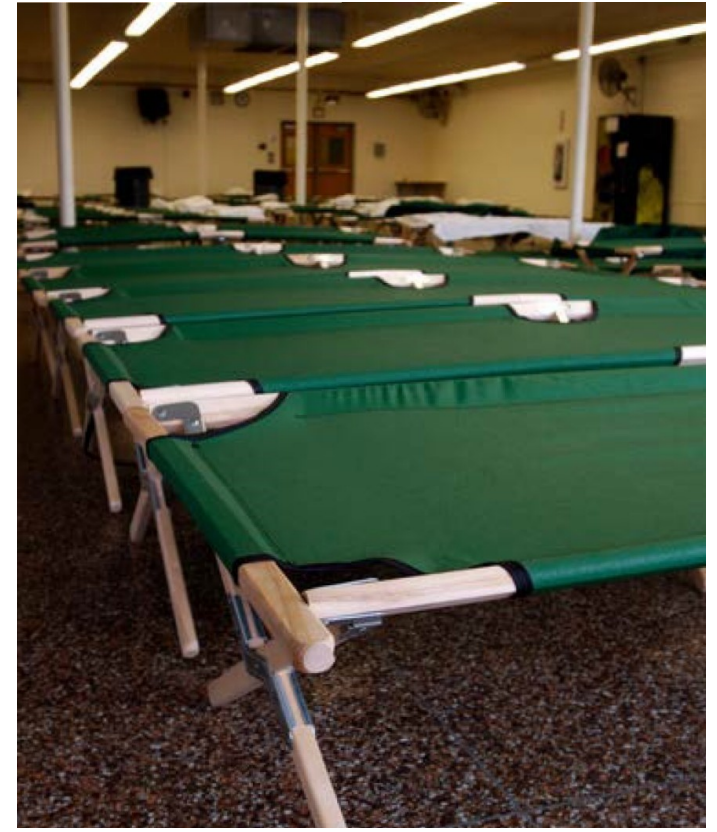
We might watch a lot of news on the television about the hurricane. It might be boring and I might feel upset that I do not get to watch my usual shows. I will try to be patient. It is important for us to know what is going on. It also might be scary. If I am scared I can choose not to watch.



When the hurricane gets closer, we will have to decide if we want to stay home, go to a shelter or leave. Hurricanes can be unpredictable so our plans can change at any time. Changing plans can be hard and I might feel disappointed when plans change. I will try to understand that plans need to change sometimes so that our family can stay safe in the hurricane.



If we choose to stay home we will have a hurricane emergency kit with us that we packed before the hurricane started. This kit is to help us if we lose power or water. I can help to pack the kit with things I want. If we lose electricity I will want to make sure I have things I can use to keep me busy. Even though I am at home like normal, my schedule might change and school or my other activities might be cancelled. The storm might be loud but I can wear headphones or listen to music.



If we choose to go to a shelter we will need to pack some clothes and anything else we might need for a few days. The shelter will probably be close to our house. Shelters are usually things like school gyms or stadiums and are filled with lots of people who want to stay safe like we do. A shelter might be loud or crowded. Some shelters let you bring pets so there might be animals there. I will stay close to the people taking care of me and follow their directions.



When the hurricane is over we might see some damage and we may have damage at home. Even though the storm is over, we may still not have power or water. It may take some time for my schedule to go back to normal and for school or activities to start again. We may have to fix things that were damaged in the wind and rain.



Hurricanes can be scary but they can also be a fun time that we get off from school and get to spend with our families. Things might get broken but if it does we can fix or replace it. I can help keep our hurricane kit filled with the things we might need so that we are prepared when a hurricane comes. As long as we are prepared, and we can change plans when we need to, we will be safe.

Hurricane Rules

1. I will stay calm and remember it is okay to be afraid, but I am going to be safe
2. Things will change quickly so I will try my best to be okay with the change
3. I will listen closely to the people taking care of me and follow their rules
4. I will always stay close to the people taking care of me if we are leaving our home