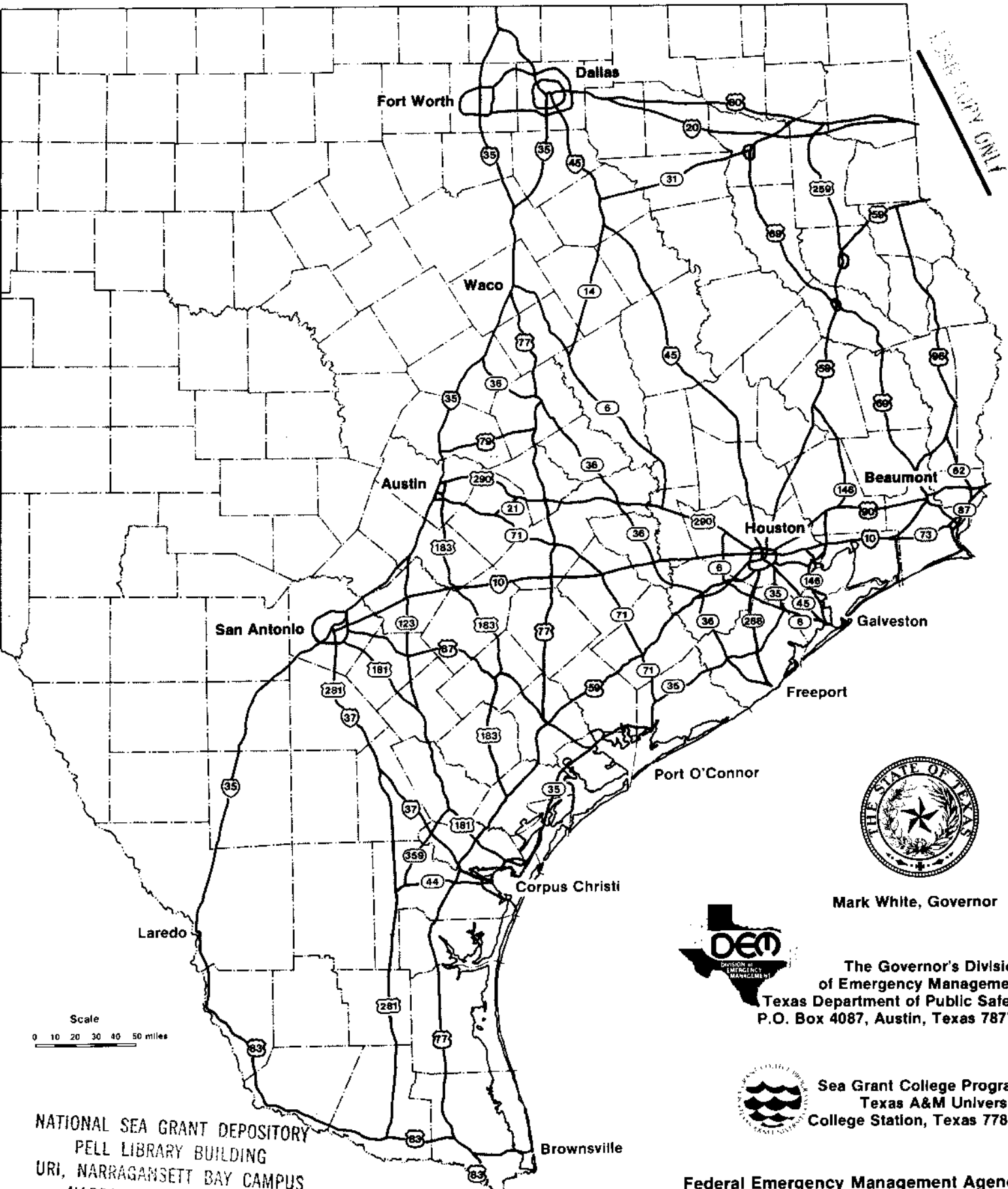




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TAMU-G-83-001 C. 2

Keys to Hurricane Safety



COPY ONLY

Scale
0 10 20 30 40 50 miles



Mark White, Governor



The Governor's Division
of Emergency Management
Texas Department of Public Safety
P.O. Box 4087, Austin, Texas 78773



Sea Grant College Program
Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas 77843

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Federal Emergency Management Agency

This information is provided as a public service. Its purpose is to increase hurricane awareness. *The key to safety is advance preparation.*



BEFORE A HURRICANE THREATENS..

Know Elevation of Your Home Above Sea Level

This information is available from local Emergency Management officials. Your nearest Weather Service office can supply flood-stage data for area streams and bays.

Learn Potential Maximum Storm Surge

Find out if your home is subject to storm surge (tidal) flooding. Information about the potential for inland flooding and storm surge is available through the nearest Weather Service office.

How Safe Is Your Home?

Plan to relocate during a hurricane emergency if you live near the seashore. If you live in a mobile home, always plan to relocate.

Know Location of Nearest Shelter

Emergency Management or Red Cross personnel can give you the location of the shelter nearest your home and explain what you should bring with you.

Plan for your family's safety. Know how to contact family members should the need arise.

Plan Route to Safety If You Must Leave

Plan your escape route early. Check with Emergency Management personnel for low points and flooding history of your route. Check the number of hours it could take you to evacuate to a safe area during peak evacuation traffic.

Inventory Your Property

A complete inventory of personal property will help in obtaining insurance settlements and/or tax deductions for losses. Inventory checklists can be obtained from many sources, including your insurance representative. Do not trust your memory. List descriptions and take pictures. Store these and other important insurance papers in waterproof containers or in your safety deposit box.

Check Insurance Coverage

Review your insurance policies and your coverage to avoid misunderstandings later. Take advantage of flood insurance. Separate policies are needed for protection against wind and flood damage, which people frequently do not realize until too late. *Do not wait until a hurricane is in the Gulf--by then, it is too late.* When a storm is heading to shore, insurance offices are too busy preparing for the emergency and won't be able to respond to individual requests, and insurance cannot be obtained.



WHEN A WATCH IS ISSUED.....

Make Plans Early

Listen Constantly to Radio or TV

Monitor storm reports and keep a log of hurricane position. Remember--evacuation routes sometimes can be closed up to 20 hours before landfall by wind gusting or storm surge flooding.

If considering moving to a shelter, make arrangements for all pets. Pets are not allowed in shelters.

Refill needed prescriptions.

If evacuation has not already been recommended, consider leaving the area early to avoid long hours on limited evacuation routes.

Check Supplies

• Transistor Radio with Fresh Batteries

A radio will be your most useful source of information. Have enough batteries to last several days. There may be no electricity.

• Flashlights, Candles or Lamps, and Matches

Store matches in a waterproof container. Have enough lantern fuel for several days, and know how to use it safely.

• Full Tank of Gasoline

Never let your vehicle gas tank be less than half-full during hurricane season. Fill the tank as soon as a hurricane watch is posted. **Remember--**when there is no electricity, gas pumps won't work.

• Canned Goods and Non-perishable Foods

Store packaged foods which can be prepared without cooking and need no refrigeration. There may be no electricity or gas.

• Containers for Drinking Water

Have clean, air-tight containers to store sufficient drinking water for several days. The city supply will probably be interrupted or contaminated.

• Materials to Protect Glass Openings

Have shutters or lumber to protect large windows and doors and masking tape for use on small windows.

• Materials for Emergency Repairs

Your insurance policy may cover the cost of materials used in temporary repairs so keep all receipts. These also will be helpful for any income tax deductions.



WHEN A WARNING IS ISSUED.....

Continue Listening to Radio or TV

Continue to monitor hurricane position, intensity and expected landfall.

If You Live in a Mobile Home

Check tie-downs and leave immediately for a safer place. Mobile homes are not safe in hurricane force winds.

Prepare for High Winds

Brace your garage door. Lower antennas. Be prepared to make repairs.

Anchor Outside Objects

Garbage cans, awnings, loose garden tools, toys and other loose objects can become deadly missiles. Anchor them securely or move them indoors.

Protect Windows and Other Glass

Board up or shutter large windows securely. Tape exposed glass to reduce shattering. Draw drapes across windows and doors to protect against flying glass if shattering does occur.

Move Boats on Trailers Close to House

Fill boats with water to weight them down. Lash securely to trailer and use tie-downs to anchor the trailer to the ground or house.

Check Mooring Lines of Boats in Water THEN LEAVE THEM

Store Valuables and Personal Papers

Put irreplaceable documents in waterproof containers and store in the highest possible spot. If you evacuate, be sure to take them with you.

Prepare for Storm Surge, Tornadoes and Floods

Storm surge, tornadoes and flash floods are the worst killers associated with a hurricane. During a tornado warning, seek shelter inside, below ground level if possible, or in an interior hallway, closet or bathroom on ground level. If outside, move away at right angles from the tornado; if escape is impossible, lie flat in a ditch or low spot. The surge of ocean water plus flash flooding of streams and rivers due to torrential rains combine to make drowning the greatest cause of hurricane deaths.

Check Your Survival Supplies Again



IF YOU STAY AT HOME.....

Stay Indoors....

....In an inside room away from doors and windows. Don't go outside in the brief calm during passage of the eye of the storm. The lull sometimes ends suddenly as winds return from the opposite direction. Winds can increase in seconds to 75 mph or more.

Protect Property

Without taking any unnecessary risks, protect your property from damage. Temporary repairs can reduce your losses.

Stay Away from Windows, Glass Doors

Move furniture away from exposed doors and windows.

Stay Tuned to Media Broadcasts

Keep a radio or television tuned for information from official sources. Unexpected changes can sometimes call for last minute relocations.

Remain Calm

Your ability to meet emergencies will help others.



IF YOU MUST EVACUATE.....

Know Where You Are Going....leave early in daylight if possible.

Move Your Most Valuable Possessions that you can't take with you to higher points within your home.

For Shelters

Take blankets or sleeping bags, flashlights, special dietary foods, infant needs and lightweight folding chairs.

Register every person arriving with you at the shelter.

Do not take pets, alcoholic beverages or weapons of any kind to shelters.

Be prepared to offer assistance to shelter workers if necessary, and stress to all family members their obligations to keep the shelter clean and sanitary.

Don't Travel Farther than Necessary

Roads may be jammed. Don't let your stranded auto become your coffin.

Lock Windows and Doors

Turn off gas, water and electricity in your home. Check to see that you have done everything possible to protect your property from damage and loss.

Take Survival Supplies With You

- First-aid kit
- Canned or dried provisions, can opener, spoons, etc.
- Bottled water
- Extra family medications, prescriptions
- Spare eyeglasses, hearing aids and batteries, if needed.

Keep Important Papers with You at all Times

- Driver's license and other identification
- Insurance policies
- Property inventory
- Medic-alert or device to convey special medical information
- Maps to your destination

Take Warm, Protective Clothing



AFTER THE HURRICANE.....

If You Are Evacuated, delay your return until it is recommended or authorized by local authorities.

Beware of Outdoor Hazards

Watch out for loose or dangling power lines, and report them immediately to proper authorities. Many lives are lost through electrocution.

Walk or Drive Cautiously

Debris-filled streets are dangerous. Snakes and poisonous insects will be a hazard. Washouts may weaken road and bridge structures which could collapse under vehicle weight.

Guard Against Spoiled Food

Food may spoil if refrigerator power is off more than a few hours. Freezers will keep food several days if doors are not opened after power failure, but do not refreeze food once it begins to thaw.

Do Not Use Water Until Safe

Use your emergency supply or boil water before drinking until official word that the water is safe. Report broken sewer or water mains to the proper authorities.

Take Extra Precautions to Prevent Fire

Lowered water pressure in city mains and the interruption of other services may make fire fighting extremely difficult after a hurricane.



THE RECOVERY.....

Insurance

Insurance representatives will be on the scene immediately following a major disaster to speed up the handling of claims. Notify your insurance agent or broker of any losses--and leave word where you can be contacted.

Take Steps to Protect Property

Make temporary repairs to protect property from further damage or looting. Use only reputable contractors (sometimes in the chaotic days following a disaster, unscrupulous operators will prey on the unsuspecting). If possible, check contractors through the Better Business Bureau. Keep receipts for materials used.

Be Patient

Hardship cases will be settled first by insurance representatives. Don't assume your settlement will be the same as your neighbor's. Policy forms differ and storm damage is often erratic. In a major catastrophe, the insurance industry will have emergency offices and extra manpower to expedite claim settlements and to speed recovery. Everyone cannot be first.

It Takes a Team Effort

Responsibility for the clean-up falls to numerous local, state and federal agencies. A local Emergency Management coordinator (the mayor, county judge or a designated representative) will be on hand to help residents in this effort.

Hurricane-Related Terms

Eye--The relative calm area in the center of a storm. Winds are light in this area and the sky often is only partly covered by clouds.

Gale warning--A warning of sustained winds within the range of 39 to 54 miles per hour.

Hurricane--A tropical cyclone with sustained winds of 74 mph or greater.

Hurricane advisories--Messages issued by the National Hurricane Center in Miami which summarize all coastal warnings that are in effect, including hurricane watches. In addition to a description of the storm, its position, anticipated movement and prospective threat are given.

Hurricane watch--The first alert when a hurricane poses a possible, but as yet uncertain, threat to a certain coastal area. Small craft advisories are issued as part of a hurricane watch advisory.

Hurricane warning--Notice that within 24 hours or less a specified coastal area may be subject to (a) sustained winds of 74 mph or higher and/or (b) dangerously high water or a combination of dangerously high waves and exceptionally high winds, even though expected winds may be less than hurricane force.

Landfall--The position at a seacoast where the center of a hurricane passes from sea to land.

Local statement--A public release prepared by a Weather Service Office in or near a threatened area giving specific details to protect life and property in the office's area of responsibility.

Small craft warnings--When a hurricane or tropical storm threatens a coastal area, small craft are advised to remain in port or not to venture into the open sea.

Storm surge--An abnormal rise in the level of the sea produced by a hurricane or tropical storm. This inundation is usually responsible for the greatest loss of life and destruction of property.

Storm warning--When associated with a hurricane or tropical storm, a warning of sustained winds in the range of 55 to 73 mph, inclusive.

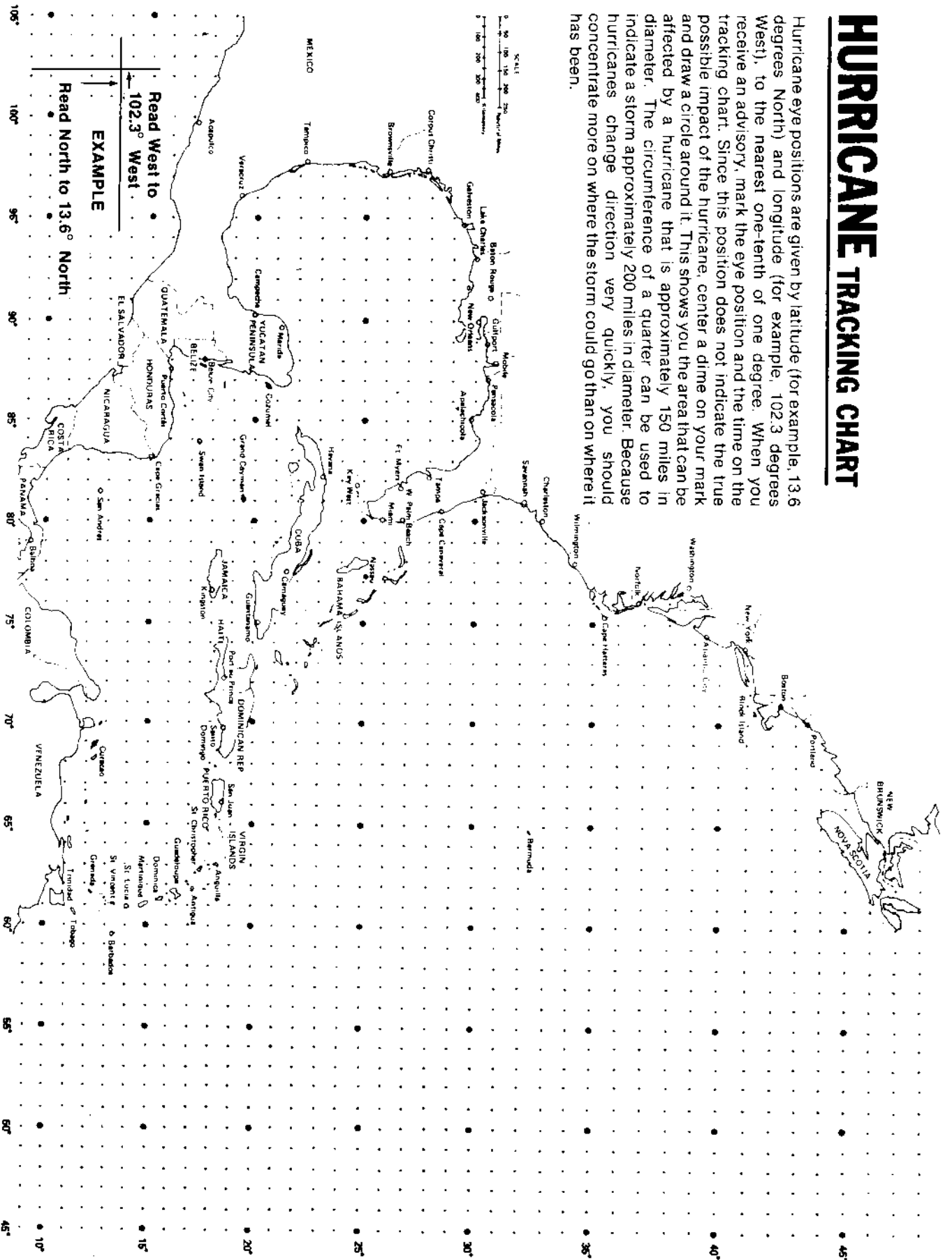
Tropical disturbance--A moving area of thunderstorms of tropical origin that maintains its identity for 24 hours or more.

Tropical depression--A rotary circulation at the surface of the water with sustained wind speed of 38 mph or less.

Tropical storm--Distinct rotary circulation with sustained wind speeds of 39 to 73 miles per hour.

HURRICANE TRACKING CHART

Hurricane eye positions are given by latitude (for example, 13.6 degrees North) and longitude (for example, 102.3 degrees West), to the nearest one-tenth of one degree. When you receive an advisory, mark the eye position and the time on the tracking chart. Since this position does not indicate the true possible impact of the hurricane, center a dime on your mark and draw a circle around it. This shows you the area that can be affected by a hurricane that is approximately 150 miles in diameter. The circumference of a quarter can be used to indicate a storm approximately 200 miles in diameter. Because hurricanes change direction very quickly, you should concentrate more on where the storm could go than on where it has been.



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