**STORM TERMINOLOGY**

*tropical disturbance* – thunderstorm in the tropics

*tropical wave* – elongated area of low air pressure, oriented N to S, with cloudiness & thunderstorms they form in easterly flow along southern subtropical ridge. Generally move westward and can lead to tropical cyclone formation

*tropical depression* – thunderstorms with defined circulation & 38 mph winds

*tropical storm* – thunderstorms with counterclockwise circulation & winds 39-73 mph

*hurricane* – tropical weather system with sustained winds of 74 mph

*major hurricane* – tropical storm with winds above 110 mph

*storm surge* – arch of water pushed by storm winds – in shallow areas can make a 20’ wall of water

*advisory* – issued every 6 hr with storms location, intensity, forecast direction, & precautions

*tropical storm watch* – storm with winds 39-73 mph may threaten within 48 hr

*tropical storm warning* - storm with winds 39-73 mph is likely within 36 hr

*hurricane watch* – hurricane may threaten with 48 hr (active your emergency plan now)

*hurricane warning* – hurricane is expected within 36 hr (complete protective plan – go to safety)

Storm *categories*: sustained winds of…

1. 74-95 mph
2. 96-110 mph
3. 111-130 mph
4. 131-155 mph
5. > 155 mph