The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale rating, based on a hurricane's present intensity as measured by wind speed, is used to give an estimate of the potential property damage and flooding expected along the coast from a hurricane landfall.

Cat.	Wind Speed	Storm Surge*	Damage	Category at U.S. Landfall
1	74-95 mph	4-5 ft	Minimal. No real damage to structures. Damage to shrubbery and trees, unanchored mobile homes, signs.	Allison (1995) Danny (1997) Irene (1999)
2	96-110 mph	6-8 ft	Moderate. Major damage to mobile homes. Smaller trees toppled. Some roof coverings damaged.	Bonnie (1998) Georges (1998) Frances (2004)
3	111-130 mph	9-12 ft	Extensive. Mobile homes destroyed. Large trees toppled. Structural damage to roofs, small homes and utility buildings.	Roxanne (1995) Fran (1996) Ivan (2004) Jeanne (2004)
4	131-155 mph	13-18 ft	Extreme. Roof systems on small buildings completely fail. Extensive damage to roofs, windows, and doors. Some exterior walls fail.	Donna (1960) Hugo (1989) Luis (1995) Charley (2004)
5	>155 mph	>18 ft	Catastrophic. Complete buildings fail. Widespread, severe damage to roofs, windows and doors. Extensive glass failures.	Labor Day (1935) Camille (1969) Andrew (1992)

Tropical Storm: 39-73 mph

* Storm surge can vary from these ranges depending on size and speed of the approaching storm, coastal characteristics and the slope of the ocean floor.
Source: National Hurricane Center