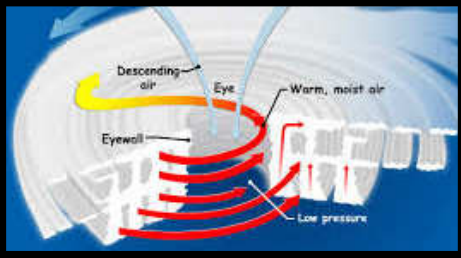


HURRICANES

Hurricanes, typhoons, cyclones and tropical storms are all synonyms for the same thing– the only difference is where they are found. Hurricanes are formed in the Gulf of Mexico, Typhoons– Indonesia and Asia, and Cyclones Australia. Hurricanes are fundamentally large areas of low pressure, which lead to thunderstorms which ‘merge’ to form super-storms, officially called tropical disturbances.



Hurricanes require specific conditions in order to form:

- Sea temperature of at least 28°C
- Depth of the sea to be 60 meters or more
- At least 5° away from the equator so they can

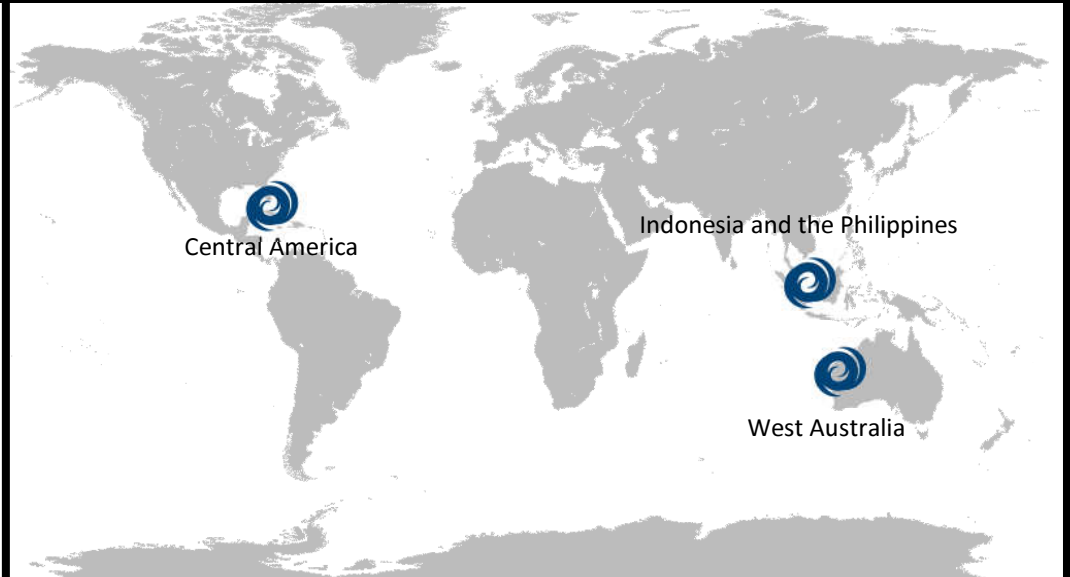
spin.

Hurricanes are powered by the evaporation of water therefore any increase sea temperature, makes it easier for Hurricanes to gain strength, and therefore be more destructive to anything that gets in its way. In a season, there are typically between 8-10 hurricanes that hit Central America and the Caribbean, although only approximately 1 or 2 reach category 5 – the highest for hurricanes— per season.

Category	Wind Speed (mph)	Damage at Landfall	Storm Surge (feet)
1	74-95	Minimal	4-5
2	96-110	Moderate	6-8
3	111-130	Extensive	9-12
4	131-155	Extreme	13-18
5	Over 155	Catastrophic	19+

residents of the area.

The largest hurricane was Typhoon Haiyan, which spanned 500 miles wide, and winds reach 190mph. Hurricanes are easily tracked by satellites which give accurate images of the size and



FUTURE PREDICTIONS (below)

(above) DISTRIBUTION OF HAZ-

- There is likely to be an increase in the intensity and size of hurricanes in the future.



(Left) Tracking hurricanes allows people to prepare for its impacts. (Centre) The storm surge caused by hurricane Ike (2008). (Right) The devastation left by Hurricane Sandy in New Jersey (2012).