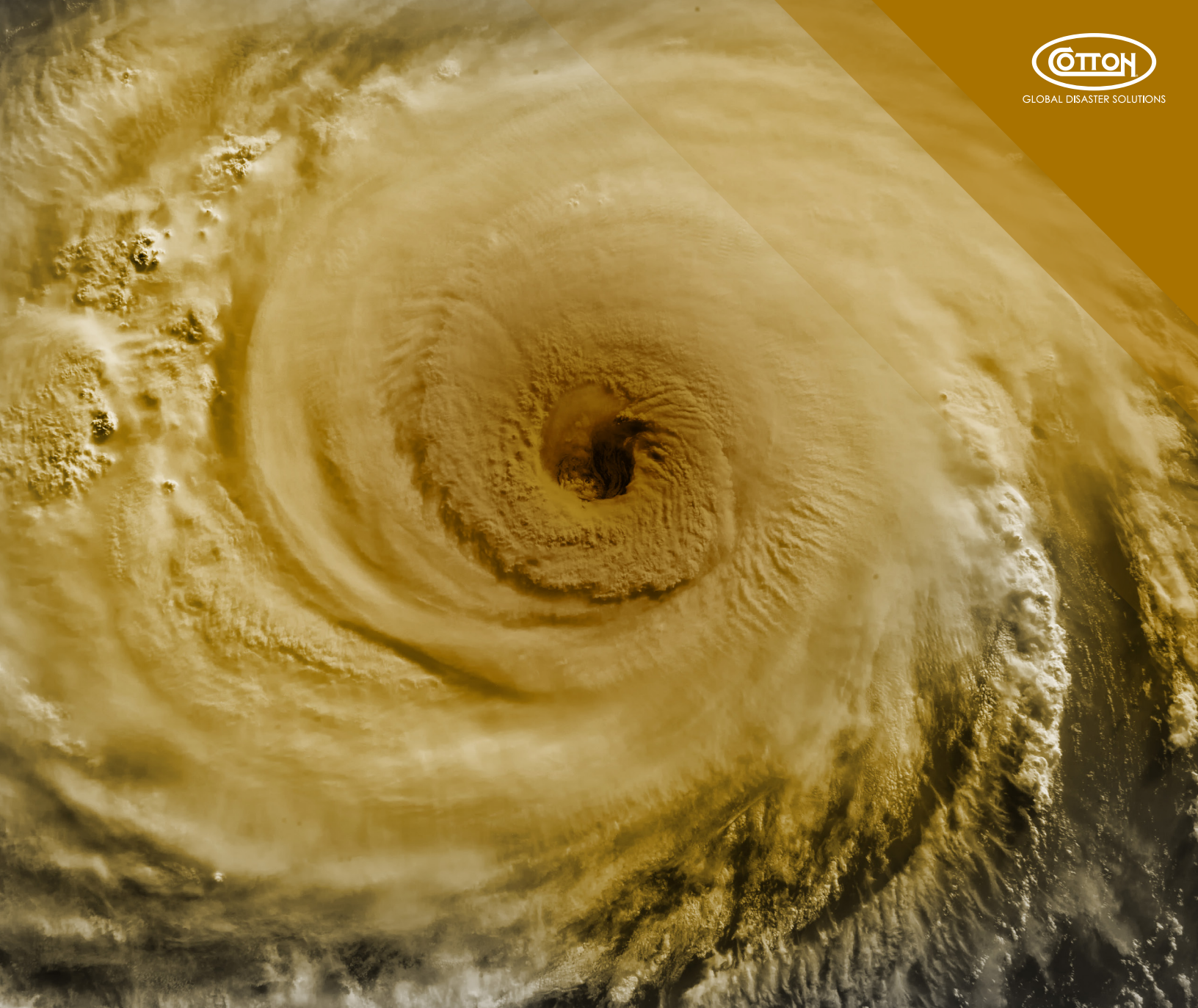




GLOBAL DISASTER SOLUTIONS



# FROM THE EYE OF THE STORM

**HURRICANE TERMS YOU NEED TO KNOW**

[CottonGDS.com](http://CottonGDS.com)

877.900.8030

# HURRICANE TERMS YOU NEED TO KNOW

Hurricane season can bring a flood of new words and technical terms while you try to track the storms and protect your business. Learning the language now can help you navigate the reports and make informed decisions. Stay afloat amid the jargon with Cotton Global Disaster Solutions' hurricane season glossary.



## TROPICAL CYCLONE

A tropical cyclone is a rotating storm system with a low-pressure center that originates over tropical or subtropical bodies of water. This is a general term for all tropical depressions, tropical storms and hurricanes.



## HURRICANE WATCH

An alert that hurricane conditions are possible within the stated area within **48 hours**. Monitor the storm, make final preparations and plan to evacuate if directed to do so.



## HURRICANE WARNING

An alert that hurricane conditions are expected within the stated area within **36 hours**. Evacuate if directed and immediately complete all storm preparations

## CONE OF UNCERTAINTY / FORECAST CONE

This is a weather prediction graphic that indicates the forecasted track of where a hurricane is expected to travel over time. The cone gets wider over time to indicate the uncertainty further out and also maps the expected track for the center of a hurricane. The size of the cone does not indicate the area of impacts from the storm. Severe impacts can affect land well beyond the cone.

## WIND SPEED SCALE

<b>&lt; 39 MPH</b> DEPRESSION	<b>39 - 73 MPH</b> STORM	<b>74 - 110 MPH</b> HURRICANE (CAT 1-2)	<b>111+ MPH</b> MAJOR HURRICANE (CAT 3-5)
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### TROPICAL DISTURBANCE

A group of storms originating over tropical waters lasting **24 hours**. Could develop into a tropical depression.

### INVEST

An area that is being monitored for potential development into a tropical cyclone. The term does not mean the disturbed weather will evolve into a bigger storm, but it does indicate it is being closely watched.

### POTENTIAL TROPICAL CYCLONE

A storm system that is not yet developed, but could impact land areas within **72 hours**. NHC can issue watches and warnings at this point.

### TROPICAL DEPRESSION

A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of less than **39 miles per hour**.

### TROPICAL STORM

A tropical cyclone with sustained winds of **39 to 73 miles per hour**. The tropical storm receives a name from the National Hurricane Center at this stage.

### HURRICANE

A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of **74 miles per hour** or greater. This intense weather phenomenon can bring strong wind, intense rain and damaging storm surge.

### MAJOR HURRICANE

Hurricanes with maximum sustained winds of at least **111 miles per hour** or greater, equating to a **Category 3, 4 or 5** on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale.

### STORM SURGE

The rise in sea level associated with a hurricane caused by the storm's strong winds.