



# Frequently Asked Questions

The Hurricane Research Division's **Tropical Cyclones Frequently Asked Questions (TCFAQ)** contains various definitions, answers for some specific questions, information about the various tropical cyclone basins, provides sites where you can access both real-time and historical cyclone information, as well as a book list and references to scientific papers related to tropical cyclones. It was created by Dr. Chris Landsea and is currently coauthored by Stan Goldenberg.

<http://www.aoml.noaa.gov/hrd/tcfaq/tcfaqHED.html>

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- **Introduction**  
A brief introduction along with credits and a detailed listing of the questions answered
- **Basic Definitions**  
Some basic definitions of tropical cyclone terms
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The reason for naming tropical cyclones as well as lists of names used and retired
- **Tropical Cyclone Modification and Myths**  
Facts and fictions about tropical cyclones and attempts to modify them
- **Tropical Cyclone Winds**  
The various classification schemes based on wind speed, the structure of winds and how they change with time, the destruction they cause, the amount of energy necessary to drive the winds, and the relation to the central pressure
- **Tropical Cyclone Records**  
Records of tropical cyclones intensity, rainfall, deaths and damage caused, as well as rankings for US landfalling hurricanes.
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The length and peak of hurricane season, long term climate affects on tropical cyclone activity, historical records of US landfalls, probabilities of future landfalls, and lightning with tropical cyclones
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How to prepare for tropical cyclones and information on shutters
- **Hurricanes versus Tornadoes**  
Differences between tropical cyclones and tornadoes and information on tropical cyclone spawned tornadoes
- **References**  
List of scientific articles on tropical cyclones that are referenced in other parts of the FAQ

The Hurricane Research Division's website is at :

<http://www.aoml.noaa.gov/hrd/>