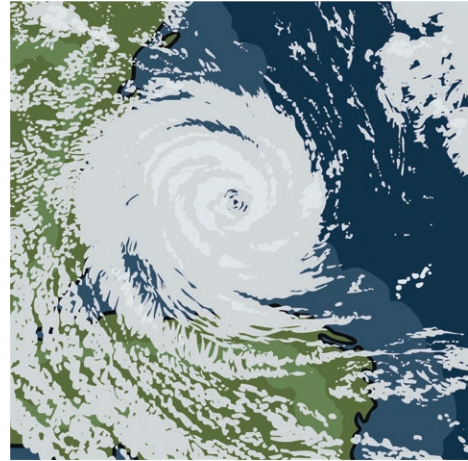


Hurricane Irma

Hurricane Irma is one of the largest storms to hit the United States in a long time. Irma began by raging on the coasts of several Caribbean Islands on September 6. After hitting tiny islands like Barbuda, Irma moved north, leaving a trail of devastation in Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Florida. Irma was downgraded to a tropical storm, before continuing into Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee.



The hurricane destroyed many homes, schools, and other buildings. On the Caribbean island of Barbuda, more than 90% of all structures were damaged or destroyed. People were forced to evacuate their cities to avoid Irma's wake. People left their towns and homes to find safer places to ride out the storm. Some people stayed in shelters, while others went to visit family or friends out of the path of the hurricane.

Some people chose to 'shelter in place', which means staying in your home during a bad storm, like a hurricane or tornado. To stay safe, people boarded up their windows or placed sandbags around their property. Boarding windows helps protect homes from wind damage, while using sandbags can protect homes from flooding.

