

2005 Atlantic Hurricane Season

The 2005 Atlantic hurricane season produced an unprecedented 27 named storms, including 15 hurricanes. Five hurricanes—Dennis, Emily, Stan, Wilma, and Beta—and Tropical Storm Gamma tore through the region of Latin America and the Caribbean, devastating parts of the Bahamas, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, and Nicaragua.

Hurricane Dennis made landfall in central Cuba on July 8 as a category four hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson hurricane scale, bringing sustained winds of 150 mph and triggering sea surges, floods, landslides, and heavy rains that also affected Haiti.

Hurricane Emily passed near Grenada on July 14 as a category one hurricane with 90 mph winds, just 10 months after Hurricane Ivan devastated the island.

Hurricane Stan made landfall south of Veracruz, Mexico, on October 4, as a category one hurricane with sustained winds of 80 mph, before weakening to a tropical storm and generating severe flooding across southern Mexico and Central America.

Hurricane Wilma hovered for more than 24 hours near Mexico’s Yucatán Peninsula, before making



USAID staff unroll plastic sheeting that will temporarily shelter populations displaced by Hurricane Emily in Grenada.

landfall in Cozumel on October 22, as a category four hurricane with sustained 140 mph winds.

Hurricane Beta made landfall on October 30, near Karabal and Sandy Bay, Nicaragua, as a category two hurricane with 110 mph winds.

Tropical Storm Gamma passed over the northern coast of Honduras on November 19, triggering heavy flooding in the northern departments. A low pressure system that developed on November 16 near the Honduras–Nicaragua border contributed to the flooding.

What is the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale?

The Saffir-Simpson hurricane scale is a 1 to 5 rating based on a hurricane’s intensity determined by wind speed. The rating also offers an estimate of the potential property damage and flooding expected along a coast from a hurricane landfall.

Category	Wind Speed (mph)	Storm Surge	Damage
1	74–95	4–5 ft	No real damage
2	96–110	6–8 ft	Some roofing, door, and window damage; considerable damage to shrubbery and trees
3	111–130	9–12 ft	Some structural damage to buildings; large trees blown down
4	131–155	13–18 ft	More extensive structural failures; shrubs, trees, and signs blown down; extensive damage to doors and windows
5	> 155	> 18 ft	Complete roof failure on many buildings; some complete building failures, with small buildings blown over; all shrubs, trees, and signs blown down; severe door and window damage