Natural Hazards

Hurricane

Cause

When warm moist air over the water rises, it is replaced by cooler air. The cooler air will then warm and start to rise.

Characteristics

Sustained winds of at least 74 miles per hour and an area of low air pressure in the center called the eye

Tornado

Cause

Thunderstorms with a change in wind speed and direction at high altitude cause wind to swirl horizontally and then the funnel of air forms.

Characteristics

The wind speed of a tornado can vary from 65 to 250 miles per hour.

Flood

Cause

Rain fall, River overflow, dam breaking,ice and snow melting

Characteristics

When a brief and intense rainstorm erupts, the water will naturally seek the lowest point.

Tsunami

Cause

Underwater disturbance usually an undersea earthquake

Characteristics

Tsunamis arrive as a series of successive "crests" and "troughs".These successive crests and troughs can occur anywhere from 5 to 90 minutes apart.

Earthquake

Cause

When rock underground suddenly breaks along a fault.

Characteristics

A large earthquake far away will feel like a gentle bump followed several seconds later by stronger rolling shaking that may feel like sharp shaking for a little while.