

Effects of Extreme Weather Events



The Cost of Extreme Weather Events

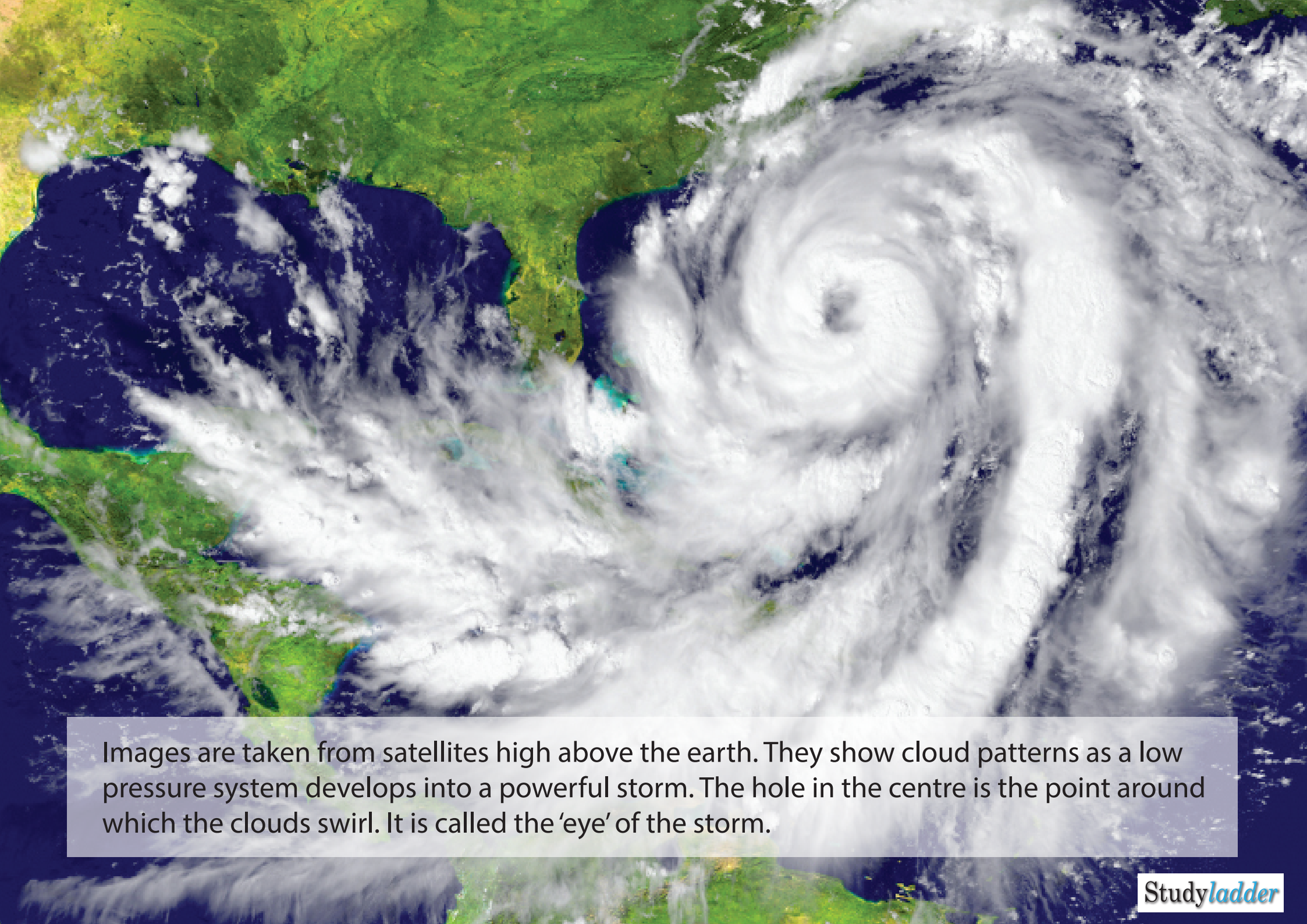


Destruction after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast of the USA on August 29th 2005.

Extreme weather events have a great effect on human society.

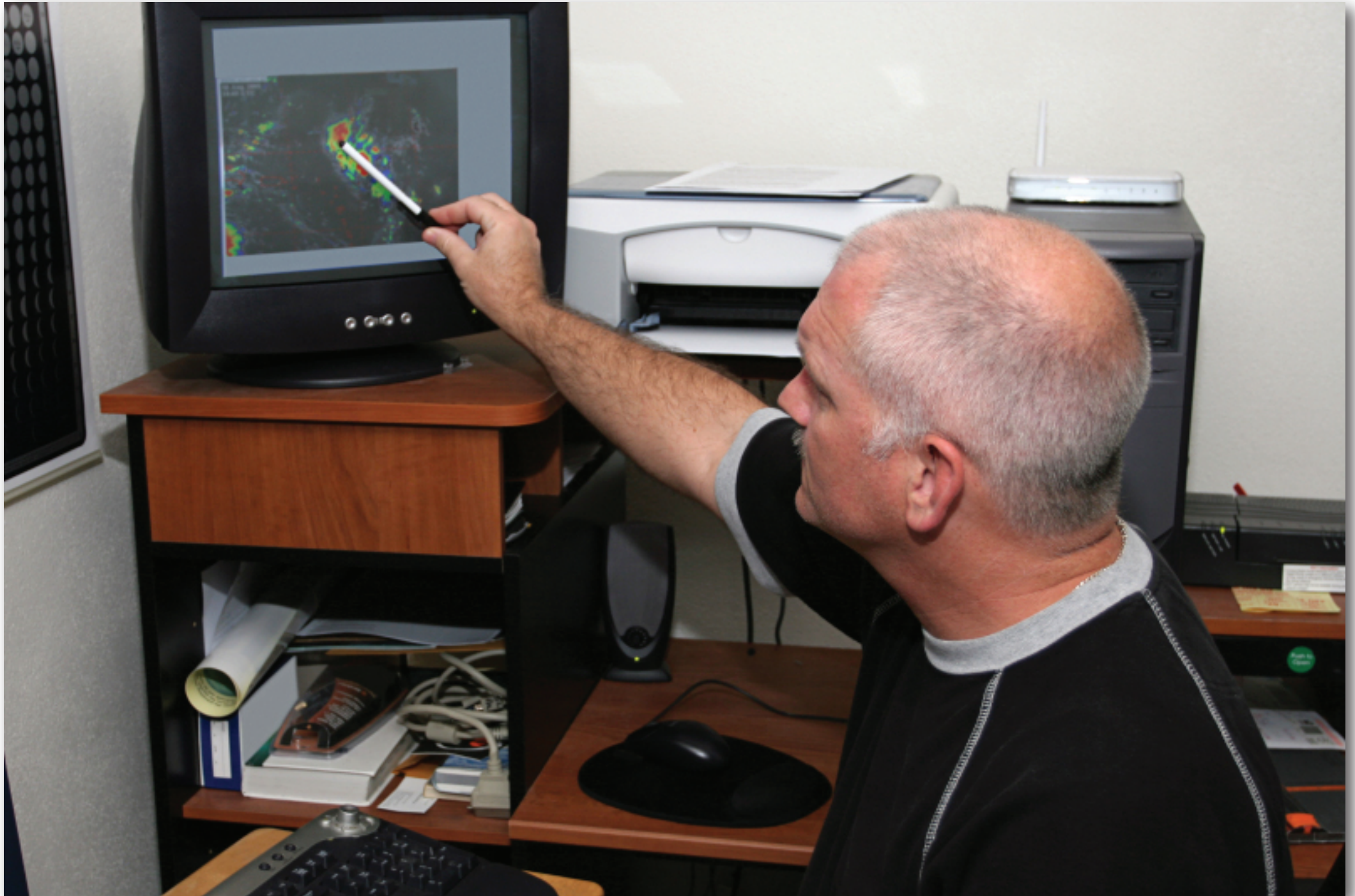
Without proper warning systems in place many people can lose their lives.

The damage these events cause can cost millions of dollars to fix.



Images are taken from satellites high above the earth. They show cloud patterns as a low pressure system develops into a powerful storm. The hole in the centre is the point around which the clouds swirl. It is called the 'eye' of the storm.

A meteorologist monitors the development of an approaching low pressure system.



Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale

Category Five	≥ 157 mph	≥ 252 km/h	catastrophic
Category Four	130-156 mph	209-251 km/h	extreme
Category Three	111-129 mph	178-208 km/h	extensive
Category Two	96-110 mph	154-177 km/h	moderate
Category One	74-95 mph	119-153 km/h	minimal
Tropical Storm	39-73 mph	63-118 km/h	minimal

People can prepare for severe weather events by securing windows and loose items around the home, sandbagging to prevent flooding and making a plan for evacuation.





How would these items be useful in an emergency?

Many countries have alert systems in place to warn people about evacuation. These alerts could be media releases on television and radio. Some systems also send messages to people's mobile phones to alert them to danger.

