

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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"DISTURBANCES" AND "HURRICANES."

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In an average year some of the cyclones of tropical origin that pass over the waters adjacent to the southeastern United States are not violent enough to be classed as hurricanes. In the warnings and bulletins issued by the U. S. Weather Bureau, these mild storms are usually referred to as "disturbances." A statement on this subject by the Bureau says:

"Storms of tropical and subtropical areas of the southern North Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea, are referred to in advices and warnings of the Weather Bureau as tropical disturbances, or hurricanes, depending upon the intensity, as indicated in the reports received by the Bureau. If reports do not indicate winds of destructive force or abnormally low barometric pressure at the center, the storm is usually described as a tropical disturbance of slight or moderate intensity. The term 'hurricane' is used when it is apparent that the storm is one of marked intensity, accompanied by destructive winds."

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