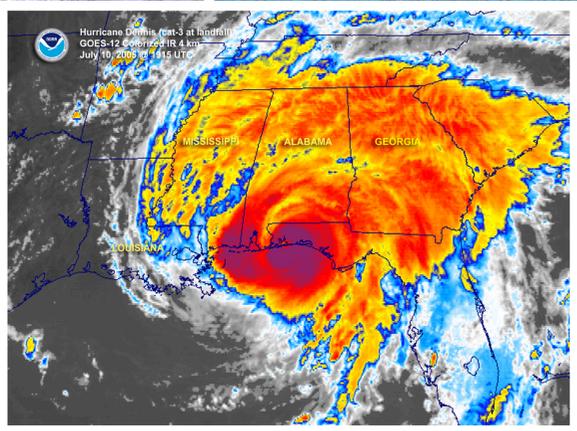


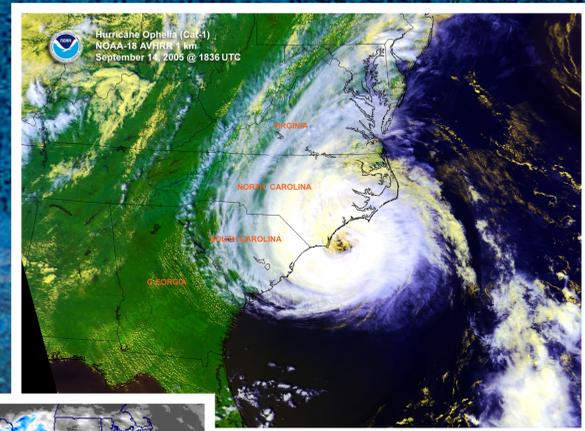
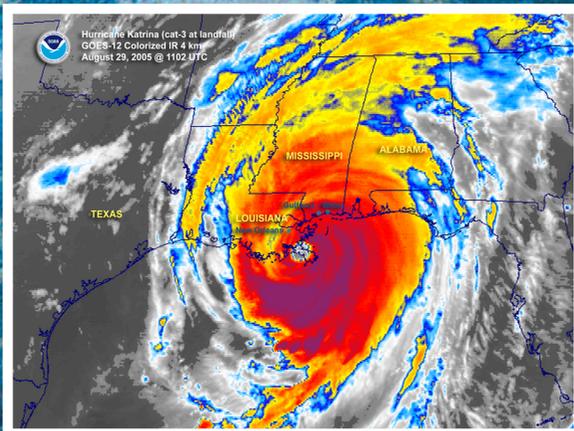
2005 SIGNIFICANT U.S. HURRICANE STRIKES



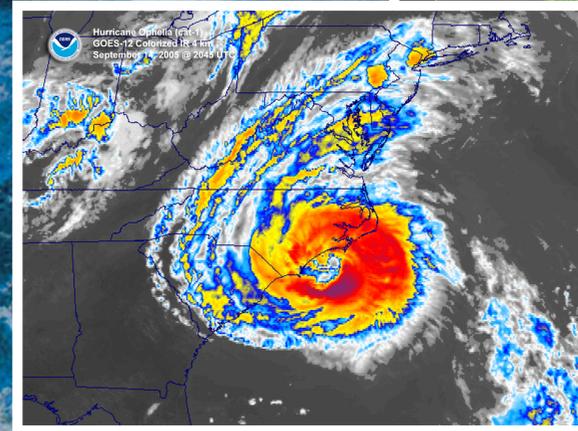
Hurricane Dennis was an unusually strong July hurricane that left a trail of destruction from the Caribbean Sea to the northern coast of the Gulf of Mexico. During its lifetime Dennis reached Category 4 strength three times before making its final landfall along the Florida panhandle as a Category 3 on July 10.



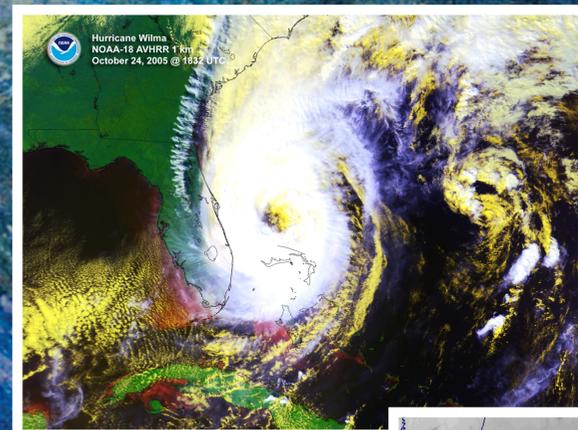
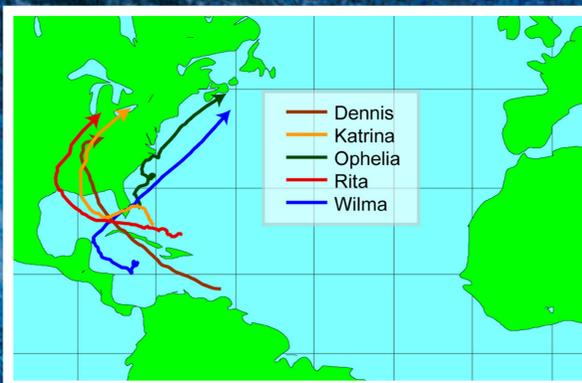
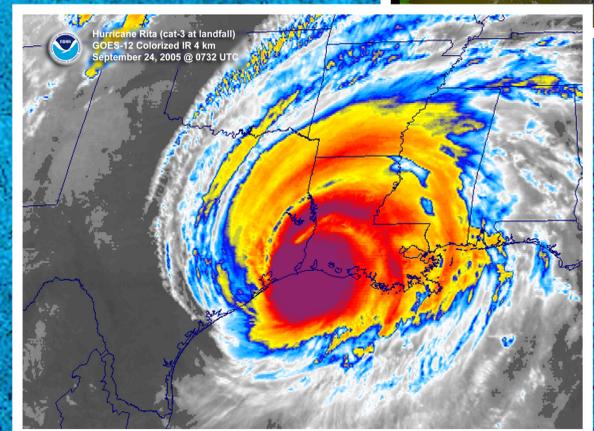
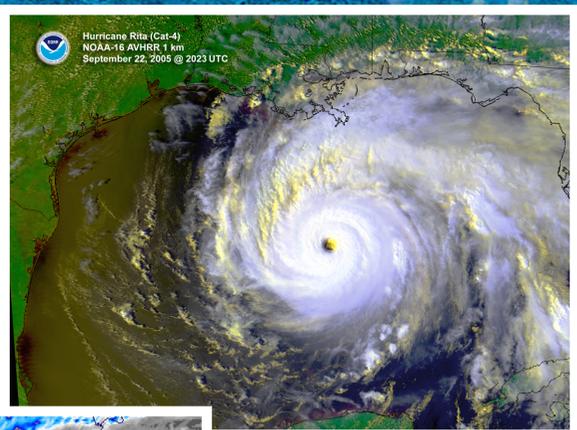
Hurricane Katrina was an extraordinarily powerful and deadly hurricane that carved a wide swath of catastrophic damage and inflicted large loss of life. It was the costliest and one of the five deadliest hurricanes to ever strike the United States. After reaching Category 5 intensity over the central Gulf of Mexico, Katrina weakened to Category 3 at landfall on the northern Gulf coast on August 29.



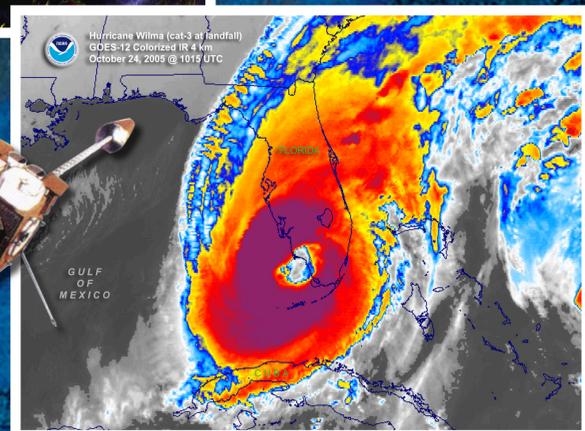
Hurricane Ophelia was a Category 1 hurricane and never made landfall along the U.S. coastline, but because of its slow movement along the Carolina coastline on September 14-15 it produced substantial flooding and beach erosion.



Hurricane Rita became the second Category 5 hurricane after Katrina and was the third strongest hurricane ever recorded in the Atlantic Basin. Rita made its final landfall along the Texas-Louisiana border coastal region as Category 3 on September 24.



Hurricane Wilma was the third Category 5 hurricane of the season and set an all time record low pressure for any storm in the Atlantic Basin at 882 mb (26.05 inches), exceeding Hurricane Gilbert's record of 888 mb in 1988. Hurricane Wilma struck southern Florida on October 24 as a Category 3, creating a wide swath of damages.



Each hurricane is depicted on a pair of NOAA satellite images, one from the Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite (POES), the other from the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES). The POES images are created using three channels: visible, near infrared (ir) and longwave ir, resulting in a multi-channel false color image. The GOES images are created from one longwave ir channel and are colorized to reflect cloud top temperatures ranging from light blue to maroon, or from relatively warmer to colder temperatures. Well formed hurricanes will produce very cold cloud top temperatures at -60°C or lower (indicated in colors ranging from orange-red to maroon).



The GOES images show each hurricane at approximate time of landfall on the continental U.S. The POES images show each hurricane prior to landfall at a time when the hurricane was near maximum strength, with the exception of *Wilma*.

SAFFIR-SIMPSON SCALE		
Category	Knots	(MPH)
1	64-82	(74-95)
2	83-95	(96-110)
3	96-113	(111-130)
4	114-135	(131-155)
5	≥ 136	(≥ 156)

