

# Cyclones

Cyclones are fierce, tropical storms. Meteorologists explain that cyclones are caused by low pressure weather systems with ferocious winds spiralling inwards and blowing at more than 150 kilometres per hour. Cyclones are known as 'typhoons' when they occur in the Far East and 'hurricanes' in the Atlantic Ocean.

Cyclones generally occur during the hotter summer months and they begin as a thunderstorm over warm seas. Wind and clouds start to spin in a large circle becoming faster and faster. Their speed can reach up to 300 kilometres per hour. Cyclones usually begin around the equator where the oceans are warm. They occur in many parts of the world.

Cyclones look like a large funnel of spinning wind. They have a calm part in the centre called the 'eye', which is between 10-20 kilometres in diameter. The eye of the cyclone brings a temporary stillness; however, the severe winds return when it passes.

Cyclones spin in a large circle and they fade away when they go further inland. They need the sea or water to maintain energy.

Cyclones can cause tidal waves, which cause floods. They can uproot trees and strip off their leaves. They can knock down buildings and destroy houses. They can also destroy many people's lives.

It is important that all people heed cyclone warnings.

