

## **The Importance of the Relationship between Hurricanes, Forecasting, and Evacuation**

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Hurricanes (typhoons in the western North Pacific) are a member of a class of systems referred to as tropical cyclones. In the coastal zone of the United States, extensive damage and loss of life are caused by storm surge, heavy rains, strong winds, and hurricane-spawned tornadoes. The ability of households and policy makers to understand and deal effectively with hurricanes is important in mitigating the damage caused by these storms. The overall objective of this project is to document the importance of hurricane forecasting in helping households preparing for storms and evacuate when needed. This will be accomplished by sampling household response to a series of hypothetical hurricanes, hurricane forecasts, and other variables such as proximity to the shore and evacuation orders. Households will be recruited to join an internet panel where they will complete a web-based survey. More specifically, the object of this study is to develop the web-based survey needed to accomplish the study objective.

**Key words:** hurricane, forecasting, evacuation, internet survey