Herbert Saffir (1917–2007)

Herbert Saffir, who devised the hurricane intensity scale to describe the strength of a hurricane (synonymous to geographically various names, viz. tropical cyclone and typhoon) and to warn millions of people about the approaching danger, died on 21 November 2007 at the age of 90, due to complications from a surgery. Saffir was born on 29 March 1917. He was basically a civil engineer with a B S in civil engineering, and graduated from Georgia Institute of Technology, USA in 1940. He started his career during 1947 as an Assistant County engineer for Dade County, Florida, USA. He was working on updating the County building code. In 1969, while working on a United Nations project to study the windstorm damage on low-cost houses, he wanted to devise a scale to measure the intensity of hurricanes, similar to Richter scale for expressing the seismic intensity. Analysing several hurricanes that originated from the Atlantic Ocean, he introduced an innovative scale to rank the storms into five categories (1–5) depending upon their damaging potential to existing structures due to the accompanying strong wind speeds. Later in 1970, Robert Simpson, then-Director of the National Hurricane Centre, USA added information about

storm surge and flooding (cf. Saffir, H. and Simpson, R., *Weatherwise*, 1974, pp. 169–170). This later resulted in the Saffir–Simpson hurricane scale, which is now being used worldwide as a standard scale to rank tropical storms based on their intensities. Before this scale was introduced, hurricanes were simply described as major or minor. This invaluable scale is now helping operational weather forecasters to communicate with disaster management authorities and the public about the power of an approaching system. Saffir's original aim was to design hurricane-resistant bridges and buildings. He used to inspect storm damages and prepare reports on the performance of structures. He had even assessed the fury of the famous hurricane Katrina during 2005. He was a persistent advocate of fortified building standards and for its tough enforcement. He is survived by his son and daughter.

M. MAHAKUR

Forecasting Research Division,
Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology,
Dr Homi Bhabha Road, Pashan,
Pune 411 008, India
e-mail: mmahakur@tropmet.res.in

CURRENT SCIENCE
Display Advertisement Rates

India

No. of insertions	Size	Tariff (rupees)					
		Inside pages		Inside cover pages		Back cover page	
		B&W	Colour	B&W	Colour	B&W	Colour
1	Full page	10,000	20,000	15,000	25,000	20,000	30,000
	Half page	6,000	12,000	–	–	–	–
6	Full page	50,000	1,00,000	75,000	1,25,000	1,00,000	1,50,000
	Half page	30,000	60,000	–	–	–	–
12	Full page	1,00,000	2,00,000	1,50,000	2,50,000	2,00,000	3,00,000
	Half page	60,000	1,20,000	–	–	–	–

Foreign

No. of insertions	Size	Tariff (US $)					
		Inside pages		Inside cover pages		Back cover page	
		B&W	Colour	B&W	Colour	B&W	Colour
1	Full page	300	650	450	750	600	1000
	Half page	200	325	–	–	–	–
6	Full page	1500	3000	2250	3500	3000	5000
	Half page	1000	2000	–	–	–	–

Note: For payments towards the advertisement charges, Cheques (local) or Demand Drafts may be drawn in favour of **"Current Science Association, Bangalore".**