



## Could a thermonuclear device disrupt a hurricane?

Years ago, we had wondered this exact question. We had never thought about it seriously until a visitor actually asked us, adding let's ignore all the reasons this might not be a good idea. As Bill Nye might say, "Please consider the following:"

A single thermonuclear (hydrogen) device could destroy the better part of a large city. A short web search for "nuclear weapons effects map" will locate a number of gruesome simulators. We don't particularly enjoy these models, but they are sobering reminders that nuclear weapons are a reality in our world.



NASA Photo

Now look at this photograph, taken by NASA's SeaWiFS satellite. Florida is in the northwest corner, Cuba is in the center, Jamaica is in the south, and the pale turquoise is the Bahamas. The storm in the Atlantic Ocean is category 4 Hurricane Frances in September, 2004. Miami, a rather large city, is a speck at

this scale. Hurricanes are created by unimaginably large bodies of warm water, and can develop to enormous scales. We suspect a thermonuclear device applied against a hurricane would be but a mere hiccup to the storm. Let us never weaponize weather!

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