

## **FLORIDA HAZARDOUS WEATHER BY DAY (to 1994)**

### **DECEMBER**

**1** 1968 -0930 - 1025 - Escambia and Santa Rosa Co. - A waterspout was reported near Pensacola. The sound was described as "like an aircraft crashing into a building."

**1-2** 1925 - north Florida and Peninsula - Extremely rare December Hurricane made landfall south of Tampa Bay early on the 1st, weakened to a tropical storm as it crossed central Florida, and exited around St. Augustine. The storm regained Hurricane strength off Jacksonville late on the 1st. Heavy rain continued over northeast Florida on the 2nd. Gale force winds were reported from the Keys to Jacksonville and loss of life exceeded 50, mostly on ships at sea. Damage along the coast south of Jacksonville was heavy and excessive rain and wind seriously damaged citrus and truck crops.

**3** 1971 - morning - Sarasota and Manatee Counties - Tornado Outbreak - A fast moving cold front pushed southeastward through Sarasota County and Manatee County preceded by thunderstorm winds, heavy rain and at least five tornadoes. Roofs were ripped off, trees and utility lines downed. A tornado moved across the Venice Airport damaging three planes, and into the winter quarters of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum Bailey Circus collapsing two large tents. 3.19" of rain fell at Venice and 2.65" at Sarasota causing some water damage. Ten people were injured by the tornadoes.

**3** 1990 - 1005-1215 - Escambia and Washington Counties - From Jay to Vernon severe thunderstorm winds downed power lines and uprooted trees.

**4** 1951 - 1225-1240 - Polk Co., Kathleen - Tornado demolished a packing shed and a garage and downed about a dozen trees.

**4-5** 1994 - eastern Palm Beach Co. - Urban Flood - widespread rainfall of three to 7 inches, with a maximum of 14.33 inches, was measured across east Palm Beach County during a 24-hour period. Roadways were flooded and minor water damage was reported to some businesses in Delray Beach and Boca Raton. The combination of heavy rains and low astronomical tides caused many sea walls along canals to collapse. Sugar cane harvesting was halted due to the flooding of fields.

**5** 1977 - 1330 - Putnam Co. - A tornado touched down in Palatka and moved across the St. Johns River. A fisherman in a small boat was drowned. One man was seriously injured when a marina collapsed on him.

**6** 1969 - early afternoon - Franklin Co., Apalachicola - Thunderstorm Winds up to 40 mph sank boats and damaged wharf.

**7** 1992 - 1518 - Monroe Co., Key West - A waterspout was sighted south of the Boca Chica Naval Air Station.

**7** 1996 -1458 - Hillsborough, Riverview - A short-lived but strong (F2) tornado touched down just east of I-75 near Riverview, tracking across the Cowley Cove Mobile Home Complex where it completely destroyed 3 mobile homes and damaged 6 others. One human fatality, a fifty year-old male, (and three

dogs) occurred when the occupants unanchored mobile home was lifted up by tornadic winds and tossed nearly 100' from it's foundation into a neighbor's yard wher it disintegrated on impact. At least 5 parked crs were damaged by the tornado along with several sheds and outbuildings. Of note: a parked undrivable vehicle that was in the direct path of the tornado had most of it's contents sucked from the hatchback storage compartment , including a removed 100 lb transmission. Inspection of the vehicle found that the hatchback skin was buckled, bowed and pushed outward from the inside of the vehicle by the transmission casing that eventually smashed upward and out through the rear hatchback window.

**8** 1987 - 2300 - Dade Co., Miami - Strong thunderstorm winds downed trees in a citrus grove.

**9** 1978 - 1100 - Bay Co., Mexico Beach - A waterspout/tornado came ashore and damaged several mobile homes in the beach area.

**10** 1894 - 1000 - Holmes Co., Westville - Tornado destroyed several homes, killing one person, and injuring several people seriously.

**10** 1967 - morning - panhandle - Tornado Outbreak. 0315 - A tornado struck Ft. Walton Beach and Ocean City in Okaloosa Co. destroying thirty-five homes and nine businesses. A three year old girl was killed and about 40 persons were treated at local hospitals. Twenty-three businesses, and 290 homes were damaged to varying degrees. In Walton Co. a tornado destroyed 1 home and damaged several others. There was heavy damage to timber in the area. 0700 - A small tornado struck Washington Co. between Caryville and Bonifay and traveled northeast into Holmes Co. Two homes were destroyed . Other damage consisted mainly of uprooted trees, damaged farm buildings, and downed power lines. 0805 - A tornado touched down briefly in the Capehart Housing area at Tyndall AFB and again across the Bay in Parker and Callaway. One fatality occurred at Tyndall AFB as did most of the severe damage. Thirty-four people were treated at the hospital. 39 homes at Tyndall were destroyed. Thirty suffered lesser damage. 1000 - In Calhoun Co., a tornado destroyed four farmhouses and several barns in the rural area between Blountstown and Altha.

**11** 1988 - 1559 - Pinellas Co., Treasure Island - A tornado damaged the roofs of 15 homes with seven receiving major damage. In St. Petersburg high wind damaged the windows of two houses and flipped over a boat in a backyard.

**12-13** 1934 - statewide - Severe Freeze with low temperatures of 20 degrees reported in Tallahassee, 16 at Gainesville, 22 at Orlando, 20 at Ocala and 21 at Avon Park.

**12-13** 1957 - statewide - Severe Freeze with low temperatures of 20 degrees reported in Tallahassee, 16 at Gainesville, 24 at Orlando, 22 at Bartow and 24 at Avon Park.

**12** 1969 - 0800 - Bradford Co., Starke - A 42 yr. old lineman was injured by lightning while working in a rainstorm.

**13-14** 1962 - Statewide - Severe Cold Outbreak caused by a huge arctic high brought all-time record lows for December to over 3-dozen cities. Lows ranged from the single digit and teens in north Florida to the 20s central and low 30s south. Lows reached 5 degrees in DeFuniak Springs, 30 in Fort

Lauderdale, 22 in Melbourne, 27 in Naples, 12 in Gainesville, 22 in St. Petersburg, and 29 in Hollywood.

**13** 1984 - 2330 - Santa Rosa Co., Milton - Tornado damaged six houses and destroyed four mobile homes.

**14** 1952 - north Florida - Snow and Sleet - Trace of snow or sleet at or near Pensacola, Crestview, DeFuniak Springs, Quincy, Carrabelle, Tallahassee, St. Marks, Monticello, Madison, Mayo, Live Oak, Lake City, Glen St. Mary, and Hilliard. Frozen precipitation occurred before noon at most points, but occurred in the afternoon at Mayo and Lake City and near Hilliard. Temperatures were above freezing and snow or sleet melted as it fell.

**14** 1953 - morning - Jackson Co. - Sleet was reported in Marianna.

**15** 1947 -0825 - Escambia Co., Pensacola - A Tornado caused major damage to several buildings, injuring four people.

**15-16** 1992 - Martin and West Palm Beach Cos. - High winds caused high waves and beach erosion along the east coast. A 50 year old beach house on Jupiter Island tumbled into the ocean after sand eroded beneath it.

**16** 1974 - 1445-1742 - Several small tornadoes touched down in Sarasota, Charlotte, and Palm Beach Cos., toppling trees and damaging some roofs.

**17** 1971 - 1148 - S. West Palm Beach Co. - A Funnel Cloud was sighted.

**18** 1929 - Santa Rosa County - A tornado struck Cedar Grove, damaging a church and five houses. One woman was injured.

**18** 1951 - 1430 - Jacksonville - Tornado caused major damage to roofs of two houses and minor damage to roofs of seven others. - evening - St. Petersburg - A Tornado demolished a storage shed, wrecked a garage, and caused other lesser damage to buildings and signs. evening - Frostproof, Lake Moody - Tornado uprooted some citrus trees and damaged the fruit of many others.

**19-21** 1901 - statewide - Major Freeze with low temperatures of 17 degrees reported at Tallahassee, 19 at Gainesville, 20 at Ocala and 25 at Orlando.

**19-20** 1991 - Broward, Dade, Martin, Palm Beach Co. - High Winds - Strong easterly winds and heavy surf pounded the lower east coast. Winds gusted to 44 mph at Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport, causing significant beach erosion due to the pounding surf. Parts of A1A were closed as sand blew across the roadway.

**19** 1995 - 0315 - Gadsden Co. 1 mile north of Mt. Pleasant - An F2 tornado destroyed a mobile home carrying the two residents over 125 yards. The men were found four hours later. One man (50) was dead, while the other, his brother, was severely injured. Items from the dwelling were found three miles away.

**20** 1993 - 1220 - Walton Co., Sandestin - two workers were injured when lightning struck near a construction site.

**21** 1972 - 1345 - Suwannee Co., Live Oak - A tornado touched down destroying a mobile home, barn, and a farm house.

**21** 1994 - 0300 - 1900 - southeast Florida Coast - High Wind and Heavy Rain - Winds gusting between 40 and 50 mph caused damage to an overhang on a bank building in downtown West Palm Beach. The high winds damaged several boats in Martin County, and injured two sailors after their sail boats capsized offshore Palm Beach County and northeast Dade County. Beach sand was washed onto Highway A1A in Ft. Lauderdale. Trees and power lines were toppled by the high winds. Rainfall amounts up to 6.5 inches in 12 hours caused some flooding of poorly drained roadways.

**22** 1969 - 0100 - 0200 - Polk Co., Lake Wales - 18 apartment units completely gutted by fire attributed to lightning.

**22-25** 1989 - Statewide - A cold outbreak and hard freeze effected all 67 counties in Florida. Many daily and some monthly and all-time low temperature records were tied or broken. Low temperatures were in the teens in north and north central Florida and in the 20s central and south central. Snow and sleet fell as far south as a Sarasota-Melbourne line, with a maximum of two to 3 inches in the panhandle. Northeast Florida experienced its first white Christmas in recorded history and airports and interstates were closed. Many traffic accidents and several fatalities occurred on ice-covered roads in North Florida. At least six people died of hypothermia and another four in space-heater related fires. Extensive crop damage, including a loss of about 30% of the \$1.4 billion citrus crop, left tens of thousands of migrant farm workers unemployed. Winter vegetables, berries, nursery ornamentals and fish suffered heavy losses. Power blackouts hit hundreds of thousands of residents at various times during the holiday weekend.

**23-27** 1906 - Statewide - Severe Freeze with low temperatures of 23 degrees reported at Tallahassee, 19 at Gainesville, 22 at Ocala, and 25 at Orlando.

**23-24** 1971 - Statewide - An exceptionally tight pressure gradient brought strong northeasterly winds to the entire state. Sustained winds of 20 to 30 mph with gusts over 40 mph prevailed through the state for periods longer than 24 hours. The highest gust reported was 58 mph at Kennedy Space Center. The area hardest hit was along the lower east coast where one to three inches of rain added to the problems. Power and telephone lines were toppled throughout the state, limbs were broken from trees and fruit drop was noted in the citrus belt. Beach erosion in the Vero Beach area caused damage to two buildings. The strong winds blew sand into homes along the east coast beaches, and many windows facing the wind were broken. The heavy rain damaged South Dade County tomato fields and the strong winds scarred the fruit. Waves along the lower east coast reached 15 feet and several boats were destroyed and many others grounded. Three drownings occurred when boats capsized, and a 16 year old boy drowned when he was washed into the sea while photographing breakers. On Florida's West Coast, officials reported that a 43-foot sailboat lost its rigging 50 miles west of Tampa and was drifting.

**25** 1964 - 0330 - Okaloosa Co., Niceville - Tornado unroofed homes at Shalimar. Over 100 vehicles were damaged at Eglin AFB motor pool, along with nine warehouses and some homes. Eight homes were destroyed, and 30 more damaged at Rocky Bayou.

**25-26** 1983 - Statewide - Cold Outbreak - Unusual cold weather caused broken irrigation and water pipes. Low temperatures were in the teens in north Florida and in the 20s central and south central Florida. Inadequate heating units and carelessness with heating units caused many fires. Citrus and vegetable crops and plants were damaged and/or destroyed. Ornamental plants were damaged. Several roads in north Florida were damaged. Six people died of exposure, three in Miami, two in Jacksonville, and 1 in Tampa. Over \$1/2 billion damage to crops.

**26-27** 1985 - statewide - Severe Freeze with low temperatures of 13 degrees reported at Tallahassee, 19 at Gainesville and Ocala, 26 at Orlando and 23 at Avon Park.

**27** 1940 - early morning - 0050 - Flagler Co. a tornado destroyed four tourist cabins and a home, injuring three. 0130 - Volusia Co. a tornado moved through Samsula and Port Orange damaging roofs and chimneys. Eleven barns were damaged at Samsula.

**27** 1996 - Pinellas - morning - Dense fog developed across West and Southwest Florida during the pre-dawn through late morning. Visibilities dropped to near zero at a few locations but consistently were reported at 1/8 of a mile over West and Southwest Florida observatonal sites through mid morning. Patchy dense fog lingered along coastal waterways and bays of West Central Florida through late morning. At 11:20 am, motorists heading northbound on the Pinellas County side of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge descended from the center span in sunshine and unlimited visibility into a patch of dense fog near sea-level. A chain reaction of vehicle accidents occurred on the northbound lane followed by a similar chain reaction of accidents by rubber-neckers in the southbound lane. In total, fifty-four vehicles werer involved in the fog-related accident. Of the fifty-four vehicles, 38 werer automobiles, 11 were pick-up trucks, and 5 were semi-tractor trailer trucks. One 69 year old female fatality occurred when her vehicle was crushed between a car carrier and a flatbed truck. Thirty (30) persons were injured in the mishap.

**28-29** 1894 - statewide - Severe Freeze with low temperatures of 12 degrees reported at Tallahassee, 14 at Jacksonville, 19 at Ocala, 18 at Orlando, and 20 at Bartow. Vegatable and pineapple crops killed. Citrus frozen in north and central Florida.

**28** 1968 - 0700 - Lafayette Co., Mayo - A 30 year old man was killed by lightning while sitting on a bed in a cabin at Steinhatchee National Forest.

**28** 1978 - 1330 - 1430 - Dade Co.- Severe thunderstorm produced lightning and golf ball-size hail. The lightning killed a jockey at Calder Race Track. He was running for cover when struck.

**29** 1970 - morning - Panama City - Waterspouts moved onshore near Panama City. Other waterspouts were sighted over the Gulf of Mexico.

**30** 1969 - 1757 - Duval Co., Jacksonville - A Funnel Cloud was sighted.

**31** 1917 - statewide - Severe Freeze with low temperatures of 20 degrees reported at Tallahassee, 16 at Gainesville, 20 at Ocala, 22 at Orlando, and 20 at Bartow.

**31** 1975 - 1125 - Marion Co., Ocala - An unusually large tornado struck a mobile home park 7 miles southwest of Ocala, destroying 20 mobile homes and heavily damaging 50 more. One person died three weeks after the tornado, and of the 26 injuries, eight required extended hospitalization. Witnesses reported ping pong ball size hail before the tornado.