

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

### **NOVEMBER**

**1-3** 1956 - entire east coast - A Tropical Depression that moved north out of Cuba on October 31st and made a loop east of Florida on the 1st through 3rd brought high tides and heavy surf to much of east Florida. Extensive property damage and beach erosion was reported from Jacksonville to Neptune Beach. Many beach roads and oceanfront properties were undermined at various points by pounding surf.

**2** 1971 -1327 - E. Sarasota - Funnel cloud reported.

**3** 1968 - 1755 - Escambia Co. - Tornado crossed the extreme northwest part of Escambia Co. Florida doing little damage, however 18 people were injured as homes and trailers were destroyed across the border in Saraland, AL.

**3** 1987 - 0224 - Monroe Co., Key West - A thunderstorm wind gust of 55 knots was reported at Boca Chica Naval Air Station.

**4** 1935 - south Florida - The so-called "Yankee Hurricane" struck Dade County from the northeast. Winds were 75 mph in Miami with a storm surge of 6 feet. The storm exiting into the Gulf of Mexico on the lower southwest coast north of the Keys. It recurved back toward Florida on the 6th and dissipated off Tampa Bay on the 8th. Nineteen deaths were attributed to this storm.

**4** 1988 - 0115 - Lee Co., Fort Myers - Tornado destroyed two homes, severely damaged seven, and damaged 109 others to a lesser degree. Eight cars and three boats were also damaged. About 80 Royal Palms were blown down along a scenic street.

**4** 1996 - 1620 - Palm Beach County, Palm Beach - one person drowned in a rip current. East winds were near 25 kts, and seas 6-9'.

**5** 1988 - morning - north and central Florida - Severe Thunderstorms and Tornadoes - 0115 - Madison Co. A tornado destroyed six homes and damaged 10 others near Lee, killing one woman. Other tornadoes hit Santa Rosa Beach in Walton Co. and Fort Meade in Polk County. Severe thunderstorm winds damaged roofs, trees, and powerlines in Levy, Citrus, Putnam, Volusia, Osceola, and Polk Counties.

**5** 1994 - Palm Beach Co., Riviera Beach - Rip Current - Four children on a church field trip were caught in a strong rip current at Ocean Reef Park. Three were rescued uninjured while the fourth, a 6-year-old male, was rescued, but had stopped breathing. He was revived and transported to a hospital in critical condition. He recovered enough to be released the next day.

**6** 1993 - 1457 - Pinellas Co. - A park ranger spotted two small waterspouts off the north end of Egmont Key.

**7** 1979 - 1700 - Palm Beach Co.- A funnel cloud was observed briefly over Palm Beach Inlet.

**8** 1896 - Union Co. - A Tornado destroyed one home at Lake Butler.

**9** 1968 - All Day - Statewide - A major storm from the Gulf of Mexico moved across north Florida. Most reporting stations had maximum sustained winds of 20 to 30 mph, but several observers in the Tampa area reported gusts of 50 to 62 mph. At least a dozen tornadoes were reported over central and south Florida as a squall line swept across the peninsula south of the low. 1700 - 1820 - Collier/Hendry Counties - A tornado struck near Naples, toppling a 705-ft tower and flattening a hunting camp. It swept through a labor camp and toppled a dozen houses. Two persons were killed, and two injured, when their trailer was carried 25 ft and demolished. 17 other injuries. 1335-1450 A tornado moved northeast through Tampa, Plant City, Lakeland, and Windermere injuring three. 1620 - Brevard, Melbourne - A tornado, described as a "white swirling mass" unroofed one building and broke several plate glass windows at the Melbourne Shopping Center and Brevard Mall. Other tornadoes in Pasco, Sumter, Sarasota, Palm Beach, Pinellas, and Hillsborough Counties injured eight people.

**10** 1963 - 0815 - Charlotte Co., Punta Gorda - A tornado unroofed four houses and damaged 10 others in Harbour Heights. 1300 - Indian River Co., Wabasso - A tornado moved from SW to NW and then out to sea damaging 10 homes. Several citrus trees were uprooted.

**11** 1947 - early morning - Washington Co. - A tornado unroofed or tore apart a dozen homes at Ebro. - Okaloosa Co., Eglin Field - A tornado damaged three large planes and wrecked a barracks injuring 15 people. - Taylor Co. - A tornado was reported in Perry.

**11** 1968 - All Day - Statewide - Second major storm in three days (see 9 1968) from the Gulf of Mexico crossed north Florida. Most reporting stations had maximum sustained winds of 25 to 45 mph, but observers in the Tampa Bay area reported gusts of 50 to 75 mph. Tides at Tarpon Springs were 3ft. above normal at 3pm. Over a dozen tornado/waterspouts/funnel clouds were reported in central and south Florida. The strongest tornado crossed Collier and /Hendry Cos., damaging 17 homes in Naples. Five homes were unroofed and torn apart. It skipped over to Clewiston destroying a barn and injuring three men.

**11-12** 1980 - 0600 - Monroe Co. - Heavy rain - More than 23 inches of rain fell on Key West. This is greatest 24-hour amount ever recorded in Key West. Widespread flooding caused heavy damage to about 300 cars and 500 homes and businesses. Five waterspouts were sighted during the afternoon of the 12th.

**12** 1979 - 1349 - Martin Co. - A funnel cloud hovered for 10 minutes over St. Lucie River near Stuart then retreated without touching down.

**13** 1969 - afternoon - north central Florida - Tornado struck Beville's Corner (sw of Leesburg) in Sumter Co., damaged 10 buildings, three homes, and 11 mobile homes - injuring one. Two were killed in a traffic accident on SR 476 near the tornado site. Another tornado struck Inverness in Citrus County, damaging trailers. Hail reported up to 1 1/2" in Brevard and Baker Cos. Lightning caused a fire in Lake Wales (Polk Co.) that destroyed an auto parts shop and a car.

**13-16** 1994 - south, east central, and northeast Florida - Tropical Storm Gordon - after a serpentine track through the Caribbean Sea, Gordon began affecting south Florida on the 13th when located off the

northeast coast of Cuba. Gordon moved slowly west-northwest, reaching the lower Florida Keys late on the 15th. On the 16th, Gordon turned northeast and accelerated, moving inland near Ft. Myers in the morning and exiting into the Atlantic just north of Vero Beach in the late afternoon. After becoming a hurricane off the coast of North Carolina, then weakening to a tropical depression and moving south and west, Gordon moved ashore a second time just north of Melbourne on the 21st.

The maximum sustained wind was 53 mph at Virginia Key in east Dade County, and the minimum central pressure was 995 MB shortly after initial landfall near Ft. Myers. Gordon directly caused eight fatalities and 43 injuries. Seven of the deaths were by drowning, five in the Atlantic off the southeast coast, and two when cars plunged into canals in Dade County. One death and 40 injuries resulted from a tornado in Brevard County (see 15 1994 - 1853), one of six tornadoes spun off by Gordon on the evening of the 15th. There were three indirect deaths, one from a heart attack while pushing a car stalled in a flooded road, and two in traffic accidents. Gordon's total damage is estimated around \$400 million. Agricultural interests suffered \$275 million in losses, primarily from freshwater flooding caused by widespread rainfalls totaling six to 16 inches. Vegetable and tropical fruit crops in south Florida were particularly hard hit. Inland flooding caused damage to buildings through both rising freshwater and collapse of rain-loaded roofs. Especially hard hit was Volusia County where 1236 buildings (977 single family homes, 68 mobile homes and 139 multi-family buildings) reported flood damage, and losses were estimated at over \$26 million. Public works suffered from the effects of both water and wind with damage to roadways, sewer facilities, utility lines and signs. Marine effects included several boat sinkings or groundings, including a 506-foot freighter beached off Ft. Lauderdale. At least 37 people were rescued from sinking boats. One woman was rescued after being swept 1000 yards off a fishing pier in Boynton Beach. Atlantic beaches suffered moderate to locally severe erosion that undermined a few buildings. Several sea walls and beach access walks were destroyed. Some coastal roads along the east coast were inundated by a storm tide, estimated to be a maximum of one to two feet along Miami Beach.

**14** 1969 - 1320 - Okeechobee Co. - A tornado demolished three trailers and injured two people north of Okeechobee. Several homes, a dairy barn, and a 14 ft boat were damaged.

**15** 1916 - Keys and south Florida - A weak hurricane moved through the Keys from the southwest and weakened rapidly as it moved into the Atlantic.

**15** 1983 - 0920 - Walton Co., Sandestin - Thunderstorm winds damaged a construction site and injured six workers.

**15** 1994 - 1853 - Brevard Co., Micco - A waterspout/tornado, on the outer fringes of Tropical Storm Gordon, struck the Barefoot Bay area of southern Brevard County. A 74-year-old-male was killed by trauma to the head, and about 40 people were injured. Six people were hospitalized, two in serious condition. About 63 mobile homes were destroyed and 181 had minor damage. Five other, weaker, tornadoes were reported along the east coast during the evening of the 15th, four in Palm Beach Co., and one in Volusia Co. No injuries were reported.

**16** 1951 - Hernando County - Heavy rain of 7.59" in 24 hours at Brooksville and 6.69" at St. Leo caused localized flooding.

**17** 1987 - 1800 - Charlotte Co., Punta Gorda - A gust of wind blew in windows at an Elks Club. One person suffered injuries from glass debris.

**18** 1977 - 1425 - Dade Co. - Miami Beach Patrol reported several funnel clouds forming and dissipating off south beach. A waterspout was reported at Key Biscayne.

**18** 1994 - 1400 - Broward Co., Ft. Lauderdale Beach - A 35-year-old doctor drowned in a rip current while saving his 8-year-old son. The incident took place at a private motel beach south of Ft. Lauderdale Beach and was caused by large swells from Gordon.

**19** 1969 - 1600 - Okaloosa Co. - Thunderstorm winds blew a crane over on Destin Bridge blocking Highway 90 for several hours.

**19-21** 1985 - Lower Keys - Big Bend area - Hurricane Kate moved south of Key West on the 19th causing downed power poles, power lines, trees, and branches. A 62 year old woman and a 28 year old man were killed when their small boat capsized in heavy seas. Another man was electrocuted when he stepped on a downed power line. Two days later, Kate made landfall between Panama City and Apalachicola. A 38 year old man was killed and his 16 year old son injured when a tree fell on their truck. An 81 year old woman died of a heart attack shortly after being evacuated to a hotel in Chipley. Tides ran eight to 10 feet above normal. Many houses were damaged by fallen trees. Many power poles and lines were downed. Several roads suffered washouts. Wind reached near 65 knots at Tallahassee and at Apalachicola.

**20** 1983 - morning and afternoon - Panhandle and central Florida - 0315 - Escambia Co., Pensacola - A tornado damaged mobile homes, utility sheds, and power lines. Heavy rain caused localized flooding and lightning started several house fires. One man died when he touched an electrified fence caused by downed power lines. Severe thunderstorm winds damaged six homes in Bay County. In the afternoon a tornado struck Ormond Beach in Volusia Co. damaging 18 mobile homes and 40 cars. Another tornado struck rural Flagler Co. doing little damage. Severe thunderstorm winds were reported in Putnam, Citrus, Brevard, Charlotte and Lee Cos. Damage was mainly to mobile homes, roofs and signs - no injuries.

**21** 1962 - 2145 - Marion Co., Lake Bryant - Tornado hit ranger station in the Ocala National Forest, destroying several buildings. At Camp Kiwanis a new dormitory was nearly demolished.

**22** 1953 - 0820 - Bay County - A Tornado destroyed five small houses and damaged many others in the Woodville community northwest of Panama City injuring 22 people.

**22-24** 1984 - St. Johns, Flagler, Volusia, Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach Counties. - Great Thanksgiving Holiday East Coast Storm - A strong low pressure system developed east of Florida, and coupled with a high pressure to the northwest, a strong pressure gradient led to gale force winds along the east coast. As the low moved slowly north heavy rains of up to seven inches fell over south Florida. There was extensive coastal flooding and beach erosion with many structures damaged or destroyed. Fishing piers and seawalls were damaged or destroyed. Damage ran into the millions and was confined to the seashore except where heavy rain in the south caused local flooding. A man was killed when he stepped on a downed power line.

**23** 1988 - Tropical Storm Keith moved across the Florida Peninsula, entering near Sarasota at 0200 and exiting just north of Melbourne at 1000. Most of the convection had been sheared off before the storm crossed Florida. Most of the weather associated with Keith was to the north of the track. Maximum rainfall was 11 inches at Largo. Most rainfall totals were four to 7 inches to the north of the storm track and under one inch to the south of the storm track. A storm surge of nearly 6 feet maximum and three to 4 feet generally accompanied the storm on the Florida west coast south of the track as far south as Naples. Damage was near \$3 million, mostly due to the storm surge. In Lee County damage was estimated at \$1.5 million. Two tornadoes touched down in Pinellas Co. just before landfall, damaging hangar doors at St. Petersburg Airport.

**24** 1992 - 0640 - Escambia Co., Pensacola - A thunderstorm gust to 65 mph was recorded at the Pensacola Regional Airport. Strong winds peeled off part of the roof of a plant in Pace.

**25** 1979 - 1045 - Escambia Co. - A small tornado damaged several buildings and hopscotched through northeast Escambia Co.

**26** 1915 - 0730 - Santa Rosa Co., Floridatown and Pace - Tornado unroofed houses and downed timber. Most of the damage was rooftop and treetop.

**26** 1962 - (Continuous thru Dec. 4) Florida East Coast. A deep and persistent Atlantic storm off the southeastern U. S. coast produced continuous strong onshore winds along the entire east coast of Florida for several days. Resulting rough seas and high tides over an extended period produced considerable beach erosion and undermined buildings and roads along the immediate coast. Some tidal flooding was also reported along the coast. Greatest damages from erosion along northeast Florida coast. Winds on the mainland, although persisting for several days, caused only minor damages as storm center remained well offshore.

**27** 1989 - 1455 - Martin Co., Lake Okeechobee - The fire department reported a waterspout on the lake.

**28** 1912 - north Florida - One-half inch of snow on this date is the earliest snowfall on record in Florida.

**28** 1960 - 1830 - Escambia Co. Cantonmont - A tornado moved northeast, lifting and lowering along its path. It unroofed, shifted and caved in the walls of one house.

**29** 1963 -0315 - Lee Co., Pine Island - Thunderstorm Winds unroofed one building and uprooted many trees.

**30** 1925 - west central Florida - An extremely rare late November hurricane began to affect the west coast of Florida as it strengthened during the day. The storm made landfall very early on the 1st of December (see December).

**30** 1961 - 1400 - Palm Beach Co., West Palm Beach - Hail ranging from marble to golf ball size damaged nurseries and vegetable crops.

**30** 1996 - 1745 - Santa Rosa County, Broxson - a weak F2 tornado caused major damage to 5 mobile homes, and 4 houses. Seven people were injured.