

FLORIDA HAZARDOUS WEATHER BY DAY (to 1994)

FEBRUARY

1-2 1983 - All of Florida - One of the most widespread outbreaks of Severe Thunderstorms and Tornadoes in Florida history. - Unusual El Nino conditions resulted in a 180-mph jet stream in the central Gulf of Mexico that strengthened a line of thunderstorms moving eastward into the western Florida Panhandle before dawn February 1 and continued southeastward through the entire state, exiting the southeast coast and Keys around sunset February 2. At least 21 Tornadoes occurred, along with severe thunderstorm downbursts, hail, and heavy rains. Four people were killed along with several serious injuries requiring hospitalization, and about 200 people were left homeless.

1 1983 -0845 - 2200 - Western Panhandle to Tallahassee area - Seven tornadoes touched down during the day killing 1 and injuring one. Escambia County, near Pensacola - a tornado damaged trees, power lines, traffic lights, support poles, and roofs. One person was killed by a live wire that wrapped around a tree that had blown into his home.

2 1952 - nighttime - Dade Co., Miami & Miami Beach - Thunderstorms from a tropical storm crossing south Florida brought 84 mph winds to Miami Beach. Winds of tropical storm force were recorded at Miami International Airport.

2-3 1952 -South Florida - The only tropical storm of record to hit the U.S. in February moved out of the Gulf of Mexico and across southern Florida producing 60 mph winds and two to four inches of rain.

2 1983 - early morning through afternoon - Florida Peninsula - Fourteen tornadoes and 14 severe thunderstorms were reported across the Florida Peninsula, killing three and injuring 31. 0526 - Alachua Co., Hawthorne - thunderstorm winds collapsed a prefab home, killing one person. A church was demolished and several homes damaged. Other downbursts struck Gainesville and Waldo. 0845-0905 - Orange Co. - Tornado destroyed two homes in north Orlando and eight apartment units in southeast Orlando injuring nine people - 56 other apartments were damaged. 0920 - Highland Co., DeSoto City - A tornado destroyed 15 mobile homes and damaged several other homes and mobile homes. One person died of a broken neck when a mobile home overturned. 1540 - Dade Co., Miami Beach - Heavy rains and wind downed power lines. An elderly woman was electrocuted by a wire downed by wind.

2 1996 -1815 - Putnam Co., Bostwick - A man was killed when an F0 tornado caused a tree to fall on his porch. Trees and power lines also blocked SR-100.

3-4 1917 - statewide - Severe Freeze with low temperatures of 15 degrees reported at Tallahassee, 17 at Gainesville, 18 at Ocala, and 22 at Orlando.

3 1926 - 0630 - Palm Beach Co. - Tornado moved from Lake Worth to Palm Beach damaging 83 homes. An eleven-month old boy was killed.

3-5 1963 - northeast Coast - Continuous strong northeast winds produced by a low pressure area east of the Florida coast generated high tides, rough surf and coastal flooding along entire northeast Florida coast from Nassau to Brevard Counties. Beaches sustained considerable erosion damage and some beach

properties and roads were undermined. Damage was greater than expected as beaches had not been repaired from damages inflicted by a smaller storm in December 1962. Property damage was confined to the beach areas as winds inland were not sufficiently strong to cause other than minor property damage.

3 1970 - morning - Central Florida - Severe Weather Outbreak - eight tornadoes and five other severe thunderstorms were spawned ahead of a strong cold front. No serious injuries.

4-5 1958 - Statewide - Cold Outbreak - Arctic high pressure behind a strong cold front brought record cold to much of Florida. Freezing temperatures spread to south Florida. Lows reach 27 at Homestead, 28 at Belle Glade, 31 at Fort Lauderdale and 33 at Hialeah. Snow fell in Tallahassee.

5 1992 - 0400 - 0700 - Brevard, Citrus, Hillsborough, Levy, Marion, Orange, Pasco Counties - A squall line with severe thunderstorm winds and hail swept across central Florida in early morning hours causing widespread minor property damage, but no serious injuries.

5 1996 - West Central and South Florida peninsula - Extreme Cold/Severe Freeze - The coldest temperatures since the "Christmas freeze" of 1989 caused significant loss of winter fresh fruits and vegetables. Crop damage was estimated at \$109 million dollars. Strong winds caused wind chill values in the teens, and disrupted electrical service to over 20,000 customers. Shelters were opened in several counties. At least one space heater initiated fire occurred.

6 1914 - 0830 - Santa Rosa/Okaloosa Counties - Tornado struck between Milton and Laurel Hill, destroying barns, killing livestock and uprooting thousands of trees.

6 1975 - 1225 - Lafayette Co., Mayo - Tornado destroyed homes, businesses, and trailers, injuring four. 1540 - 1710 - Tornadoes touched down in Citrus, Sumter, and Lake Counties damaging mobile homes and citrus trees. Five injuries in mobile homes.

7-10 1835 - The earliest well-documented severe freeze. Low temperature of 4 degrees was reported at Tallahassee, 8 degrees at Jacksonville and Pensacola. The edges of the St. Johns River froze and ice was reported in Pensacola Bay. The temperature was below freezing for over two days at St. Augustine. All citrus was killed.

7-8 1971 - Statewide - Severe squall lines ahead of a strong cold front ripped through Florida causing heavy rain of three to 5", several tornadoes, many reports of hail and funnel clouds, and wind gusts of 50 to 65 mph. Hardest hit was the community of Gulf Breeze in Escambia Co. where a predawn waterspout on the 7th came ashore as a tornado, destroying an apartment complex and injuring 112 people. Two more people were injured on the morning of the 7th when severe thunderstorm winds and golf ball size hail hit near Chipley in Washington County. In Tallahassee one man drowned when he fell into a drainage ditch. Another man drowned when his boat capsized while fishing in Highlands County.

8-9 1895 - statewide - Severe Freeze with reported low temperatures of 11 degrees at Tallahassee, 16 at Ocala, and 19 at Orlando. This freeze followed the December 1894 freeze and due to intervening mild weather citrus trees were greatly damaged.

8 1986 - afternoon - Central Florida - Severe Weather Outbreak -A tornado near Bartow, Polk County, severely damaged 14 homes and caused minor damage to six others. A tornado overturned a mobile home in Hudson, Pasco County, and another tornado occurring from Volusia to Pierson in Volusia County damaged a campground, then moved on to damage fern-growing sheds and cause injury to a man when a branch fell on his mobile home. In Bradenton, Manatee County, a tornado hit a flea market, severely injuring a man and slightly injuring three others. Twenty cars were damaged by high winds on the Pinellas County coast. A firefighter was injured in Manatee County when lightning struck nearby. Many reports of 0.75 inch in diameter hail were received. A boat was overturned on Lake Kissimmee by high wind and its occupant drowned.

9 1973 - 2328 - Martin Co., Port Salerno - A tornado ripped through Port Salerno just before midnight demolishing a church, twisting off roofs on houses and an apartment building and snapping power lines and trees along its path. Residents heard roaring like a freight train and felt a vacuum. One person was hospitalized.

10 1986 - 0920 - Jackson Co., Grand Ridge - A tornado destroyed a brick house. Three other houses and a barn were damaged.

11 1981 - 1015 - Lake County - A small tornado struck a section of downtown Leesburg destroying a service station, damaged several buildings, and knocked the windows out of several cars.

12 1975 - 2220 - Columbia Co., Fort White - A small tornado damaged two small frame houses and a service station.

13-14 1899 - Statewide - Severe Freeze with reported low temperatures of -2 degrees at Tallahassee, the all-time lowest recorded Florida temperature, six degrees reported at Gainesville, 12 at Ocala, and 20 at Orlando. Snow reported in Tallahassee.

13 1966 - Morning - Gadsden Co. - Thunderstorm Winds destroyed several tobacco barns, blew down trees and disrupted communications in the area.

14 1970 - 2005 - Palm Beach Co., Palm Beach Gardens - A small tornado struck an isolated area and downed power lines.

15 1939 - 1500 - Polk Co. - A tornado, reported as a "huge black funnel", moved into Bartow and destroyed a small home.

15 1991 - 1100 - St. Johns Co., St. Augustine - Strong winds to 60 mph downed power lines, trees, sheds, signs, roofs. The winds whipped up at least 150 brush fires in various sections of the state. The winds capsized an 18 ft boat, drowning two men.

16 1983 - 1508 - Broward Co., Miramar - Thunderstorm winds downed large trees, power lines, and caused roof damage.

- 17** 1992 - 0920 - Gulf County, Apalachicola - A small tornado lifted a car with three occupants up and slammed it down on the road several times. It blew the hatchback door up on the roof of the car. The tornado also uprooted trees and damaged two houses.
- 18** 1958 - Statewide - Cold Outbreak - Arctic high pressure behind a strong cold front brought record cold and second major freeze of month (see 2/4-5/58) to much of the state. Temperatures dipped to the teens in north Florida, twenties central, and low 30s south.
- 18** 1960 - 0342 - Bay Co., Panama City - A tornado destroyed three homes and damaged 35 others.
- 18** 1994 - All Day - Florida East Coast - Onshore winds of 30 to 40 mph with gusts to 55 mph caused beach erosion and minor coastal flooding. Hardest hit was the coast from Brevard to Palm Beach Co. where some beach front homes were nearly undermined.
- 19** 1963 - Morning - central Florida - Pinellas, Polk, Orange, Seminole, Hillsborough, Lake and Brevard Counties - thunderstorm winds caused damage to buildings, parked aircraft, and some construction equipment. Wind gust blew small car from Sunshine Skyway into the Gulf and the driver drowned. Several small tornadoes touched down briefly in Central Florida causing minor damage.
- 19** 1968 - 0500 - Dade Co. - A tornado moved into North Miami, cutting a block wide path into Biscayne Bay. Two homes were destroyed, 12 were unroofed. Over 100 homes, 44 business, and 100 cars were damaged. 21 injuries, mostly from flying glass.
- 19** 1974 - 1730 - Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Pasco Counties - Tornado destroyed or damaged about 100 trailers and unroofed a frame home. 55 people were injured.
- 20** 1952 - 1010 - Bay Co., - Tornado destroyed a home near Panama City and damaged 12 others, injuring four.
- 20** 1989 - 2109 - Okaloosa Co., Ft. Walton Beach - A hailstorm dumped golf ball size hail and 3 - 6 inches of rain in three hours. The storm contributed to the crash of an AF C141B jet at Eglin AFB that killed all on board.
- 20** 1995 - 1600 - Martin Co., Port Salerno - A man drowned in St. Lucie Inlet after being washed overboard by a large wave generated by thunderstorm winds.
- 21** 1937 - 1100 - Hillsborough, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties - Tornado skipped through Tampa and unroofed three homes. A home destroyed between Odessa and Lutz, other homes in San Antonio damaged.
- 21** 1989 - Midnight - Okaloosa Co., Dorcas - A family of four narrowly escaped injury when a tornado destroyed their mobile home, uprooted trees, blew a small boat across Mirror Lake.
- 22** 1990 - 1330 - Brevard Co., Barefoot Bay - Thunderstorm winds damaged carports and awnings in mobile home park.

22-23 1998 - Central Florida - During the late night and early morning hours of 22-23 February 1998 (Sunday - Monday), the most devastating tornado outbreak ever to occur in the state of Florida, in terms of both loss of life and property damage, occurred within the county warning area of the Melbourne (MLB) National Weather Service Office (NWSO). Forty-two people died as a result of the tornadoes and more than 260 others were injured. Over 3,000 structures were damaged, and more than 700 were completely destroyed. Damage was estimated in excess of \$100 million. A total of seven confirmed tornadoes occurred that night. Four of the tornadoes were unusually long-lived and produced damage tracks of between 8 and 38 miles, resulting in the majority of damage and all fatalities. Uncommon among Florida tornadoes, the estimated wind speed for three of these twisters reached 200 mph which is on the high end of F3 intensity on the Fujita scale. Although this event was of historical proportion the number of fatalities could have been significantly higher if these killer tornadoes were not accurately forecast, detected, and then warned for in a timely and professional manner.

23 1965 - morning - South Florida - Severe Weather Outbreak. Four tornadoes from Ft Myers to Fort Lauderdale injured eight. A tornado in the Ft. Lauderdale and Oakland Park area tore apart a house and seven trailers - three cars, and two trucks were also badly damaged.

23-26 1989 - Peninsular Florida - Cold Spell - A prolonged late-season Arctic outbreak broke many daily minimum temperature records throughout Florida. A hard freeze occurred in the north and central peninsula with a freeze and frost in interior south. Extensive damage, primarily to produce crops. At least three people died of hypothermia and one person died in a fire possibly caused by a heating device. Near Tallahassee, a woman was found frozen to death in her home. Two people died of exposure in Dade County.

24 1954 - afternoon - central Florida - Severe thunderstorm winds blew down trees and damaged property in Ocala, Orlando, Palatka, Crescent City, Tampa, Fort Myers, Punta Gorda and Moore Haven. Winds estimated at 70 to 75 mph in Tampa Bay area.

24 1979 -0100 - 0300 - Walton Co. - Heavy Rain exceeded 4" in two hours, damaging roads, drainage ditches, culverts and bridges. Four bridges were washed out along the Gulf of Mexico.

25 1960 - 0620 - Columbia Co., Lake City - Tornado destroyed 10 trailers, eight homes, and a factory. 0700 - Duval Co., Jacksonville - Tornado unroofed small homes and tore off the walls.

26 1934 - 0530 - Alachua Co. - A Tornado destroyed three farmhouses near La Crosse. 0615 - Putnam Co., Tornado unroofed and tore apart houses in Palatka. 0730 - Orange Co., A Tornado destroyed a church and small home at Taft.

26 1939 - 0230 - Gulf Co. - Tornado moved SW of Port St. Joe north of Apalachicola destroying crops and small buildings. 1030 - Baker Co. - Tornado destroyed five homes in a settlement south of Moniac.

26 1957 - All Day - Dade/Broward Counties - Heavy rains caused local flooding in agricultural areas, disrupting harvest operations and causing considerable damage to crops in harvest stage, particularly to tomatoes and potatoes.

26 1994 - 1430 - Dade Co., Miami Beach - Lightning killed a 20-year old student playing Frisbee on the beach. Six of his friends were shocked, but not injured. This is the earliest annual lightning death on record.

27 1947 - afternoon - Hillsborough - Tornado destroyed a home in Tampa and unroofed another injuring three. - Polk Co. - Tornado unroofed a large home and damaged others southeast of Lakeland.

27 1983 - All Day - Most of Florida - Windstorm - Gale force winds pounded the state as a strong low pressure system moved east from the Gulf of Mexico and across the Peninsula into the Atlantic. The storm's other effects included beach erosion, coastal flooding, and high tides. Thunderstorms associated with this system also dropped heavy rains and caused periods of local flooding.

27 1984 - 0835 - Lafayette Co. - Tornado destroyed two cement block homes and three trailers at Mayo.

28 1954 - morning - south Florida/Keys - Severe Thunderstorm winds damaged docks and small boats in West Palm Beach. Hail was heavy and reported as big as hen's eggs in Tavernier and Islamorada.

28 1989 - 1441 - Broward Co., Ft. Lauderdale - Thunderstorms produced 1/2" hail and 7" rainfall that caused a mud slide at a construction site that blocked traffic for several hours.