

FLORIDA HAZARDOUS WEATHER BY DAY (to 1994)

JANUARY

- 1** 1942 - noon - Washington Co. - A tornado moved from Ebro to Greenhead and destroyed six buildings injuring five people.
- 1** 1996 - 1225 - Brevard Co., Melbourne - A small F0 tornado touched down in the Eau Gallie area of Melbourne near U.S. Highway 1. It moved east northeast about one half mile and lifted as it approached the Indian River Lagoon. The tornado blew down trees on top of houses and garages and overturned a large travel trailer with estimated damage at 40 thousand dollars.
- 2** 1972 - about 1400 - Pinellas Co., St. Petersburg - A small waterspout/tornado moved in from the Gulf of Mexico ripping a screened enclosure and roof from a house and downing power lines.
- 3** 1994 - 1445 - Polk Co., Frostproof - A tornado touched down four times, damaging cars, buildings, signs, and citrus trees. Windows were blown out of vehicles and stores. A 12 year old boy was injured by flying debris. Brief tornado touchdowns were also reported in Alachua, Bradford, Baker, and Duval Counties.
- 4** 1934 - 1207 - Escambia Co., Pensacola - A tornado damaged about 20 small homes. A young boy was killed and seven people were injured.
- 5** 1962 - 1610 - Okaloosa Co., Crestview - Twin tornadoes, 100 yards apart, destroyed 10 homes and 10 house trailers and damaged 300 homes. A six-month old girl was killed and 65 people injured.
- 6** 1892 - 1000 - Orange Co., Winter Garden - A tornado destroyed five homes. A woman was killed when her home turned completely upside down and fell on her. Five injuries.
- 6** 1970 - Morning - West central Florida - Tornado outbreak - Five trailers overturned, power/telephone lines down at Apollo Beach in Hillsborough County. Other tornadoes touched down in Ruskin, Lakeland, Bartow, Mulberry, and Avon Park. Total of six tornadoes caused five injuries.
- 7** 1976 - 1200 - Escambia Co., Pensacola - A small tornado was observed by radar northeast of the Pensacola Naval Air Station.
- 7** 1995 - 0550 - Marion Co., Summerfield - An F2 tornado destroyed or heavily damaged 66 mobile homes with less extensive damage to another 85 dwellings, mostly mobile homes. A man received fatal head injuries while sitting in his car outside a mobile home when the car was rolled four times. Another 20 persons, mostly those in mobile homes, were injured.
- 8** 1978 - 1720 - Hillsborough Co., Dover - A tornado destroyed four block homes, five mobile homes, six other homes and several cars. 1817 - Windermere, Orange Co. - Tornado severely damaged large lakefront home and damaged five other homes. 1835 - Lockhart, Orange Co. to Sanford, Seminole Co. - Large tornado moved through mobile home park near Lockhart destroying 17 trailers, damaging 60 and

injuring 23 people, eight seriously. Tornado continued into Seminole Co., passing southeast of Sanford and causing damage to homes and boats along St. Johns River.

9 1953 - morning - Hillsborough Co. - A tornado destroyed five homes and damaged 53 from Lithia to Hopewell in southwest part of county injuring 12 people. Other tornadoes were reported in Clermont, Minneola, and Brooksville. Severe thunderstorm winds were reported in Ft. Myers and Sarasota. There were many reports of trees and power lines down and roof damage. Storm waves washed over the beach road on south Captiva Island.

9 1996 - west central peninsula - Damaging freeze - Sub-freezing temperatures severely damaged vegetable crops with losses estimated over \$2 million dollars in Hillsborough and Lee counties; with minor damage to the dormant citrus crop in Pasco County. Several tropical fish farms lost over 50 percent of their harvest with the estimated loss at \$5.5 million dollars.

10 1977 - 0650 - Osceola Co., Kissimmee - A Tornado struck a large apartment, ripping the roofs off 20 apartments and damaging several automobiles.

10 1986 - 1730 - Orange Co., Christmas - Thunderstorm winds destroyed two mobile homes and damaged a house. Three people in one mobile home suffered cuts and bruises.

11 1918 - 2100 - Orange Co., Apopka - A tornado ripped apart 20 buildings.

11-12 1982 - statewide - Arctic airmass behind a strong cold front brought a Severe Freeze to south central Florida. Temperatures dropped to 14 degrees at Tallahassee, 18 at Gainesville, 23 at Orlando, 17 at Ocala and 19 at Avon Park on the morning of the 12th.

11 1993 - 1750 - 1820 - Volusia Co., Edgewater - strong downburst winds damaged nine mobile homes. Trees and power lines down, awnings, carports, and family rooms ripped away. Golf ball size hail reported.

11 1995 - 1400 - Flagler Co., North Beverly Beach - 56-year-old woman tourist from Holland drowned in a rip current.

12 1886 - statewide - Severe Freeze with low temperatures of 12 degrees at Tallahassee, 16 at Gainesville, 18 at Ocala and 19 at Orlando reported.

12 1964 - morning hours - Central Florida - Tornadoes and severe thunderstorms associated with a vigorous squall line struck Duval, Marion, Polk, Volusia, Lake Counties. Many trees uprooted and antennas and signs blown down. Some damage occurred to windows and commercial buildings. No serious injuries.

12 1975 - 1020 - Noon - Bay, Calhoun & Jackson Counties - Tornado first reported in Panama City suburbs moved northeast through Bay, Calhoun, and Jackson Counties. A week old baby was killed in a mobile home northeast of Panama City. Ten homes destroyed, 25 damaged, several mobile homes and cars destroyed. Eighteen injuries - most (15) in Jackson Co.

13-14 1981- statewide - Severe Freeze with low temperatures of 8 degrees at Tallahassee, 14 at Gainesville, 11 at Ocala, 20 at Orlando, and 18 at Avon Park reported.

13 1992 - 0205 - Gadsden Co. - Downburst winds struck north of Quincy, peeling the roofs off two adjacent mobile homes.

14 1982 - 0200-1200 - Florida Peninsula - High Winds - A strong cold front sweeping across the Florida Peninsula was accompanied by high winds and brief heavy rains. Sustained winds of 30 to 40 mph were reported over most of the peninsula with gusts up to 60 mph. Tornadoes were reported in Lee and Hendry Counties. There was widespread minor damage with downed power lines, large trees toppled, and many signs blown over. Some roof damage was also reported along with damage to patio screens, carports, and tool sheds. Heaviest damage was along the Florida West Coast where onshore winds produced high tides and some beach erosion.

15 1991 - 1515-1554 - South Florida - Tornadoes struck an elementary school south of Miami airport injuring a teacher, then damaged roofs and cars at Hialeah, injuring three, and hit Broward Community College in Hollywood, injuring one.

16 1959 - Midnight - thru late PM - southeast Florida, Belle Glade, Palm Beach & Miami area. Strong thunderstorm winds to 60 mph blew down trees, disrupted power, and damaged several buildings.

17 1985 -0615 - Bay Co. - A waterspout/tornado moved through a 10 block area of Panama City damaging roofs and uprooting small trees. A small boat was blown across a highway.

18 1936 - 1900 - Washington Co. - A Tornado destroyed six homes near Vernon and eight homes near Wausau killing seven and injuring 15. Six were killed in a farm house south of Vernon. It took many hours to find the bodies. One person was killed in a home north of Wausau.

18-21 1977 - Statewide - Severe Cold Outbreak of Arctic air, climaxing one of the coldest winters ever recorded in the eastern United States, swept into Florida. Snow fell at Miami Beach and Palm Beach and was reported as far south as Homestead. The most southerly point to receive snow in Florida history. A severe freeze affected all of the State's citrus and vegetable crops.

In south Florida agricultural areas, the freeze was one of the most severe of this century. On the night of January 19-20, temperatures dropped to 27 degrees at the Florida Agricultural Experiment station in Homestead, but some farmers in this area reported temperatures near 20 degrees. Temperatures were below freezing for 10 to 14 hours, and 28 degrees or colder for 4 to 8 hours. An unusually heavy frost accompanied these freezing temperatures and extended to the immediate coast. Both West Palm Beach and Miami Beach recorded all-time lows of 27 degrees and 32 degrees, respectively. Over North and Central Florida temperatures were even lower, but not all areas had all-time record lows. Temperatures reached modern day record lows of 10 degrees at Pensacola and 20 degrees at Orlando.

A U. S. Department of Agriculture report said the following crop loss: Citrus 35%, Vegetables 95-100%, Commercial Flowers 50-75%, Permanent Pasture Land 50%, Sugar Cane 40% In addition, there was a severe loss to the tropical fish industry. It is estimated the freeze cost the Florida economy \$2 billion (1977) dollars.

19 1978 - Afternoon - Florida Peninsula - Severe weather outbreak. Five tornadoes and 17 severe thunderstorms were reported from Jacksonville to Orlando and Tampa to Miami. Widespread minor property damage, but no serious injuries.

19 thru **20** 1991 - Severe thunderstorm outbreak - Strong thunderstorms with a cold front moved through north and central Florida. Many mobile homes were damaged, trees and power lines were downed. At Tampa Bay Downs, a barn was damaged, two horses suffered injuries and had to be destroyed. Widespread Roof and screen damage. Five injuries reported.

20 1941 - morning - A killing frost spread to south central Florida.

20-21 1971 - statewide - Severe Freeze with low temperatures of 11 degrees at Tallahassee, 19 at Gainesville, 24 at Ocala and 28 at Orlando.

20 1983 - Midnight - late PM - Windstorm - A strong low pressure system developed in the western Gulf of Mexico and moved rapidly eastward during the night of the 19th and the morning of the 20th. As the Gulf low deepened and moved east, a very strong pressure gradient developed between high pressure to the north.

Strong winds hit the western Panhandle at the time of high tide early on the 20th, causing widespread coastal flooding that receded rapidly as the winds subsided. Schools in Gulf and Franklin Counties were closed due to the high winds and flooding.

A yacht race from Fort Lauderdale to Key West was severely disrupted by winds gusting to 70 knots and seas higher than 20 feet offshore. Many of the 169 vessels entered in the race turned back to shore, and the Coast Guard helped up to 30 vessels back to harbor, including aerial rescue of several crew members.

A woman was killed when her car was apparently blown into a guard rail on the Florida Turnpike in Broward County and flipped over. Another fatality occurred when a car skidded on wet pavement and hit a pedestrian. Most of the reported injuries were minor and were the result of automobile accidents on rain slick streets. Minor wind damage was reported across the state and was the result of trees crashing into power lines, trailer homes, windows, etc. High waves and beach erosion also damaged homes, businesses, and piers along beachfront areas.

21 1957 - all day - Broward/Palm Beach Counties - Rain and Hail - Storm effected important winter vegetable areas of these two counties. Although area of destruction limited, many observers reported 6 to 9 inches of rainfall in several hours. Several points reported rainfalls of near 21 inches in less than 24 hours, 1 report of 15 inches in five hours. Rainfall caused flooding of several truck crop fields; water completely covered some mature and growing crops. Much replanting required. Most water removed from fields by pumping, but not until considerable damage done. Quality of produce from fields pumped considerably reduced. Sunny and abnormally warm weather following storm conducive to development of disease and further general lowering of crop quality. Hail accompanying this localized storm activity caused crop damage of \$1,000,000.

21-23 1985 - Statewide - Severe Cold - Florida was covered by an outbreak of cold air. Temperatures ranged from four to 20 in north Florida, 17 to 25 in central Florida, and 20 to 30 in south Florida. Six people died of hypothermia, nine others died of fires associated with space heaters. One fifth of citrus crops, two-thirds of vegetable crops, and one third of grazing pastures were lost.

21 1988 - 1045-1050 - Lake Co. - Severe Thunderstorm winds flipped over an airplane in Leesburg. At Umatilla high wind overturned four trailers causing five injuries. 27 trailers were damaged. 1115 - Volusia Co. - Tornado struck Ormond Beach destroying a home and downing trees and powerlines. Three people were injured at a lumber company.

21-22 1989 - Brevard, Volusia, Flagler, St. Johns and Indian River Counties - High Winds - A gale center that exhibited subtropical storm characteristics formed in the coastal waters east of Canaveral then moved slowly northeast. Sustained winds of 40 to 50 mph with gusts near 75 mph downed many trees, signs and power lines, and caused window and roof damage to several homes. High waves caused moderate beach erosion. Tens of thousands of homes were without electric power for up to 12 hours. Rainfall amounts of 4" to 6" caused ponding of water in low-lying areas, which damaged several homes and motels and caused many traffic accidents.

22 1973 - 1630 - Polk Co. - Tornadoes touched down in Lakeland and Lithia, destroying four trailers and injuring eight people.

23 1956 - afternoon-evening - north and central Florida - Severe Thunderstorm winds knocked down many trees, some landed on cars and buildings. A tree uprooted on a car injured one person. Two other people were injured by lightning.

24 1948 - 0315 - Manatee Co. - A tornado unroofed homes on Anna Maria Key and a packing house on the mainland.

24 1979 - Early Morning - Tornado outbreak in central Florida. Six tornadoes struck from near Palatka to Venice as a strong, fast-moving cold front swept across central Florida. Widespread minor property damage, but only one injury reported in a mobile home in Desoto Co.

24 1993 - 1230 - Gulf Co., Port St. Joe - A small tornado touched down in an open field, then overturned a mobile home. Two people in the mobile home suffered cuts and bruises.

25-29 1940 - statewide - Severe Freeze with low temperatures of 14 degrees at Gainesville, 15 at Ocala, 21 at Avon Park, and 20 at Bartow reported.

25 1975 - 1200 - 1220 - Suwannee Co. A small tornado unroofed a service station in Branford and moved on to Wellborn, where more roof damage occurred.

26-27 1905 - statewide - Severe Freeze with low temperatures of 17 degrees reported at Tallahassee, 16 at Gainesville, 17 at Ocala, 21 at Orlando, and 22 at Avon Park.

27-28 1986 - Statewide - A cold outbreak over Florida was preceded by strong, gusty winds on the 27th. A three year old girl was killed on I-95 near Palm Beach Gardens when the wind broke loose a sign and

hurled it into the car on the 27th. Temperatures dipped into the 20s over much of north and central Florida on the morning of the 28th. Melbourne and Orlando reported 26 degrees and Daytona Beach 22. Space Shuttle "Challenger" exploded on the morning of the 28th.

28 1973 - Afternoon - Central Florida - Tornadoes touched down in Polk, Orange, Osceola, and Brevard Counties. In Orlando hundreds were left homeless and 16 people were injured by a tornado crossing the southwest side of the city. Another tornado ripped off the beacon tower at the Titusville Airport and damaged many signs. A tornado near Dade City injured a man in a mobile home. Another Tornado struck the Ixora Park area of Northwest Osceola Co. damaging 300 homes injuring seven people.

29 1983 - 2215 - Bay Co., Panama City Beach - a waterspout/tornado moved onshore traveling 3/4 mile and demolishing 47 mobile homes, overturning 25 boats, damaging roofs, and downing power lines. No serious injuries.

30 1974 - 0200 - Gadsden Co., Hinson-Concord - A tornado touched down near Hinson and as it moved toward Concord, it uprooted trees, then destroyed a summer home and large double mobile home before finally damaging the Concordia Baptist Church in Concord. There were three injuries and 1 death.

31 1953 - 1900 - Lake City - Hail - Heavy hail damaged tobacco beds and was a traffic hazard on U. S. Highway 41 for some time.

31 1966 - Statewide - Cold Outbreak. Arctic high pressure behind a strong cold front brought record cold to much of Florida on 30th and 31st. Record lows were set at dozens of locations, including 11 at Tallahassee, 17 degrees at Gainesville, 22 at Ocala, 24 at Orlando, 29 at St. Petersburg, 8 at Defuniak Springs, 9 at Chipley and Quincy, and 21 at Palatka. This January freeze is exceeded only by the great freeze of 1977 in extent and intensity.