



Heavy Rainfall Floods Florida

Fact Sheet

Event date: September 26-27, 1997

Summary of event: Thirty hour rainfall totals of 8 to 14 inches caused flooding of roads, highways, homes, commercial buildings, low-lying areas and rivers over much of Pinellas and Hillsborough counties. In St. Petersburg, a 13 year old female was swept into a storm drain while playing in floodwaters at a city park on 36th Avenue N. and Eighth Street at 7 pm EST. She was dragged into raging waters underground for 2 blocks before she emerged and was rescued by firefighters. In St. Petersburg, floodwaters carried a 23 year old woman twelve blocks underground in a drain before she was dumped into a retention pond with only minor injuries around 3 pm EST. Another female was playing at Booker Creek under a wooden bridge with two children when she lost her footing and was carried off by the fast moving flood waters. The heaviest rainfall and subsequent flooding occurred over the cities of Gulfport, Pinellas Park and St. Petersburg in southern Pinellas County. In Hillsborough County, the heaviest rainfall and subsequent flooding occurred from Plant City and Brandon south to Ruskin and Sun City over eastern and southern portions of Hillsborough County. Heavy rains caused flooding of 70 to 80 homes along a one mile strip of the Anclote River near Elfers in Pasco County where 8 to 9 inches of rain with isolated amounts of up to 14 inches fell in less than 12 hours. In Hillsborough County, 8 homes in north Tampa lost electrical power due to the floodwaters caused by heavy rain of up to 7 inches in less than 12 hours. The Withlacoochee River rose to 15.8 feet on the 31st, which caused 29 homes and 60 properties along the river to flood. Flood stage for the Withlacoochee River at Trilby was 12 feet. Eight homes from Trilby to Lacochee were destroyed and 20 more homes were damaged by floodwaters.

Acknowledgements: National Climatic Data Center Storm Events.