

FLORIDA HAZARDOUS WEATHER BY DAY (to 1994)

MARCH

1 1980 - 2050 - Broward Co., Ft. Lauderdale, Oakland Park, Pompano Beach - A tornado damaged apartments, businesses, schools, and homes. A woman was blown off her 6th floor balcony and killed. A fishing boat was found hanging from the power lines. Thirty-three injuries.

1-2 1994 - Okaloosa, Walton, Bay, Leon Counties - Thunderstorms produced rainfall of five to 8 inches over the Florida panhandle. The 8.22 inches at Tallahassee was the sixth highest 24-hour total in the city's history. The rain caused widespread street and small stream flooding with damage to cars, mobile homes and a school. Four vehicles in Tallahassee were swept off roads, but no one was injured.

2 1941 - morning - Freezing temperatures spread into south central Florida.

2 1972 - 1230 - Jackson Co., Mariana - Thunderstorm winds capsized a boat and two men drowned. Tornadoes also struck Pensacola, Jay, and Port St. Joe.

2 1994 - morning-afternoon - central and south Florida - Severe thunderstorms ahead of a strong low pressure system and cold front spread over the peninsula. Tornadoes were reported in Polk, Charlotte, Collier, Broward, and Monroe Counties. Severe thunderstorm winds were reported in Sarasota, Pinellas, Polk, Volusia, Highlands, St. Lucie, Dade, and Duval Counties. The tornadoes were weak and thunderstorm wind gusts were in the 55 to 65 mph range. As a result there was no widespread property damage. The only injuries occurred in Collier Co. when a weak tornado rolled an unanchored mobile home injuring a man and woman inside. The woman was hospitalized.

3 1960 - 0530 - Lake/Orange Co. - Tornado hit 10 homes in Orange Co. 1 small home was leveled and four people injured near Groveland.

3 1962 - Palm Beach Co., Boynton Beach - Wind driven waves washed 1 man off a fishing vessel and he drowned.

3 - Outbreaks of four or more tornadoes have struck the Florida Peninsula on March 3rd in 1971, 1978, and 1991, more than any other day.

3 1971 - Afternoon - West Central Florida - Tornado Outbreak - Severe thunderstorms and seven tornadoes touched down from Ft. Myers and Sarasota to Tampa to Gainesville as a squall line crossed central Florida. Only 1 injury directly resulted from storms. A man drowned when his boat capsized in high winds.

3 1978 - Afternoon - Central and South Florida - Tornado outbreak - five tornadoes and 13 severe thunderstorms were reported from Tampa and Ft. Myers to West Palm Beach and Miami as a squall line crossed the peninsula ahead of a fast-moving cold front. Despite widespread minor property damage, only 1 injury was reported at Belle Glade.

3 1991 - Morning to Afternoon - Statewide - Severe Weather Outbreak. Many severe thunderstorms and at least eight tornadoes struck from Apalachicola to West Palm Beach as an intense squall line ahead of a cold front swept across the State. Thirty-four severe storm reports were received, but property damage was minor. This outbreak is noteworthy because the only injury was caused by 2.5" hail that crashed through the window of a car, knocking the driver unconscious in Volusia County at Ormond by the Sea. This is believed to be the only serious injury from hail in Florida since 1959.

4 1972 - 1459 - Broward Co., Ft. Lauderdale - Tornado damaged about 134 homes in the Pembroke Pines retirement area injuring six.

5 1970 - 1232 - Brevard Co., Titusville - Tornado ripped through two subdivisions, damaging about 35 homes injuring seven.

6 1954 - morning - northern Florida - Snow - Accumulated depths: - Milton 4 inches; Niceville 3 inches; Pensacola 2 inches; Caryville 1 inch. Southern and eastern limits of reports of snow or sleet were Panama City, Live Oak, and Jacksonville.

6 1982 - afternoon - Pinellas, Dade, Highlands Co. - A tornado moved through St. Petersburg, overturning four airplanes, damaging others, causing roof damage and downing power lines. A tornado in Miami damaged 100 homes, cars, and miles of power lines. A tornado in Sebring damaged 10 homes.

6 1992 - Early Evening - Central Florida - Hail up to 1.75" covered the ground up to a foot deep in southwest Seminole County. 1.75" hail fell in Lake County and 1.25" hail fell in Orange County. Severe Thunderstorm winds caused damage in Orange, Seminole, Brevard, and Indian River Counties. Damage ran into the millions, but there were no serious injuries.

7-9 - 1962 - Florida East Coast - Beach Erosion - Large waves generated by winds of an intense Atlantic storm pounded beaches along entire east Florida coast during three day period. Tides along the coast at time of high tide ranged two to 3 feet above normal. Superimposed wave action caused considerable erosion and several beach roads and properties were inundated. Greatest damages occurred between Melbourne and Miami Beach. One death in Miami Beach occurred while fighting an electrical fire caused when rising waters created a short circuit. Nearly all damages resulted from heavy ground swells rather than high tides.

8 1991 - 1719 - St. Johns Co., St. Augustine - Severe thunderstorm wind Gusts to 58 mph north of St. Augustine. Radio antenna and large oak tree downed.

9 1973 - 0020- Marion Co., Belleview - A tornado skipped through Belleview and Lake George, damaging 17 homes and destroying one. Six injuries reported.

10 1991 - 1030 - Seminole Co., Geneva - High winds capsized a 15 ft boat on Lake Harney, two men drowned, 1 was rescued.

10-11 1996 - Nassau, Duval, St. Johns and Flagler Counties - Winter Storm - A strong Nor'easter with winds of 50 to 60 mph caused damage from Amelia Island to Flagler beach. At Amelia Island, 6 to 12 feet of beach was lost on the island's south end. Atlantic Beach - between one-third and one-half of the

sand added during the previous summer's beach re-nourishment project was washed away. St. Augustine Beach - about half of the beach re-nourishment project south of city hall was wiped out. Flagler Beach - about 100 feet of the 840-foot pier was lost. Estimated property damage was over \$1 million dollars.

11 1944 - 2030 - Polk Co., Agricola - Tornado destroyed a large barn and unroofed a house. 2100 - Polk Co., Welcome - Tornado unroofed two large houses and destroyed a small one.

12 1951 - afternoon-evening - Sarasota Co., Nokomis - Waterspout/Tornado moved in from the Gulf of Mexico damaging seven homes and eight buildings. Other Waterspouts were reported off Clearwater and severe thunderstorm winds caused minor damage in Tampa area.

12-13 1993 - 2200-1430 - All Florida - Tornados, Thunderstorm Winds, Hail, High Winds, Storm Surge, Flood, Beach Erosion, Snow - The "Storm Of The Century" or "SuperStorm" roared across Florida producing a variety of severe and unusual weather conditions for about 18 hours from late Friday the 12th through late afternoon Saturday the 13th. A severe squall line raced eastward at over 50 mph ahead of an intense low producing several tornadoes and strong downbursts as it moved through the state and directly caused seven fatalities. This was followed by an unprecedented (for the Gulf Coast) winter storm surge of nine to 12 feet in Taylor County, with storm surges and/or tidal and wind driven flooding of five to 9 feet elsewhere along the Gulf Coast to the Keys. This was followed by a period of eight to 12 hours of high sustained winds of up to 50 mph with gusts to 70 mph, keeping tides much above normal along the west coast and causing severe beach erosion in many areas. As colder air poured in behind the intense low up to four inches of snow fell in the panhandle from north of Pensacola to Crestview, and a trace to 3 inches of snow fell elsewhere across north Florida. Record or near record low temperatures occurred over much of the state the following two nights. Total number of fatalities from the storm was 47, including 14 from storm surge and flooding, seven from tornadoes and/or strong downbursts, and four from high winds in the aftermath of the squall line. Eleven people drowned offshore in the Gulf of Mexico after strong winds swamped or capsized ships (including seven crewmen from a 200-ft Honduran freighter). Eleven others died during rescue operations and cleanup activities. Total property damage was estimated at \$1.6 billion. Details follow:

12 1993 - 2338 - Levy Co., Chiefland - A tornado struck a home in which four people were asleep, pinning two of them under a fallen wall and suffocating them. Two others were injured. A nearby mobile home was destroyed killing its elderly occupant. The tornado went on to destroy or damage other mobile homes injuring five more people, and knocking down trees and power lines.

13 1971 - afternoon - Clay Co., Starke - Lightning killed a 50 yr. old woman fishing on a boat.

13 1993 - Manatee County, Terra Ceia Bay - Thunderstorm winds -A man who lived on a houseboat drowned while apparently attempting to evacuate the boat in strong winds.

13 1993 - 0020 - Alachua Co., LaCrosse - A tornado destroyed a mobile home killing 1 person and injuring four others. Trees and power lines down. A few houses destroyed, one by propane explosion.

13 1993 - 0030 - Lake County, Mt. Dora - Tornado - A small fast-moving tornado touched down near Howey-in-the-Hills and moved northeast striking Mt. Dora and continued northeast until dissipating in Volusia County. A 5-month old baby boy was killed in a mobile home 10 miles northeast of Mt. Dora at

0050 EST. The mobile home was destroyed and two adults in it were seriously injured. In all 13 homes were destroyed, 80 suffered major damage and 266 reported minor damage.

13 1993 - 0405 - Pinellas County, Clearwater - High Winds - Winds to 61 mph were recorded at the Clearwater Pass Bridge. Two boaters in a sailboat were drowned when they apparently were pushed into the bridge pilings and capsized.

13 1993 - Citrus County, N. Homosassa - High Winds - Two males were apparently washed overboard from a fishing boat and drowned. Their bodies were recovered a week later.

13 1993 - 0420 - Taylor County, Coastal Areas - Storm Surge - A 10 - to 12-foot storm surge moved into the coast destroying 57 homes. Ten people were killed, nine at Dekle Beach and one at Keaton Beach.

13 1993 - 0452 - Dade County, Narrowrowanja - Thunderstorm Winds overturned a mobile home, killing one person and injuring another.

13 1993 - 0530 - Hernando County, Aripeka to Hernando Beach - Flood - Flood waters about nine feet deep inundated the coastal area with most residents in water chest deep. One person suffered a heart attack and died attempting to evacuate out of the flooded area. 61 homes were destroyed, 3,300 damaged, and 100 people evacuated.

13 1993 - 0530 - Pasco County, Hudson to Aripeka - Flood - Water at least 9 feet deep flooded homes and businesses. An elderly woman drowned in her home.

13 1993 - 0545 - Levy County, Cedar Key - Storm Surge - A 9.5 foot storm surge was reported and 120 homes were flooded. An elderly male died while attempting to evacuate the flood.

13 1993 - 0600 - Pinellas County, Honeymoon Island - High Winds - A 38-ft fishing vessel was swamped by 20-30 foot seas seven miles west of the coast. One crew member drowned and the other was rescued by the Coast Guard.

13 1993 - 1035 - Broward County, Davie - High Winds uprooted a tree that struck and killed a person.

13 1993 - 1134 - Broward County, Pompano Beach - High Winds caused a building to collapse, killing a motorcyclist who was standing near it.

14 1986 - 0400 thru 1445 - North and Central Florida - Severe Weather Outbreak - A squall line moved across North Central Florida producing at least nine tornadoes and many severe thunderstorms. In Gainesville, a tornado threw a pickup truck 100 ft - two stores were unroofed and gutted and seven others damaged. A wind gust of 85 mph reported in Taylor Co. A tornado in Orange Lake downed power poles and pine trees, and a large tree was blown over and destroyed a mobile home roof in Putnam Co. A tornado in Astor Park damaged several mobile homes. High winds blew the roof off a large equipment shed in St. Johns Co. A gust of 63 mph was reported at Daytona Beach airport. A tornado at Palm Coast damaged the roof of a shopping center and downed several power lines. A tornado in Belleview damaged a 3-car garage and barn. A tornado in Deltona destroyed utility sheds and

carports, uprooted trees, and damaged roofs in a nine-block area. A 27 year old man was injured in Hillsborough Co. while working on a roof when lightning hit the roof.

14 1993 - 1000 - Highlands County, Lake Charles - A Waterspout picked up a 16-ft boat and overturned it, spilling the two boaters into the water. One drowned, and the other was rescued two hours later.

15 - 18 1960 - north and central Florida - Citrus, Marion, Lake, Seminole, Brevard, Orange, Osceola, Polk, Sumter, Hernando, Pasco and Hillsborough Counties - Heavy Rain and Flood - Generally more than 10 inches of rain fell on a large section of central Florida during this 4-day period and the area of Pasco, Hernando, most of Sumter and the northern portion of Hillsborough counties received close to 15 inches of rain. Many points reported hail, high wind and tornadoes at some point during the period. Resulting high water and river overflow wreaked havoc on roads, bridges and agricultural crops. River overflow and/or accumulated waters in poorly drained areas forced many residents from their homes in several effected counties. Flood on the Hillsborough River considered worst since September 1933. Total storm damage, including that of hail, wind, tornadoes, flood and other causes estimated near \$20 million, half of which was sustained by agriculture.

16 1986 - 0850 - Hillsborough Co.- Thunderstorm winds blew over a trailer and killed a man. Hail damaged vegetable crops.

17 1928 - 0010 - Lake/Orange Cos.- Tornado moved from Lake Jem to Mt. Dora. A woman was killed when she was thrown from her disintegrating home.

17 1960 - Afternoon - Polk County, Haines City - Lightning killed one person.

17 1973 - early morning - Central Florida - Tornado Outbreak - Five tornadoes struck from Pinellas Co. to Brevard Co. as a squall line ahead of a fast moving cold front swept across the Florida Peninsula. Tornadoes struck near Treasure Island, Zephyrhills, Winter Haven, Haines City, and Sharpes. Three injuries were reported.

17 1985 - 0430 - Sarasota Co., Venice - A tornado destroyed 55 CBS houses and caused major damage to 150 houses, minor damage to 100 houses. A 65 year old woman was killed inside a camper. A 66 year old man was killed standing on his front porch. 45 people injured.

17 1995 - 0430 - Volusia Co., Daytona Beach - A Canadian tourist who had been swimming with two friends drowned in a rip current behind the La Playa Cocktail Lounge.

18 1960 - Hillsborough Co. - All time record flood crest on Hillsborough River near Zephyrhills.

18 1975 - 2140 - St. Johns Co., St. Augustine - Tornado unroofed houses, damaged a school, trailers, and an auto showroom.

18 1991 - 1014 - Polk Co., Lakeland - A tornado touched down three times. Thirteen mobile homes destroyed, 85 mobile homes damaged, 190 houses and apartments, telephone, power lines, and trees downed. Two injuries.

19 1965 - 1800 - Gadsden Co.- Three-quarter inch hail fell, damaging tobacco shades. Hail covered ground three to 4 inches deep in spots.

19 1981 - 0045 - Orange Co., Orlando - A tornado destroyed 12 houses, damaged 35 more, and destroyed two mobile - injuring one. 0200 - Osceola Co., St. Cloud - A tornado destroyed four mobile homes, damaged several others, and destroyed a house. Eleven injuries.

20 1929 - Jackson & Gadsden Counties - All time record flood crest (79.6') on the Apalachicola River at Chattahoochee, near the present day site of Woodruff Dam.

20 1964 - 0550 - Pinellas Co., St. Petersburg - Tornado damaged and unroofed 20 homes.

20 1984 - 1000 - Bay Co., Panama City - High winds destroyed a motel roof, blew down trees, utility poles, destroyed four townhouses under construction. Twenty car windows were broken.

21 1929 - Calhoun and Liberty Counties - All time record flood crest (28.6') on the Apalachicola River at Blountstown.

21 1950 - Bay Co. - Hail up to 2 1/2 inches in diameter struck the Panama City area. At Tyndall AFB hailstones ripped through airplane wings, smashed windows and heavily damaged cars. Several people suffered minor injuries. Damage was estimated at two million dollars.

21 1993 - 1400 - Indian River Co., Vero Beach - Flash flooding damaged about 50 homes and many roads around Hwy 60 were washed out.

22 1957 - 1600-1700 - Polk Co., near Waverly - Hailstones of golf-ball size hit citrus groves in 2-square-mile area, stripping trees of foliage and knocking large amounts of fruit from trees. Many oranges split open, some grapefruit completely penetrated by hail but left hanging on trees.

22 1968 - 1140 - Okaloosa Co., Destin - A tornado damaged a museum, motel, and three cars. Minor damage at Destin Airport.

23 1984 - 0830 - Hendry Co., Labelle - Lightning struck two men under a piece of equipment, killing one.

24 1983 - Morning - Central-South Florida - Severe Weather Outbreak - A strong squall line moved across peninsular Florida, producing tornadoes in Winter Haven, Polk Co., Kenansville, Osceola Co., Cocoa Beach, Merritt Island, and Melbourne in Brevard Co. Severe thunderstorm winds and hail struck Citrus, Hardee, Hernando, Pasco, Hillsborough, Pinellas, Broward, and Dade Counties. Two injuries were reported.

25 1909 - 0700 - Polk Co., Kathleen - Tornado killed a person in one of 8 homes destroyed.

25 1955 - afternoon - central Florida - Large Hail caused heavy roof damage to homes and barns in Sumter County. Large hail also fell in Pasco, Hernando, Polk, and Indian River Counties. Hail of lesser size was reported in Lake and Brevard counties.

25 1973 - 1600 - Sarasota Co., Casey Key - Lightning killed a 19 year old surfer standing near the water's edge.

25 1992 - Evening - Central Florida - Hailstorm - The worst hailstorm in Florida history struck the Orlando area just three weeks after one of the worst hailstorms in Central Florida history (see 3/6/92). Hail up to baseball size hit the University of Central Florida (UCF) and the vast greenhouse areas in western Orange County, crippling the nursery industry in the area. Damage was estimated at 60 - 100 million dollars. Smaller hail also fell in North Florida and as far South as Miami. Thunderstorm winds destroyed a citrus packing plant near Groveland in Lake County, injuring eight. The largest official hailstone recorded was 3.00" at the UCF - the third largest Florida hailstone on record, but residents reported larger hail that melted. While it will remain debatable whether the largest hail of all time fell in this storm (that distinction - 4 1/2"- belongs with the 3/30/95 Polk Co. hailstorm), it was clearly the costliest hailstorm in Florida history.

26 1964 - afternoon - Duval Co., Jacksonville - Wind and lightning caused a limb to fall, killing a man working in the yard. Lightning struck a jetliner on the ground at airport and injured three employees.

27 1946 - 1300 - Suwannee Co., Houston - Tornado destroyed some barns and unroofed a school.

28 1955 - One inch of snow fell in northwest Florida. This is the latest date of measureable snow on record.

28-31 - 1972 Statewide - Extended Severe Weather - A series of squall lines starting on the 28th preceded a cold frontal passage on the 31st. Thunderstorms with high winds, hail, heavy rains, and tornadoes were reported. Damage totals were in the millions. Rainfall averaged 2" to 4" during this time, with many individual stations reporting over 5". Details are reported below.

28 1972 - afternoon - Panhandle/northwest Florida - Severe Weather Outbreak - A severe squall line spawned eight tornadoes and many severe thunderstorms as it moved across north Florida. Tornadoes were reported in Altha, Milton, Tallahassee, Starke, near St. Augustine, and at Keystone Heights in Clay Co. 20 people were injured in Gainesville when thunderstorm winds collapsed a circus tent. Lightning injured several people and started several fires.

29 1972 - Afternoon-Evening - Panhandle/north Florida - Severe Weather hit area for second straight day. Several tornadoes and severe thunderstorms reported from Pensacola and Panama City to Jacksonville. A report of hailstones up to 3 1/2" that did considerable damage in the Freeport, Walton Co. area is the second largest on record for the State of Florida.

28-29 1982 - Martin & Palm Beach Cos. - Coastal storm - Very heavy rains and high winds struck the Florida Gold Coast around the Palm Beach area. Lantana, a suburb of Palm Beach, measured 16 inches of rain in 24 hours. High seas sunk a Haitian freighter and drowned 11 people. Two other people were killed because of the storm. Hundreds of homes and cars were flooded. The Lake Worth Pier sustained heavy damage.

29 1990 - 1545 - north Lake Co. - Thunderstorm winds downed trees and power lines. A 72 year old man drowned while docking his boat in high winds.

30 1939 - 2210 - Duval Co., Jacksonville - Deadliest northeast Florida tornado - killed four workers at a turpentine plant. Ten small homes were destroyed. A roof was carried for 2 miles.

30 1974 - 0200 - Gadsden Co. - A tornado struck near Hinson uprooting trees, destroying a home, large double mobile home, and damaging the Concordia Church - injuring four. A woman died of injuries several days later.

30 1990 - 1400 - Duval Co., Jacksonville - Lightning killed a construction worker on a loading dock roof.

30 1996 - Afternoon - evening - Central Florida - Severe Weather Outbreak - Tornadoes were documented in Hernando, Sumter, Lake, Polk, and Brevard counties. In Brevard County, a waterspout /tornado touched down in Merritt Island and Cape Canaveral, tearing out windows and damaging roofs on six homes, destroying a small building on a used car lot, and damaging the roof of a night club and a dive shop. 25 other buildings in the area received minor damage. Windows were blown out of 30 vehicles. Damage estimates were near \$500,000. Hail, most the size of baseballs, severely damaged the roofs, knocked out windows in nearly 600 homes, and severely damaged 3,000 vehicles in Lake Wales, Polk County. Softball size hail (4.50-inch) also occurred in Lake Wales, which set a new record as the largest documented hail for the state of Florida. Hail accumulated to a depth of one foot in Bartow. Golf ball size hail (1.75-inch) fell in Hillsborough, Lake, Orange, Seminole, Brevard, Osceola and Martin counties. An 86 mph wind gust at Bartow Municipal Airport caused window and roof damage to the FAA tower, severely damaged roofs and doors of two businesses at the airport, and overturned and demolished five mobile homes on wheels at a mobile home plant on airport property. Winds blew down trees in Chuluota, Seminole County, in Mulberry, Polk County, and damaged a van and injured one person in Ocoee, Orange County. Total property damage was estimated at \$28 million dollars, with the storm producing the record size hail causing the majority of the damage at nearly \$25 million dollars.

31 1931 - 1030 - Polk Co., Mulberry - Tornado damaged or destroyed 20 small homes and unroofed 1 large home, injuring nine.

31 1933 -2030 - Escambia/Santa Rosa Counties - Tornado moved northeast from Pensacola and destroyed three small homes. Five injuries were in a home thrown into a tree.

31 1939 - 0730 - Volusia Co., Daytona Beach - Tornado unroofed a house injuring three, then moved out to sea.

31 1949 - 0930 - Okaloosa Co., Niceville - Tornado destroyed a home, injuring one person, then unroofed another home. Trees were uprooted and twisted off.

31 1962 - 0900 - Santa Rosa Co. - Tornado - one of the deadliest in Florida History, struck northeast of Milton, destroying 75 small homes. Trailers and cars were thrown several 100 ft. About 200 other homes and buildings were damaged. About 80 injuries required treatment. A mother and three young children were killed in their home. At least 10 homes had a single death. Total deaths - 17. Tornadoes were also reported in Okaloosa and Escambia Counties in the morning and Bay County in the afternoon.

31 1972 - morning - afternoon - Central Florida - Severe Weather Outbreak. At least 10 tornadoes, and many high wind reports were received as a squall line crossed the Peninsula. Tornadoes were reported in Brooksville, Plymouth, Apopka, Longwood, N. Orlando, Tampa, Allenhurst (Brevard Co.), Kennedy Space Center, Brandon, and Loxahatchee. Pinellas Co. and Tampa were hardest hit with several hundred homes damaged and six injured.

31 1994 - 1750 - Volusia Co., Ormond Beach - Strong winds produced rip currents that drowned a boy visiting from Louisiana.

31 1996 - Afternoon - early evening - North central to southeast Florida - Severe weather hit for the second day in a row. A small tornado blew down a few trees on S. R. 60 west of Vero Beach. Baseball to softball size hail was reported near Fellsmere, while dime to golf ball size hail occurred from Levy to Dade county, causing over a quarter million dollars damage to property and crops. Lightning struck and injured a man on Miami Beach. In Levy County, two large pine trees were snapped at the base and downed at Cedar Key.