

Cold Front Dumps Heavy Rains

Fact Sheet

Event date: February 3-4, 2006



Figure 1. 24 - hour precipitation accumulation estimated by radar for February 3, 2006 at 7 AM to February 4, 2006 at 7 AM.

Summary of event:

A prefrontal convective band propagated southward along Florida's west coast becoming stationary over the Tampa Bay area and dumping an astounding 200 mm over the state in five hours. Approximately 150 - 200 homes, mostly uninsured mobile homes, were inundated with water at least over the floor. The hardest hit areas were Lealman, Pinellas Park, Largo, and St. Petersburg. The combination of tropical moisture flowing into a line of thunderstorms with an approaching upper level disturbance, along with smaller scale features, allowed a train of intense thunderstorms to repeatedly hammer portions of the Tampa Bay area on February 3, 2006. Parts of Pinellas County received 10 - 12 inches of rain in just 24 hours. Between 8 and 11 inches of rain fell from Pinellas Park northward to west Tampa, including Tampa International Airport in just 5 hours. The



torrential rains caused flash flooding which prompted the mayor of St. Petersburg to term the event a “hundred year” flood. In Lealman, an entire mobile home community was evacuated, and at least 69 of the homes were flooded. Several roofs collapsed, and hundreds of vehicles were stranded by the flood waters.

Acknowledgements: National Climatic Data Center Storm Events.

Links for more information:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/images/tbw/2006/FebruaryFlashFloodDrenchesTampaBay.pdf>.

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/tbw/?n=tampabayweathersummary-event#>.