



## Tornado Hits Apopka

### Fact Sheet

- Date: January 13, 1918
- Time: 700 pm
- Estimated Tornado Intensity: F2
- Estimated Maximum Wind: 113-157 mph
- Tornado Width (Yards): 300
- Path Length (Miles): Unknown
- Deaths: 0
- Injuries: 10
- Damage Amount: \$125,000
- Number of Homes Damages: 35 homes
- County: Apopka

**STORM LOSS AT APOPKA  
\$125,000; "TWISTER"  
CUTS DEFINITE PATH**

St Petersburg Times

***Unparalleled Fury***

St. Petersburg Times

# NOAA AND THE PRESERVE

# AMERICA

# *Initiative*



No structures were standing in this community in Apopka after a tornado sweep through it.

## **Summary of event:**

On January 12, 1918 Apopka, Florida became the destination of a tornado that destroyed the area with an estimated \$125,000 in damage. It came from the Southwest and made its track through the center of Apopka. Along with the storm came a freeze as well. A low pressure system containing a strong cold front swept the country with a strong high pressure system following closely behind. This caused freezes throughout the country and strong winds. Apopka was visited by these freezing temperatures as well as tornadoes, heavy rain, and the strong winds.

**Except for a very heavy wind and rain of a half hour's duration, Winter Park was not affected by the tornado that struck her neighboring community – Apopka. This first tornado to make its appearance in Orange County seemed to have had all the earmarks of a genuine Kansas “twister” with the usual number of freakish incidents. That no life was lost is remarkable and although we deplore the estimated loss of \$125,000 in property we rejoice that death at least was cheated and that no lives were sacrificed.** (<http://www.wtpl.org/wphistory/newspapers/1918/01-17-1918.pdf>).



### Detailed experience:

This fierce tornado not only destroyed several buildings in the city but it also demolished a school and train tracks. The tornado was so powerful it picked up a couple of the train cars and moved them.

This little city is getting its bearings again after the destructive tornado which struck it Friday night, wrecking about a dozen business and a number of residences, and causing damage estimated at \$125,000.

The more seriously injured, Mrs. Roy White and her baby, who were caught under falling timbers of the White residence and suffered from exposure to the cold rain before being taken out, are not so severely hurt as was at first supposed, and will recover.

The tornado was preceded by a severe electrical and thunder storm, which commenced about 7p.m. and lasted until midnight. The tornado came up from the south. It was a "twister" and its path is a line of destruction. Everything in the track of the storm went down. Buildings were demolished and railway cars blown into ditches. Among the houses destroyed were the White residence, the Seaboard depot, Eldridge livery stable, Miss Howard's residence, Judge Weatherbeo's residence, the school house, B.F. Wilson's store and home, and many other buildings. Some can be repaired. That there was no loss of life is considered marvelous. (Tampa Tribune, January 13<sup>th</sup>, front page).

## STORM WARNINGS

St. Petersburg Times

Damage at Apopka,  
Fl.--High Tide at Pass-  
a-Grille Destructive

St. Petersburg Times

NOAA AND THE PRESERVE

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A school flipped on its side from a tornado.



were 14 below.

**TORNADO SWEEPS APOPKA.**

Orlando, Jan. 12.—Shortly after 7 o'clock last night Apopka, located about 15 miles northwest of Orlando, was visited by a fierce tornado, which swept from the southwest, the path of which passed through the center of the city, demolishing about 35 homes and several business places.

The path of the tornado was about 200 feet wide and could be easily traced through the country. Four freight cars standing upon the S. A. L. tracks were wrecked, two of which were picked up from their trucks and carried several feet. This prevented any rail service above this point today. Wrecking crews are repairing the damaged tracks.

The S. A. L. depot was completely demolished, as was the public school. In many of the homes destroyed several of the occupants were severely hurt though none fatally. The loss will run to \$100,000 or more. Apopka seems to be the only city damaged in this locality, Zellwood, Forrest City, Sanford and DeLand all reporting nothing more than high winds for this season of the year.

**STORM LOSS AT APOPKA \$125,000; "TWISTER" CUTS DEFINITE PATH**

**LEAVES BROAD TRAIL OF RUIN IN LITTLE ORANGE COUNTY CITY**

**Only Few Injured and Injuries Not Serious—Orlando Raising Relief Fund**

**A**POPKA, Jan. 12.—(Special)—This little city is getting its bearings again after the destructive tornado which struck it Friday night, wrecking about a dozen business houses and a number of residences, and causing damage estimated at \$125,000.

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That there was no loss of life is considered marvelous.

**ORLANDO RAISES RELIEF FUND**

Two Thousand Dollars Pledged There to Aid Stricken Town  
 (ORLANDO, Jan. 12.—(Special)—Two thousand dollars had been pledged.  
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