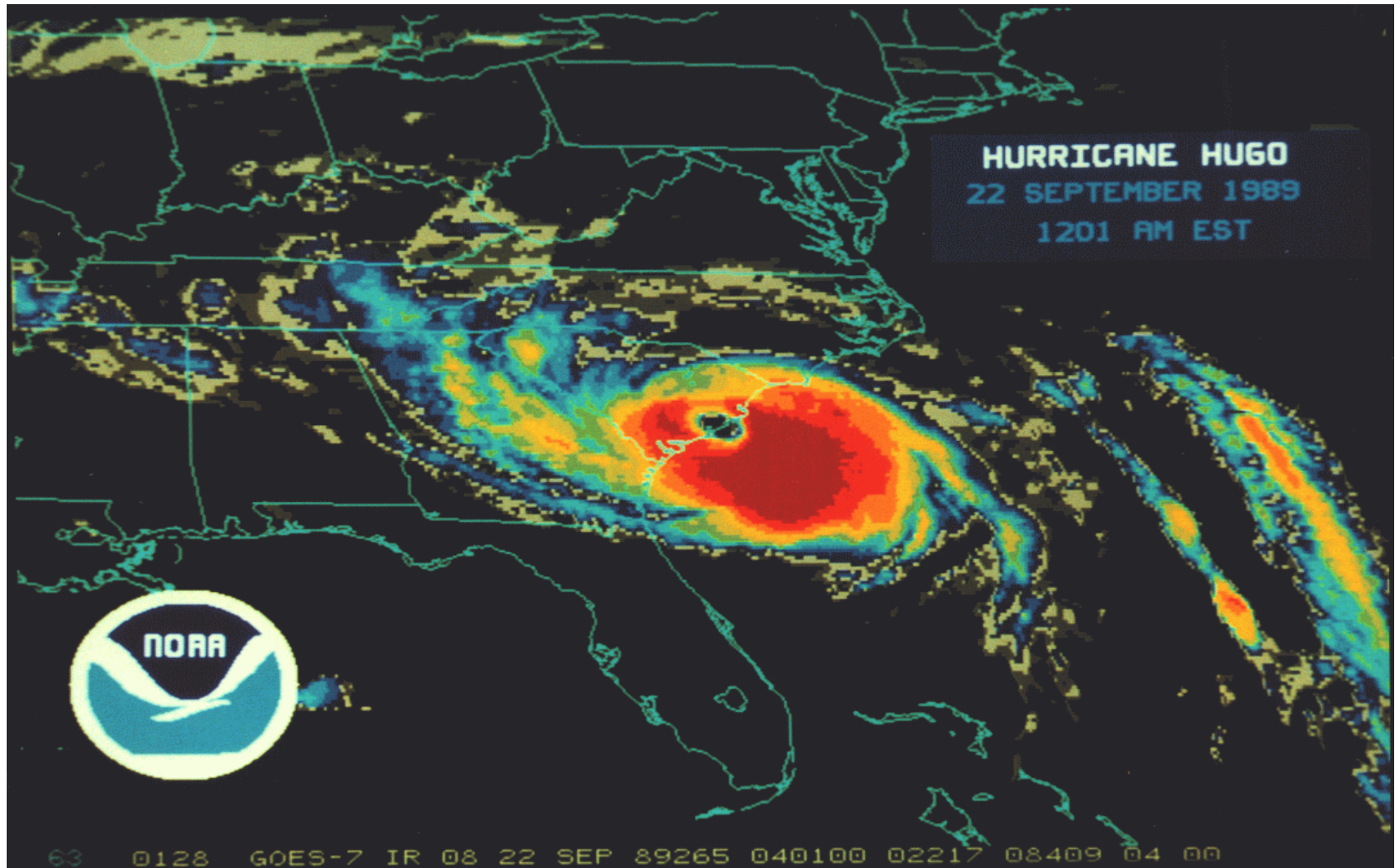
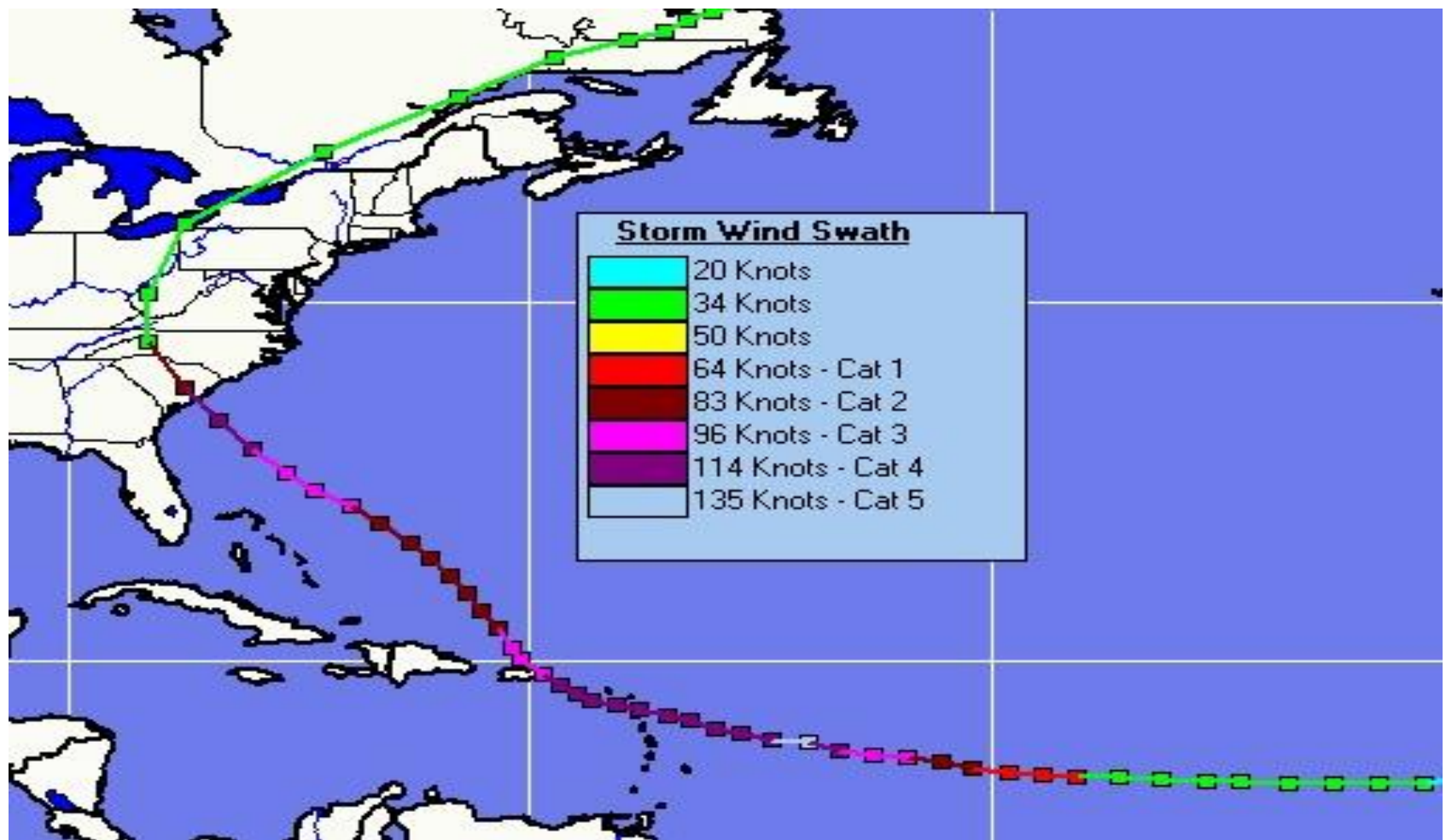


Hurricane Hugo: 25th Anniversary in Virginia

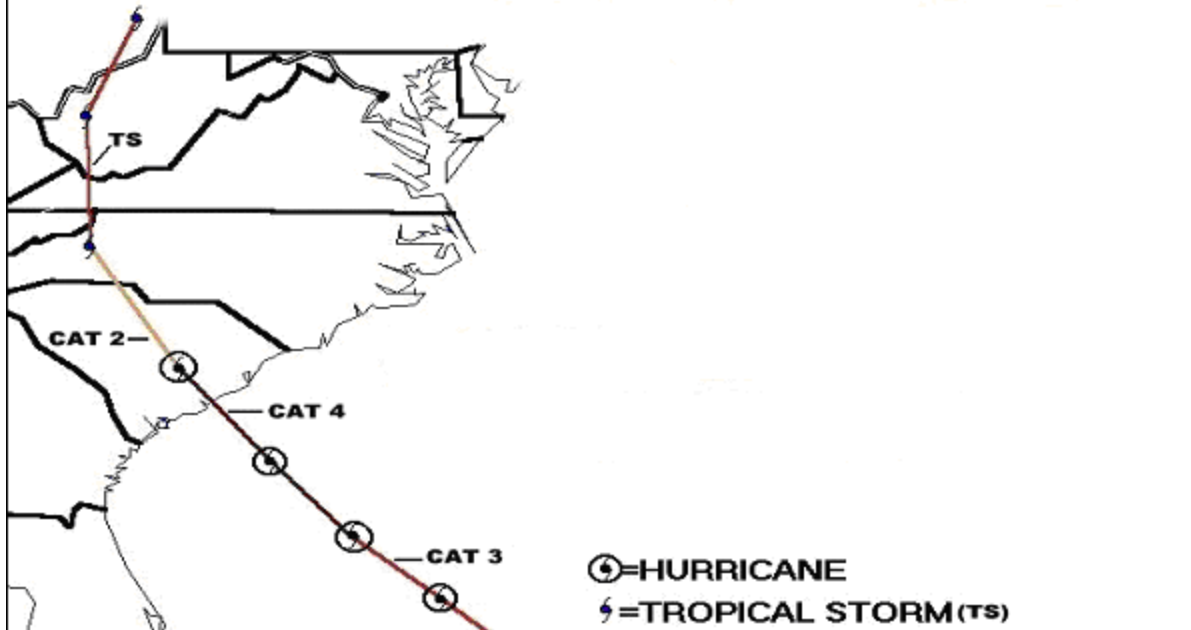




Overall Track of Hurricane Hugo

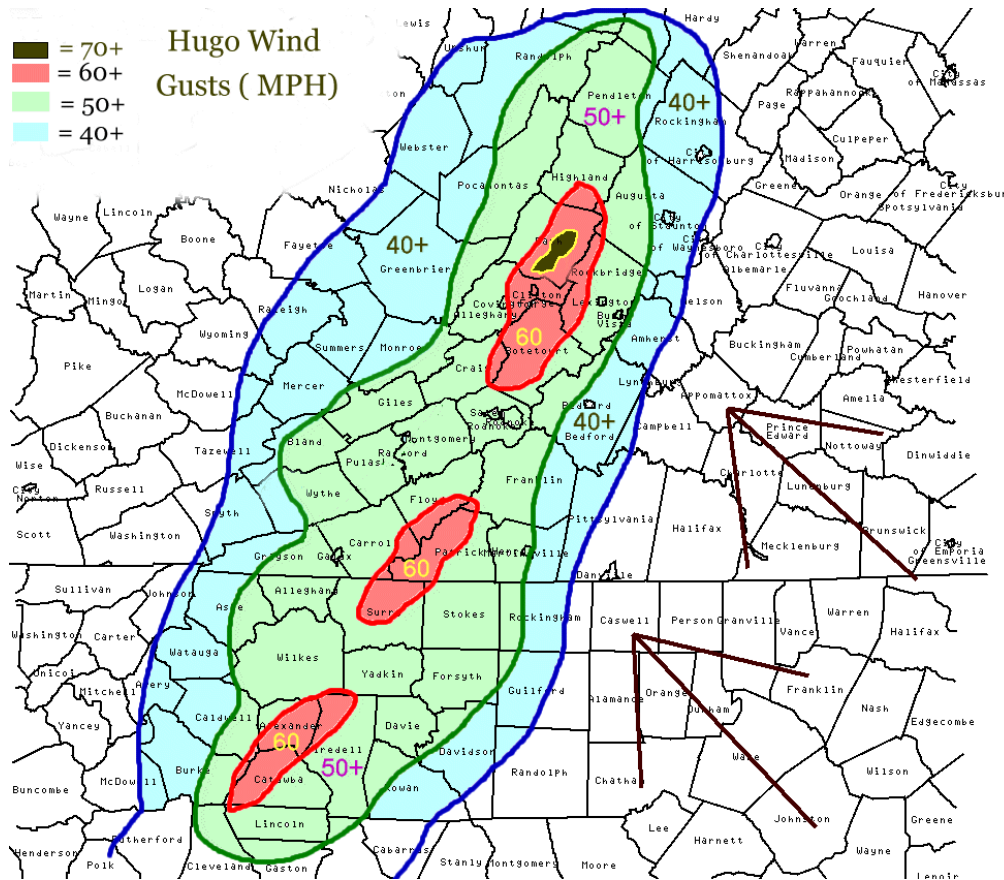
Hurricane Hugo, a strong Category 4 hurricane made landfall in coastal South Carolina around midnight on September 22, 1989 packing winds of more than 130 mph.

HUGO-(SEPT 1989)



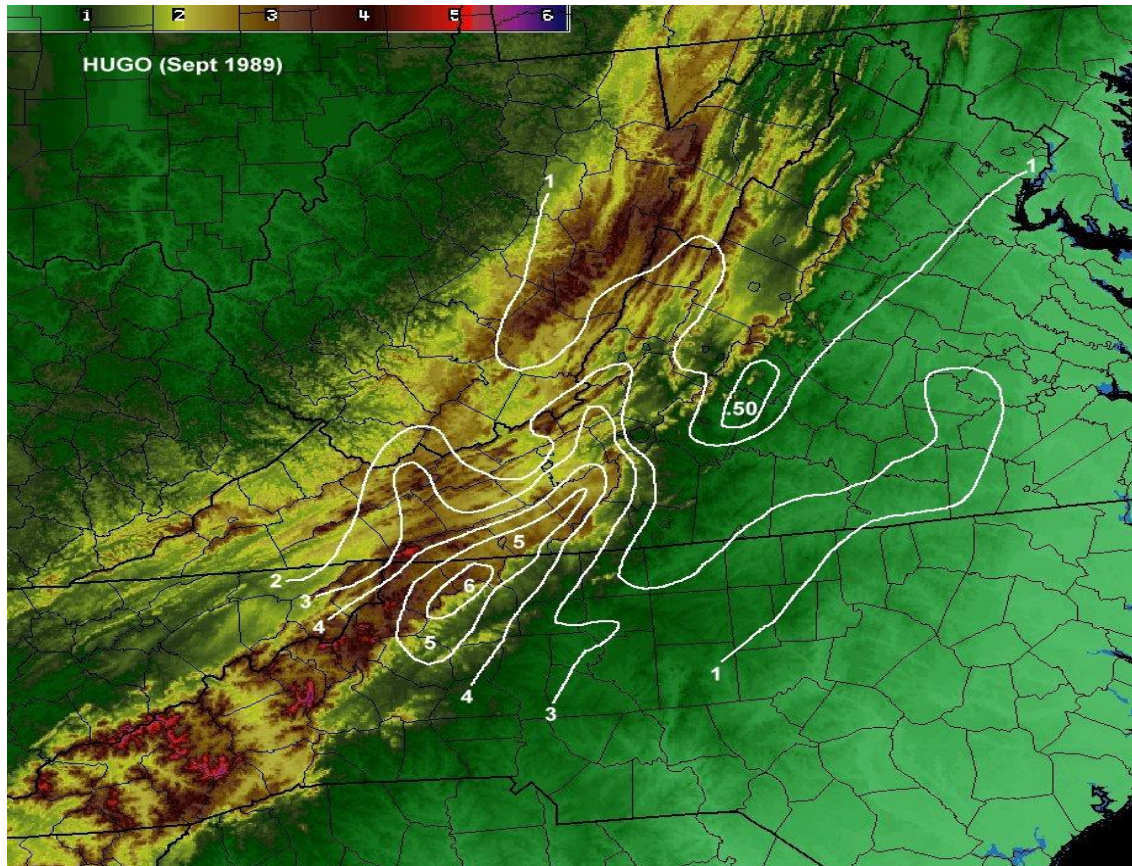
Hugo Impacted the Region midday on September 22nd.

Hugo crossed through the Carolinas while accelerating during the early morning of September 22nd, and moved into western Virginia as a fast moving strong tropical storm around midday.



Damaging Wind Gusts with Hugo

The fast movement of over 40 mph added to the very strong winds experienced especially over the mountains where southeasterly gusts reached near 80 mph as the region passed through the northeast quadrant of the system.



Blue Ridge heavy rainfall with Hugo

Despite its very fast movement, the strong upslope southeast flow around Hugo aided bands of heavy rain especially along the Blue Ridge where totals of around 6 inches produced flooding.

Summary

Hugo moved rapidly north across Smyth and Tazewell counties as a strong Tropical Storm during the late morning of September 22nd, 1989. Major wind damage occurred along and 50 miles east of the track from northwest North Carolina into southwest Virginia and southeast West Virginia. Sustained winds of around 40 mph with gusts to 70 or 80 mph were reported with the highest around 81 mph at Hot Springs in Bath County, Virginia. This resulted in numerous downed trees and power lines along with some structural damage mainly along and west of the Blue Ridges. Many trees fell on buildings and caused roads to be blocked with extended power outages. Swaths of trees were downed in parts of Carroll county although no tornadoes were observed or confirmed. Thousands of acres of late season crops were destroyed with many corn fields flattened by the wind.

Rainfall was much less than would normally be expected with a tropical storm but given the fast movement and wet conditions prior to the arrival of Hugo, totals of around 6 inches were enough to cause flooding of creeks, streams, rivers and basements. This rainfall pushed river levels into major flood on the New River at Radford Virginia where it crested at just over 7 feet above flood stage and 11 feet above at Glen Lyn in Giles County Virginia. Minor flooding also occurred as far east as Roanoke where the Roanoke River crested 1 to 2 feet above flood stage.

Hugo resulted in 7 fatalities in Virginia along with property damages around 60 million dollars of which 40 million occurred in Carroll and Grayson counties alone. 12 deaths were reported in North Carolina where damages totaled over 1 billion dollars.