

Ft. Lauderdale News
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AUG-15-85

Danny forces 30,000 to flee NW Gulf area

Hurricane gusts top 92 mph

By Katie Springer

Staff Writer
With wire reports

Hurricane Danny bore down on the northwest Gulf Coast today with torrential rain and wind gusts to 92 miles per hour, and authorities said more than 30,000 people were evacuated from offshore drilling rigs and coastal towns in Louisiana and Texas.

Although classified a minimal hurricane, the storm was so potentially dangerous that hurricane warnings remained in effect from Freeport, Texas, to the mouth of the Mississippi River, about 100 miles south of New Orleans. It was expected to cross the coast in the marshes south of Lake Charles, La., by midmorning.

High winds and flash floods were expected all along the Louisiana coast, and gale warnings were posted from Freeport, Texas, east to Pensacola.

At 9 a.m. EDT, the hurricane was centered near latitude 29.0 north, longitude 92.6 west, or just off the Louisiana coast south-southeast of Lake Charles. Danny was moving toward the north-northwest at 10 to 15 mph.

Many evacuees from the Louisiana coast went to Red Cross shelters in Lake Charles, a city of 130,000 about 32 miles inland.

Glenda McLellan, her three children and about 200 people evacuated from Cameron Parish on the coast Wednesday night spent a sleepless night on the floor of a school gymnasium.

Civil Defense officials "went door to door and said get on out," a weary McLellan said this morning. "At that point there was no rain or anything."

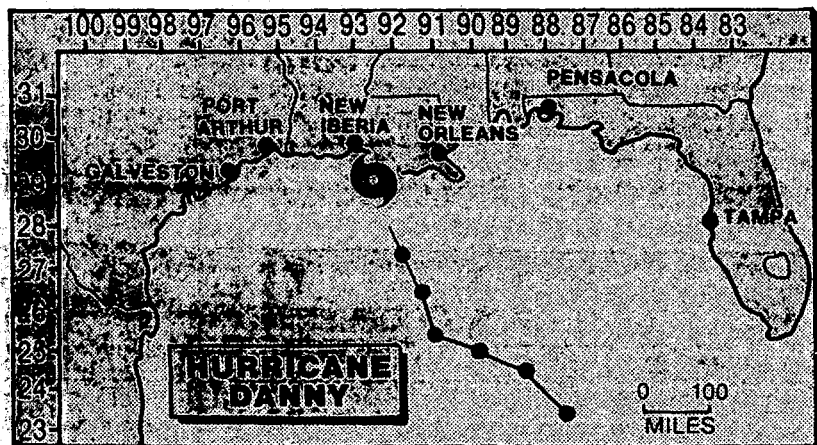
"People in Cameron are used to this," said Patty Clopper, the Red Cross coordinator of the shelter at Boston High School in Lake Charles. "They bring their fans and their folding cots and it's like a party. For 30 years, they've been doing this."

Offie Mire of Holly Beach, 10 miles from Cameron, refused to leave home.

"Hell, you're walking down the street and you're in danger," he said.

Shirley Mhire, who evacuated to Lake Charles from Grand Chenier, a coastal village about 20 miles east of Cameron, said "we wonder if we have a house to return to when we go back."

Please see DANNY, 17A



Staff map by DIEGO DEL VALLE

At 9 a.m. EDT today, Hurricane Danny was centered at 29.0 north latitude and 92.6 west longitude.

1503

Danny

Continued from page 1A

Officials said there was some resistance to evacuation.

"Some people stayed on and some of the refugees here called home and advised them to leave, but I imagine quite a few stayed," said Freddie Picou, Red Cross shelter manager.

Rain began falling in Lake Charles about 6 a.m. today.

In a massive airlift, oil and gas companies evacuated an estimated 20,000 workers from platforms scattered throughout the Gulf of Mexico.

"We've got everything flying every minute," said Byron Stone, operations officer for Petroleum Helicopters Inc. in Lafayette.

The latest advisories warned that gale-force winds that began lashing Louisiana's shoreline late Wednesday would be followed closely by hurricane-force winds of at least 75 mph.

At one point Wednesday, Danny was packing gusts up to 92 mph, the National Hurricane Center in Miami said.

The hurricane warning said there would likely be 10 or more inches of rain and tides 5 to 8 feet above normal. It said tornadoes probably would spin off as Danny passes.

Towns directly in Danny's path — Cameron, La., and Sabine Pass, Texas — were ordered evacuated at 5 p.m. Wednesday. Cameron has about 9,300 residents; Sabine Pass about 650.

In New Iberia, La., the storm warning came after many people had already gone to bed, officials said.

"We've had no problems at all," said Iberia Parish sheriff's Deputy Ferris DeRouen. "In fact, they're having their shrimp festival this week over in Delcambre. It started today for five days . . . and they tell me the place was packed tonight. That's unbelievable."

DeRouen said only about 150 people spent Wednesday night at evacuation centers at Delcambre High School, St. Joseph's Knights of Columbus Hall in New Iberia and at St. Joseph's High School in Jeanerette.

In Vermilion Parish, Sheriff Ray Lemaire said 400 residents of Pecan Island were ordered out. Shel-



AP photo

Workmen tape windows Wednesday at oil firm in Venice, La.

ters were set up in schools at Kaplan and Abbeville.

A steady stream of traffic flowed north Wednesday along Highway 1 out of Grand Isle, a fishing village south of New Orleans whose 2,500 residents are linked to the mainland only by a two-lane road.

Not everyone, however, was fleeing the oncoming storm. While most of his neighbors in Cameron raced north to Lake Charles, Larry Taylor tinkered with a portable electric generator he said would allow him to ride out the storm.

"I'm well aware of what the Lord can do, and I'm well aware of what the water can do," Taylor said Wednesday evening, as all but a handful of residents of this fishing village of 9,300 people hurried northward.

"I respect the water and I respect the Lord. But still, I feel He gives us the ability to take care of our belongings and ourselves."

Taylor's belongings include the Cameron Motel, located a half-mile from the surging tide of the Gulf of Mexico.

"I'm not trying to be macho or anything," said Taylor, who has lived in Cameron for 30 of his 51 years. "I just don't think it's going to come through here. We might get a little water from the high tides, we might be subject to tornadoes or some strong winds, but that's about it."

As Taylor spoke, his daughter, niece and two grandsons piled into a station wagon for the drive northward to safety.

In southeast Texas' Golden Triangle, residents of Beaumont, Corpus Christi and Port Arthur spent Wednesday stocking up on emergency supplies of batteries, lamps, masking and duct tape, canned goods, fuel and ice.

The company was founded in 1951.
The plant had not been struck

35 injured by twisters from Danny

From Herald Wire Services

SPARTANBURG, S.C. — Tornadoes slashed through three mobile home parks Saturday, throwing children, cars and trailers into the air and injuring at least 35 people.

Officials said the twisters, spawned by the remnants of Hurricane Danny, swooped down about 12:50 p.m.

No deaths were reported, but rescue workers with bulldozers and cranes were searching the rubble for people who may have been buried under debris. By nightfall, none had been found.

Highway Patrol Cpl. R.T. Adams said a twister cut a 200-yard swath through the Holly Mobile Home Park, where at least 20 mobile homes were destroyed.

"There were folks actually thrown out of their trailers, and they are lucky that nothing serious happened," said Ron Ward of the Red Cross in Spartanburg.

"I saw a trailer go straight up over there, and I saw a Corvette go spinning up in the air," said Guy Clark, who lives next to the Holly park. "You could hear stuff flying, then all at once it stopped. I looked out my living room and I saw all the trailers gone. It's unreal."

The injured were taken to Spartanburg General Hospital. Most were treated and released, but three — including a small girl — suffered injuries serious enough for surgery, according to hospital spokesman John Thomason.

Tornado watches were posted for much of North and South Carolina. Flash flood watches were posted over northeast Tennessee, the mountains, foothills and piedmonts of South Carolina, and west-central and southwestern Virginia.

Heavy rain caused scattered lowland flooding across the region.

Forecaster Stan Perry at the National Weather Service office at the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport said the storm "was a remnant of Hurricane Danny. It was virtually an impossible storm to warn for," he said.

Hurricane's last hurrah: East is hot, South is wet

PARRISH, Ala. — (AP) — Tornadoes spawned by the remnants of Hurricane Danny hopscotched across northern Alabama on Friday, killing two people, injuring 20 and causing extensive damage.

In Louisiana, thousands remained without power as crews tried to repair damage from the storm, which weakened to a tropical depression after coming ashore Thursday. Danny moved northeast, carrying rain into Mississippi, Arkansas and Tennessee.

In Parrish, Ala., about 40 miles northwest of Birmingham, a 66-year-old woman was killed when a twister ripped apart her mobile home, and one man was injured when wind flipped his truck.

A woman died of a heart attack as another tornado touched down near Gold Ridge.

The Parrish tornado injured seven people and damaged several homes, said Donald Steele, Cullman County Emergency Management Agency director.

"They're hollering for more ambulances," said Steele. "It just hit us and hit us hard."

In Tennessee, a tornado touched down in Waco, 25 miles north of the Alabama border, injuring one person and tossing around trailers and a garage.

Meanwhile, soggy humidity blamed on the remnants of the hurricane blanketed much of the East Coast again Friday, and 17,000 government workers in New York City got the day off to help save electricity.

In lower Manhattan, cable overloads and at least six underground fires apparently caused by high temperatures and record power demand were reported Thursday.

Danny causes Louisiana flooding

DANNY / from 1A

rain in its path. Farmers worried that the worst damage from the wind and rain would be to their crops.

"I'm really going to be hurt by all this," said Abbeville farmer Roy Simon. "This is too much, even for my rice."

State officials said about 30,000 offshore oil rig workers and coastal residents were evacuated Wednesday before Danny's arrival, and nearly 3,200 spent a restless night in 28 inland public shelters.

The little shrimping village of Cypremort Point was among the hardest hit of the Acadia communities in the path of Hurricane Danny.

After deciding at the last-minute to flee their flooding town, about 70 residents of village, a swampy piece of land on the eastern bank of Vermilion Bay, found themselves marooned on an intracoastal bridge, cut off from the mainland by a fast-rising flood.

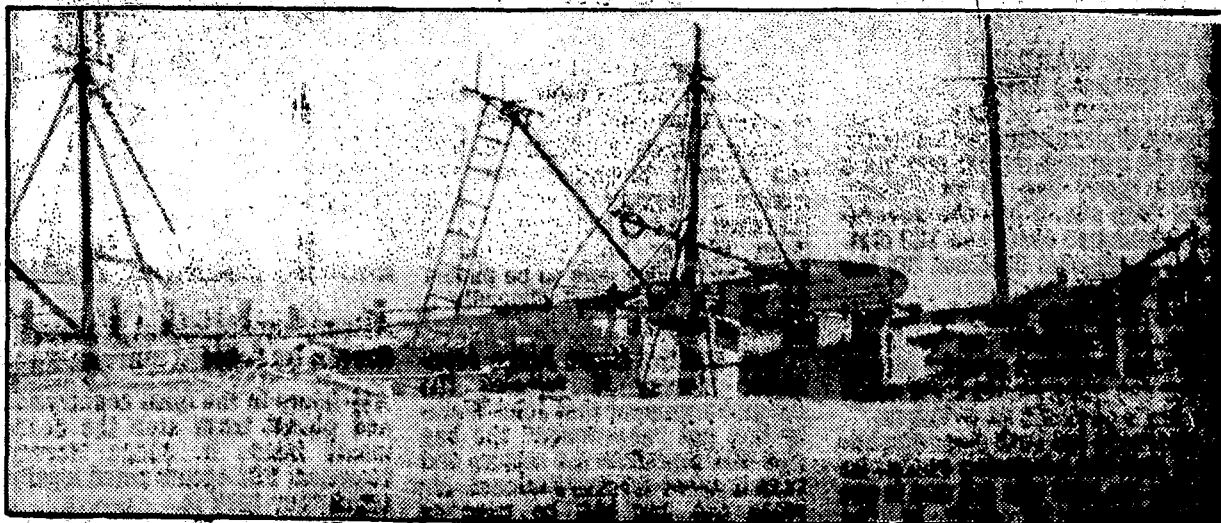
But by the time a National Guard truck, towed down a flooded road by a farm tractor, finally made it through to rescue them Thursday evening, they wouldn't budge.

Only Hazel O'Lander and her eight grandchildren climbed inside the truck. "The rest, they just didn't want to be rescued," said Huey Bourgeois, sheriff of hurricane-lashed St. Mary's Parish.

Wendy York, 21, who finally brought her infant son to the mainland Thursday evening, explained why her husband and the others decided to spend the night on the bridge.

"They're going to stay there and watch what we got left," she said.

"If we lose those shrimp boats, we



Associated Press

A shrimp boat on the Calcasieu River in Louisiana is blown aground by storm.

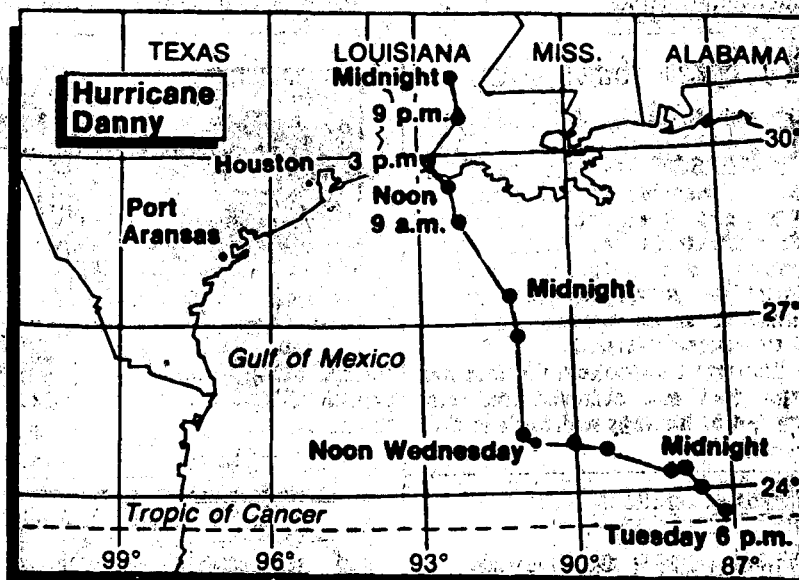
lose everything."

Even as Danny's 40-mile-wide eye was making landfall at 10 a.m., Louisiana Gov. Edwin Edwards was declaring a state of emergency in 13 of the state's low-lying parishes.

No direct casualties were reported from the storm. But Galveston officials indirectly blamed the storm for the death of a 24-year-old Texas man who was electrocuted when the mast of his sailboat hit a power line while he was pulling it from the water because of the storm.

Danny produced at least three tornadoes that tore the roofs off an apartment building and private camp near Grand Isle and caused minor damage at a Texaco plant at Paradis. One person was injured when a mobile home at Kaplan rolled over in the high winds. And flood waters buckled a large kerosene storage tank in Vermilion Parish.

A Coast Guard helicopter made



TIFFANY GRANTHAM/Miami Herald Staff

a daring rescue of five men and two women aboard a 41-foot sailboat, the Fine Wine, which was foundering in 20-foot seas

after losing its sails 40 miles out in the Gulf.

Emergency crews were busy all over southern Louisiana.

Danny punishes Louisiana

High tides flood coastal lowlands

By FRED GRIMM
And STEPHEN K. DOIG
Herald Staff Writers

ABBEVILLE, La. — Hurricane Danny gathered itself into a 90-mph knot Thursday and barreled ashore in Louisiana, its winds and flood tides punishing shore communities but inflicting no fatalities by nightfall.

"I'm just glad it didn't have another 24 hours off the coast," said Neil Frank, director of the National Hurricane Center in Coral Gables.

Because Danny didn't have that extra time to build over the warm Gulf of Mexico, Louisiana escaped with only moderate damage to roofs, trees and power lines.

As Frank's color radar tracked Danny's well-formed eye moving ashore near Pecan Island, 140 miles west of New Orleans, grocery store owner Genevieve O'Blanc in nearby Hays watched anxiously out the window.

"We didn't figure on anything like this," she said as Danny's winds whipped rain against the building. "We were trying to stay open because people will need groceries." When a customer brought three cans of Dixie beer to the counter, she added "... and something to calm the nerves."

Truck driver Teddy Coutee explained why he had taken shelter in O'Blanc's store.

"I looked back and that ol' trailer was just swaying back and forth, back and forth," Coutee said. "I just couldn't drive any farther."

They were surprised by Danny's last-minute spurt of growth. Twelve hours earlier, the hurricane had been about 175 miles offshore and still a relatively disorganized storm with winds of barely 75 mph. But through the night, Danny tightened and strengthened until it came ashore with steady winds near 90 mph and gusts of over 100 mph.

By midevening, Danny's disintegrating center had moved about 100 miles inland, spreading heavy



DAVID WALTERS / Miami Herald Staff

Please turn to DANNY / 18A

Bar owner Helen Adicks and grandchildren experience Danny's eye in Lake Arthur, La.

Storm swirls into Gulf

Area military bases prepare just in case Danny closes in

From staff and wire reports

Navy and Air Force bases in West Florida began routine preparations for high winds Tuesday because tropical storm Danny, in the southeastern Gulf of Mexico, is moving toward the Gulf Coast.

The aircraft carrier Lexington, which returned to Pensacola Tuesday, was scheduled to head back out to sea this morning to avoid possible high winds. Aircraft at Pensacola Naval Air Station were scheduled to seek safe haven elsewhere.

"We have a gale warning and hurricane watch in effect from east of Port Arthur, Texas, to Mobile, Ala. That's the area in the highest risk of being hit by the storm," said hurricane specialist Miles Lawrence of the National Hurricane Center in Coral Gables. "It's possible it could become a hurricane tonight. We'll just wait and see."

The weather system was upgraded to tropical storm status with the 5 p.m. CDT advisory. By the 10 p.m. CDT advisory, Danny's center

was near latitude 24.5 and longitude 88.5 west or 425 miles south-southeast of New Orleans. Maximum sustained winds were about 50 mph, with higher gusts in inner squalls.

"The storm is expected to continue moving toward the northwest ... and gradually strengthen," said Neil Frank, director of the hurricane center. He said the storm could affect parts of the Gulf Coast late Wednesday or early Thursday.

Once the storm packs sustained winds above 73 mph, it is a hurricane.

All of West Florida's military installations were on a Condition 4 status, which means they are notified to expect winds of 50 knots an hour within 72 hours. A knot is equal to one and one-sixth miles.

Pensacola Naval Air Station, which just welcomed home the USS Lexington from a nine-month overhaul at Philadelphia Navy Shipyard, was scheduled to bid farewell to the ship at 9:30 this morning, said Petty Officer Craig Grisoli, spokesman at the Public Affairs Office

for the Chief of Naval Education and Training Command.

The Lexington crew is on alert to be ready to go if the base goes to Condition 3, which means 50 knot winds are expected within 48 hours.

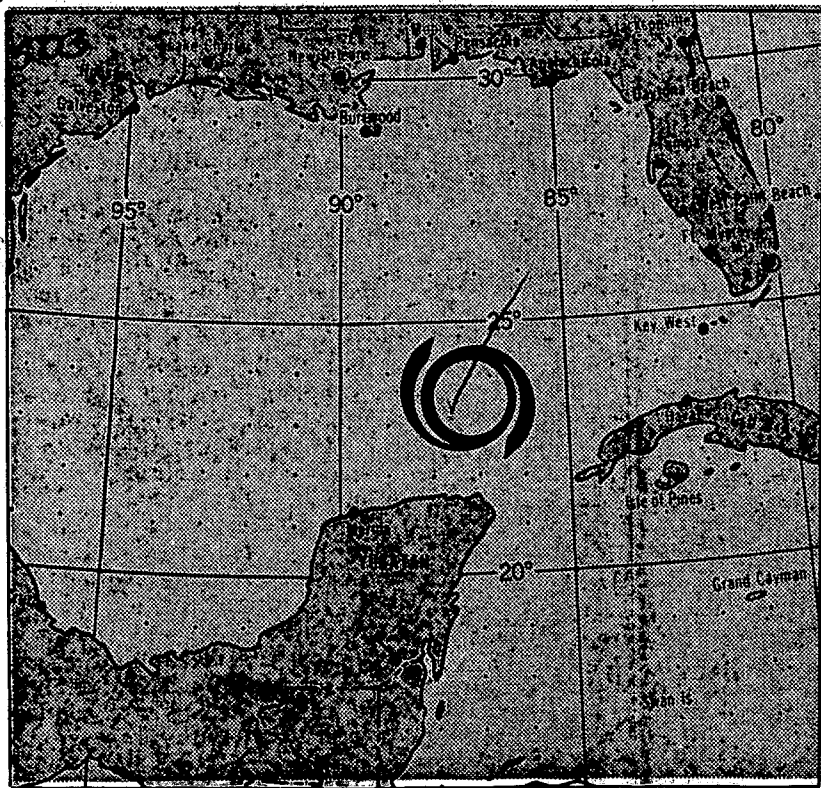
Grisoli said Training Air Wing Six's three training squadrons were preparing to fly out a maximum of 80 aircraft that could not be housed in hangars. They will be sent to bases Memphis, Tenn., Leavenworth, Ky., and Mississippi.

Corry Naval Technical Training Station in Pensacola is checking its weather preparedness plans, said Lt. Cmdr. Gus Lott, public affairs officer.

At Whiting Field Naval Air Station, Chief Bruce Blakeman of the Public Affairs Office said no immediate action is being taken. Whiting is home to Training Air Wing Five with three airplane and two helicopter squadrons.

At Eglin Air Force Base in Fort Walton Beach, Public Affairs Officer Ray Cornelius

See DANNY, 14A



At 10 p.m., tropical storm Danny was about 425 miles south-southeast of New Orleans.

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Danny moves into Gulf

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DANNY/from 1A

said the Air Force was checking its aircraft in case they had to be flown inland. Personnel also checked cargo and electronic equipment stored on Santa Rosa Island that might have to be moved.

Cornelius said the base does not mandate evacuation of its people

unless Eglin is threatened by a particularly powerful hurricane with winds above 130 mph.

At Hurlburt Field, a spokesman said the Air Force preparation so far was limited to alerting personnel about the possibility of 50 knot winds within 72 hours.

Journal staff writers Lou Elliott and Mike Burke contributed to this report.

Coastal Locations	Through 1 p.m.	1 p.m. Wed through 1 a.m. Thurs.	1 a.m. Thurs. through 1 p.m. Thurs.	Total through 1 p.m. Fri.
Apalachicola	1	5	3	9
Panama City	1	7	3	11
Pensacola	1	10	3	14
Mobile, Ala.	X	11	4	15
Gulfport, Miss.	1	12	3	16
New Orleans, La.	1	12	3	16

Chances of Danny passing within 65 miles of these locations are expressed in percent. For example: There is a 14 percent chance Danny will pass within 65 miles of Pensacola by 1 p.m. Friday.

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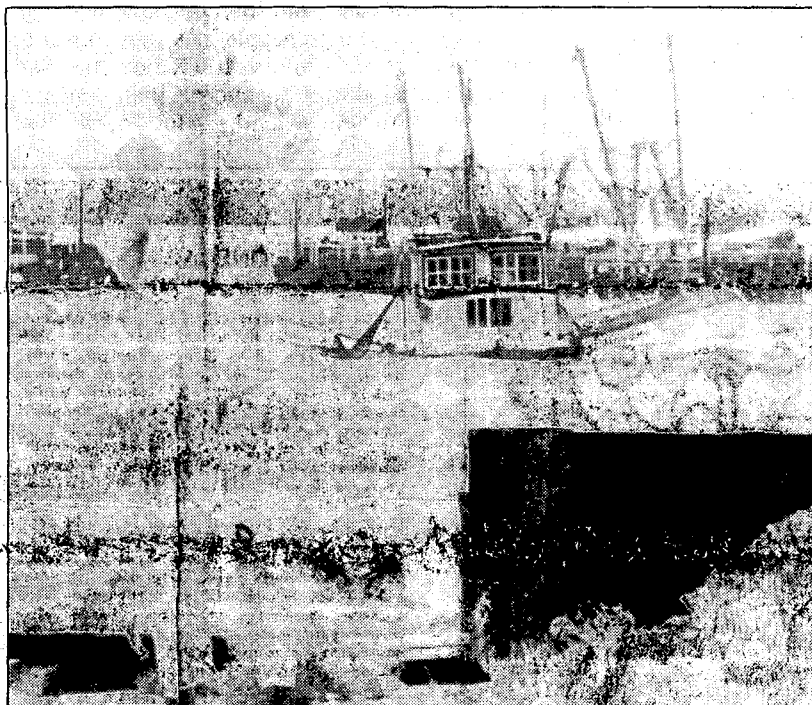


Daily News — DON GRASSMANN

STORMY WEATHER

Northwest Florida surfers (above) took advantage Thursday of high waves churned up by Hurricane Danny, which was drenching Louisiana about 200 miles west. Area surf shops said surfboard sales and rentals were going briskly. At right, a raincoat-clad Louisiana resident watches a partly submerged shrimp boat in the storm-tossed waters off Cameron, La.

AP



Area seas whipped by storm

By JOSIE F. JACKSON

Daily News Staff Writer

Hurricane Danny stirred up high winds and waves off the Emerald Coast on Thursday, sending cautious boaters back to shore and eager surfers out to the beach.

"There are a lot of surfers and sailboarders out there, at least five dozen, even though it's really too choppy for surfing," said Dale McGuire, assistant manager at East Pass Marina in Destin.

"The surf has been pretty good in the morning but choppy in the afternoon," added Tim Carr of Innerlight Surf-n-Sport in Fort Walton Beach.

Carr said cash registers at his business were ringing because of the high seas. "We've sold a lot of surfboards," he said. "About half of our stock is gone." Surfboard rentals also had increased, he said.

Carr said the high waves should last through the weekend. He said he expected the waves to be about a foot over a surfer's head today. "Sunday, if we're lucky, they'll be chest-high."

The choppy waters pose little danger to surfers, Carr said. "Swimming is dangerous because of riptides," he explained, "but as long as you're an experienced surfer, there is no immediate danger because you're on top of the surfboard."

Although the high seas lured surfers, McGuire said boating had come to an almost complete halt

(See Storm ~~X~~ page 2A)

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Storm

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because of uncertainty over the hurricane's path and strength.

"We had a few boaters come in," McGuire said. "We had only three today because it's choppy out there."

No major evacuation measures were taken by boat owners at the marina, he said, but some moved their boats to safer harbors in case the storm started moving northeast from the Louisiana area.

"Some people took their boats to the lagoons in Niceville and Shalimar to anchor them down," McGuire said. "But most just

waited a while to see what it (the hurricane) did."

A National Weather Service spokesman in Pensacola said Hurricane Danny probably will bring thunderstorms today to Northwest Florida as far east as Apalachicola.

"We'll have more thunderstorms than usual and the rainfall will be heavier than normal," the spokesman said. He added that seas are expected to be rough until mid or late afternoon and that small boats should not be in the water.

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Remnants Of Danny Still Wreaking Havoc

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The soggy remnants of Hurricane Danny reached the central Atlantic states Saturday, carrying drenching rain, thunderstorms and high wind or possible tornadoes that wrecked an airport in Georgia and injured people in South Carolina.

The stormy weather edging toward the northeast extended from western Virginia across the western portion of the Carolinas into the Tennessee Valley.

Tornado watches were posted for much of North and South Carolina. Flash flood watches were posted over northeast Tennessee, the mountains, foothills and piedmonts of South Carolina, and west-central and southwestern Virginia.

Heavy rain caused scattered lowland flooding across the region.

Danny, which caused little damage as it swept across Louisiana as a hurricane on Thursday, was reduced to a surface low-pressure area early Saturday, the National Weather Service said.

Twelve of the 15 planes tied down at the Jackson County airport in northeastern Georgia were destroyed Saturday morning and the roof was lifted off the airport building, destroying 90 percent of the facility, said Dwayne Smith, county emergency management director.

Smith estimated damages from what appeared to a torna-

do at \$700,000 at the airport 1.5 miles north of Jefferson.

An apparent tornado touched down at the Oconee-Barrow county line near Bogart, Ga., and damaged several homes. "It came right out of the blue," said Clarence Andrews, Oconee County civil defense director.

The shell of one mobile home was lifted off, leaving its occupant shaken but uninjured among his furniture, which remained on the home's floor, witnesses said.

At least 20 people were injured, some seriously, as a burst of high wind damaged 11 mobile homes and a flea market Saturday in Spartanburg County in northwestern South Carolina.

More than one inch of rain fell at the Greenville-Spartanburg airport between 1:55 p.m. and 2:05 p.m., the weather service reported.

Between midnight and noon Saturday, six to seven inches of rain fell in several areas of South Carolina, including northern Greenville County, northern Spartanburg County and Gaffney, said meteorologist Jim Lowe.

The National Weather Service said up to 5 inches of rain had pushed small streams to near their flood stages in parts of North Carolina.

On Friday, the weather system had spawned more than two dozen tornadoes in Alabama and Tennessee that killed two people, injured 20 and demolished scores of houses.



David Steel, 19, Morgan County, Ala., examines room where he was when tornado struck.

TELEVISION

Danny shows Nash Roberts still has the touch

The view from the notepile: Nash Roberts can still work that old weatherman magic.

Hurricane Danny created quite a stir at the three network affiliates last week, and order wasn't fully restored until Roberts arrived on the WWL set Wednesday evening. He looked as though he'd just been roused from a deep slumber and sounded as though nothing was going to happen that he couldn't just as well have slept through, anyway.

At least one Channel 8 meteorologist had his feathers ruffled by Roberts' cameo appearance. Joe Cioffi called the TV Focus office last week to say how angry he was at Roberts for violating a gentleman's agreement among the local weathercasters. The three stations consented to dole out similar information during hurricane watches — primarily that supplied by the Hurricane Center in Florida — in order to avoid confusing channel-zappers



On the air
Mark Lorando

at home.

But the arrangement didn't include Roberts, who was replaced by Dave Barnes last year but magically gets un-retired whenever a hurricane forms in the Gulf. The information he gave Wednesday was entirely his own.

It's a good thing, too. Virtually everybody I've talked to was thankful to have Roberts' calming voice to turn to on a dial otherwise filled with sensational weather reports. It was as though some newsmen actually wanted the hurricane to strike New Orleans. At some point you almost expected to see somebody

crashing through a weather map, the way John Madden breaks through walls in Lite Beer commercials, screaming, "Hey! Wait a minute! It's turning north! It's turning north!"

Sanity's loss may be MTV's gain. The latest rumor has WWL capitalizing on last week's events by producing the first-ever Weather Video, to go something like this: WWL's Dave Barnes, WDSU's Dan Milham and WVUE's Bob Breck stand side-by-side on a levee singing "Stormy Weather." Suddenly, as though out of nowhere, Nash Roberts appears, glances their way and lets out a big yawn that blows the trio into the surf.

The music stops, and Nash cuts into a chorus of, "I Gotta Be Me."

They don't call him the eye of the hurricane for nothing.

But seriously folks... Garland

Robinette and Angela Hill will be among the prizes in this year's "Children's Christmas Auction" on WLAE. They've agreed to visit the house and trim the tree of the highest bidder. Other people prizes will include separate deep-sea fishing trips with Bob Breck and WWL's Frank Davis. The auction, which last year raised \$45,000 for Channel 32, will be televised in December. And remember, just 108 shopping days 'til Christmas...

Kudos to Vince Marinello and Bob Krieger of WDSU for providing some comic relief in their coverage of Saints training camp in Ruston. Marinello, who's seen enough training camps to know that most of them produce very little real news, kept things light with offbeat reports on training camp fights and Morten Anderson groupies, to name just a couple. Five o'clock news anchor Krieger filed a week's worth of taped reports from Ruston that effectively captured both the

charm and drudgery of the big business behind little boys' games.

WWL was probably a nose ahead on coverage on the breaking stories. Although Marinello was first with video from Jim Kovach's tearful departure from Ruston last Thursday, WWL was on the spot earlier with the only live interview with Bobby Hebert just minutes after the signing of the Cajun quarterback was announced. WWL, impressively, also had locker room interviews from the Saints first pre-season game during its early newscast that evening, less than an hour after the completion of the game.

Pay-per-view in Jefferson Parish is having trouble getting out of the starting gate. In three weeks, a spokesman reported that the station had attracted only 75 pay-per-view subscribers. The "Premiere Club," as the service is called, entitles up to 3,000 viewers to special addressable

converter boxes that can receive first-run movies and special events at additional charges. The cost is \$9.95 per month, plus the cost of each event. The spokesman expected sales to "surge" in September, when LSU football games become available. Those games will be \$19.50 apiece.

Cox Jefferson scheduled a live telecast of a Fabian concert as its major pay-per-view event in August. The concert is taking place at the Riverfront Plaza in Baton Rouge on Aug. 29, with the telecast scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. But a spokesman for Cox admitted that nobody there realized that the concert, which will also have live performances by Chuck Berry, Bo Diddley, Chubby Checker, Little Anthony and the Coasters, was open to the public with no admission charge. Crowds are expected in excess of 100,000. The event will be offered on pay-per-view anyway, both in Jefferson and Orleans Parishes.

METRO

Storm's damage put at up to \$23 million

By JACK WARDLAW
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — Louisiana suffered \$17 million to \$23 million in agricultural and property damage from last week's Hurricane Danny, Gov. Edwin W. Edwards said Monday.

In a news release, Edwards said he is asking that the parishes of St. Mary, Iberia and Terrebonne be declared federal disaster areas.

If the federal government agrees, those parishes will be eligible for Small Business Administration disaster loans.

The governor said he reached that decision on the basis of damage reports from the state Office of Emergency Preparedness, which said those three parishes were hardest-hit by the storm.

He said damage was reported in 21 parishes, including Jefferson and St. Tammany in the New Orleans area.

Grand Isle, he said, had extensive losses. "As a result, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will absorb the cost of repairing the Grand Isle protection levee," Edwards said.

The other 16 parishes report-

ing damage were Acadia, Allen, Assumption, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Evangeline, Iberville, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, Lafourche, Pointe Coupee, St. Landry, St. Martin and Vermilion.

Agricultural damage amounted to \$10 million to \$13 million, Edwards said, while damage to public and private property totaled \$7 million to \$10 million.

He said 264 families were affected, and that 78 homes suffered major damage and 178, minor damage.

State Agriculture Commis-

sioner Bob Odom said the crop damage "was not as bad as it could have been. We didn't get as much wind and rain from this one. Overall, storm damage is not going to be much. But to some individuals, it could be critical."

Dennis Vidrine, an Agriculture Department spokesman, said Odom surveyed sugar cane, rice, milo, corn and soybean crops over the weekend.

"The milo crop appears to have suffered most," Vidrine said. "Its fruit is heavy and the wind has blown some of it down. It can still be harvested but there will be some loss."

Vidrine said the cane crop suffered some wind-damage as well.

He said the state's corn crop suffered little because about 85 percent of it had been harvested. Similarly, rice still out in the fields suffered some wind damage, but more than half had already been harvested, Vidrine said.

Jim Marks, of the Insurance Information Institute, said that insured property damage as a result of winds, tornadoes and flooding from Danny in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, North Caro-

lina and Virginia totaled about \$37.1 million.

Z.E. Hermanson, vice president of the property claim services division of American Insurance Services Group Inc., said that Louisiana bore the brunt of the storm with about \$25.1 million worth of expected property claims.

Marks said the figures represent what insurance companies expect to pay out in claims and do not include property insured under the Federal Flood Insurance Program. The estimate also does not include damage to crops or public roads.