

## **FLORIDA HAZARDOUS WEATHER BY DAY (to 1994)**

### **APRIL**

**1** 1989 - 1300 - Polk Co., Lakeland - Lightning killed a 9-year old boy riding his bicycle.

**2** 1959 - Morning - At least three tornadoes touched down in central Florida. 0600 -Pasco Co., Dade City - Tornado destroyed 10 buildings and damaged 28 others, causing 12 injuries - four serious. Sixty other buildings received minor damage. 0730 - Orange Co., Azalea Park - Tornado destroyed nine homes and damaged 69, injuring 20 people. A woman was killed when thrown from a trailer that was moved 100 yards. Many trees were uprooted. 0812 - Brevard Co., Mims - Tornado destroyed two homes and damaged seven, injuring one person. The tornado was described as "a fiery cloud with a black stem trailing behind."

**3** 1941 - central Florida - A "great hailstorm" caused more than one million dollars damage (1941 dollars). Sixteen people were also injured in a "windstorm". Most of the damage was to citrus crops in Polk County. This was the most destructive hailstorm in the nation that year.

**3** 1949 - 1430 - Bradford Co., Starke - Tornado destroyed 1 home and damaged six. One person was injured. Another tornado was reported in Clay County.

**3** 1960 - 0430 - Bay Co., Panama City Beach - Tornado destroyed a small home and garage. The one - room city hall was destroyed and a motel was unroofed. - Afternoon - Duval Co., Mandarin - one person killed by lightning.

**4** 1966 - 0800 - 1000 - One of the deadliest tornado outbreaks in Central Florida History. Tornadoes, some of the strongest on record in Florida, moved in from the Gulf of Mexico and tracked from the Tampa Bay area to Brevard County, killing 11 and injuring over 500. Tornadoes first struck in Pinellas county near St. Petersburg and Clearwater, damaging 36 homes, then moved across Tampa Bay through Hillsborough Co. damaging a junior high school and destroying 150 homes - killing three. Tornadoes next moved through Polk County where the most severe damage was at Gibsonia and Galloway where nearly a hundred homes were destroyed and seven people were killed. Other tornadoes were reported in Lake Juliana, Lakeland, and north of Haines City where many trailers were destroyed. A woman was killed in a trailer near Davenport. Tornadoes were next reported in Osceola Co. at Kissimmee and St. Cloud. Another tornado moved from Holopaw to Rockledge to south Merritt Island and Cocoa Beach. In Cocoa Beach 150 trailers were ripped apart, causing over 100 injuries. Over 20 frame homes and a shopping center were destroyed.

**5** 1907 - 1745 - Escambia/Santa Rosa Counties - Tornado destroyed two homes and seven barns. A man was carried 200 yards in the air. Tornado described as "smoke mixed with steam and sounding like three passenger trains." Five injuries.

**5** 1917 - 1340 - Hillsborough Co., S. Tampa - Tornado destroyed three small homes and a church. A boy was killed in Mango as the roof fell into his house. Three injuries.

**5** 1925 - 1315 - Dade Co., Miami, Biscayne Bay - Deadliest south Florida Tornado - moved about 15 mph and became stationary for five minutes. The funnel was visible for almost an hour. Fifty homes were destroyed or damaged. One man was killed in the destruction of a restaurant. Four other deaths were reported on a dairy farm. 35 injuries. Large hail fell along a 12-mile path with this storm causing considerable damage.

**5-14** 1948 - northwest Florida - Record flooding on much of the Suwannee River and its tributaries. All-time record flood crests on Suwannee River at Branford on the 11th, Dowling Park on the 8th, Ellaville on the 7th, Fowlers Bluff, Manatee Springs, and Wilcox on the 14th. Record crests on the Ochlocknee River at Havana on the 4th, the Withlacoochee River at Pinetta on the 5th, and the Santa Fe River at Three Rivers Estates and Highway 129 Bridge on the 12th.

**5** 1974 - Noon - Volusia Co., Daytona Beach Shores - Lightning killed a visitor from Canada while standing on the beach.

**5** 1993 - morning - south Florida - Severe weather outbreak. A squall line that developed over the Gulf of Mexico on the 4th moved rapidly eastward across the southern Peninsula. At least 10 tornadoes effected eight counties during the 4-hour period it took for the squall line to pass. Severe thunderstorm winds resulted in many homes and businesses being damaged, outbuildings and screen enclosures being destroyed, cars and boats being damaged, and downed power lines and trees. Fortunately only five injuries were reported. Worst hit were the Port Charlotte, Fort Myers, and Fort Lauderdale areas where the injuries occurred.

**6** 1976 - 0530 - Collier Co. - Strong thunderstorm winds and a small tornado hit Marco Island and damaged an equipment compound belonging to Deltona Corp.

**7** 1877 - Escambia County - A waterspout/tornado destroyed several small shacks and unroofed a large home as it moved inland near Pensacola. Beams from the roof were driven four feet into the ground. A small child was killed. Three large sailing ships were also destroyed.

**8** 1989 - 2200 - Columbia Co., Lake City - Thunderstorm winds uprooted large trees and damaged a house.

**9** 1937 - 0430 - Dade Co., SW Miami - Tornado destroyed three small homes and unroofed seven. Five injuries.

**9** 1961 - 1700 - St. Johns Co., St. Augustine. Tornado unroofed three packing plants and four homes. Some barns were destroyed. A car was picked up and set down 60 ft away. Two people injured.

**9** 1983 - 1255 - Citrus Co. Inverness, Lecanto - Tornado damaged a mobile home park, demolished a service station, overturned a large truck onto two cars, blew down trees, and power lines. One person was killed when thrown from car while airborne, two others crushed to death on impact.

**9** 1984 - afternoon - central/south Florida - Severe weather outbreak. Tornadoes struck Inverness in Citrus Co., Tarrytown in Sumter Co., North Ft. Lauderdale and Pompano Beach in Broward Co., Boca Raton in Palm Beach Co., and Mascotte in Lake County - damaging roofs, carports, and screen

enclosures. No serious injuries reported. 2.75" hail fell near Pembroke Pines in Broward County causing little damage.

**9** 1996 1000 - Monroe Co., 10 miles east southeast of Key West - Thunderstorm wind gusts capsized an 18 - foot pleasure boat near American Shoals Lighthouse, plunging four persons into the water. The four persons were rescued by the Coast Guard. Key Vaca - A 37 - foot sailboat was blown aground by thunderstorm wind gusts near the entrance to Banana Bay Resort.

**10** 1956 - 1845-1900 - Broward Co., W. Hollywood & Dania - A tornado destroyed a jai-alai building and several mobile homes and damaged the roof of the Dania Elementary School and a motel. Twenty people were injured.

**10** 1991 - 1000 - Pinellas Co., Weedon Island - Thunderstorm winds overturned a 17 ft boat. Two occupants thrown overboard. An elderly man drowned, his wife was rescued.

**10** 1995 - 1200 - Flagler Co., Flagler Beach - A 54-year-old male drowned while attempting to rescue a couple caught in a rip current 30 yards offshore Flagler Beach.

**11** 1955 - 1800 - Lake Co., Leesburg - Lightning killed one person in a boat on Lake Griffin.

**11** 1975 - morning - afternoon - north and central Florida - Flash Floods and Tornadoes - Heavy rain of four to 6" in a few hours caused local flash flooding in Jacksonville and Marion and Lake Counties. Tornadoes were reported in Putnam, Marion, Volusia(2), Lake, Brevard, Escambia, Walton, and Polk Counties between 1030 and 1830 causing primarily roof, tree and car damage. The only one minor injury occurred from a tornado at Merritt Island, Brevard Co.

**12** 1961 - Night - Escambia Co., Pensacola - Strong thunderstorm winds greatly damaged a pile driver, barge, fishing boats, and many homes on Santa Rosa Island.

**13** 1917 - 1315 - Dade Co., Miami - Tornado blew a school apart; it was not in session. Homes and businesses lost roofs and walls. The grandstand at the ballpark was unroofed.

**13** 1978 - 1800 - Escambia Co., Pensacola - Thunderstorms accompanied by 56 mph winds and 4" rain blew off the roof of four townhouses and a racquet club.

**14** 1975 - afternoon - Escambia Co., Pensacola - A Tornado moved into the western portion of Pensacola collapsing a 200-foot section of a furniture store wall, tearing the roof off a house, and damaging several other homes. Several small tornadoes were also reported in Walton, Polk, and Volusia Counties causing only minor damage.

**15** 1958 - Early Afternoon - Central Florida - Severe weather Outbreak - Violent squall with winds near 80mph hit Mullet Key and moved across Tampa Bay to Sun City, Ruskin, and Wimauma leaving destruction and debris not unlike a tornado. A B-47 bomber exploded and crashed into Tampa Bay just before the heaviest part of the storm hit, killing all four crew members. Polk Co., Bereah - Tornado leveled nine small homes. A 2,500 gallon water tank was found a mile away. Seven injuries. 1220 - St. Johns Co., St. Augustine - Tornado destroyed six homes injuring 8. 1309 - St. Lucie Co., Ft. Pierce -

Tornado destroyed/damaged 28 homes and about 200 other buildings. Most of the destruction was in downtown business area where more than 50 people were injured by flying glass.

**15** 1987 - 0920 - Sumter Co., Bushnell - Tornado destroyed four homes and damaged 10. 1015 - Lake Co., Mt. Dora - Tornado killed a 68-year old woman in her trailer home. Forty trailers, 12 houses and 18 businesses were destroyed. Seven injuries.

**15** 1995 - 1444 - St. Johns Co., Crescent Beach - A 20-year-old male student from Dade county drowned in a rip current.

**16-17** 1942 - south Florida - Extremely heavy rain caused extensive damage to vegetable crops. 19.32" of rain on 16th and 17th at Miami Airport reported as caused by "Tropical Storm" in official documents, but appears to be a result of slow moving frontal system approaching from west and low pressure center developing in the Caribbean on an old front.

**16** 1954 - 0900 - Bay Co., Millville - Tornado destroyed a concrete block cafe and house trailer. Unroofed two houses and damaged 15 others. Three people injured.

**17** 1991 - 1315 - Brevard Co., Satellite Beach - A waterspout was observed by Florida Highway Patrol. It dissipated before moving on shore.

**18** 1945 - 2100 - Volusia County - A tornado was accompanied by hail as large as guinea eggs.

**18** 1978 -1845 - Volusia Co., Ormond Beach - A tornado rolled a large mobile home 200 ft and destroyed it. Several homes had roof damage.

**18** 1996 0838 - Okaloosa Co., Mary Esther - Eleven military personnel were working on an aircraft when lightning struck either the aircraft or near the aircraft. One of the airmen was killed and ten others were injured. The personnel had been ordered inside due to thunderstorms around the area earlier in the morning. The airmen were allowed back on the field at 829 am and lightning hit at 838 am. It was likely the strike that hit the airmen was the first strike out of a developing thunderstorm.

**19** 1901 - Dade Co., N. Miami - Tornado killed a prominent vegetable farmer as his new home was blown apart.

**19** 1969 - 0230 - Orlando, Lake Ivanhoe - Wind capsized a boat, one man drowned, five others swam to safety.

**19** 1978 - 1000 - Marion Co., Silver Springs Shores. Lightning killed a construction worker standing on a metal ladder.

**19** 1988 - 0330 - Gadsden, Madison, Hamilton Cos. - A tornado moved through Madison destroying 17 homes and damaging 30 homes, in addition several commercial buildings, a church, and three buildings at North Florida Junior College were destroyed. Two people were killed in a mobile home and two were killed in a farm house - 18 injuries, six requiring hospitalization. About 90,000 chicks were killed. Other tornadoes hit Bellville in Hamilton Co., and severe thunderstorm winds were reported in Quincy. Later

in the morning severe thunderstorm winds unroofed a house and blew a large tree on a car near Lake Apopka in Orange Co. and a tornado near Mascotte in Lake Co. heavily damage seven mobile homes and a frame house.

**20** 1989 - 1530 - St. Lucie Co., Port St. Lucie - Lightning injured two golfers while retrieving golf balls from a lake.

**20** 1992 - 1645 - Lake Co., - Thunderstorm winds blew down trees along highway. A falling tree crashed into a van and killed a 63-year old man.

**21** 1991 - 0800 - Clay Co., Lowry Lake - A fisherman in a 16 ft aluminum boat was washed overboard and drowned when strong thunderstorm winds and high waves swamped the boat.

**22** 1971 - daytime - Walton Co., NW Glendale - Golf ball size hail destroyed 1,000 acres of wheat.

**22** 1995 - 1515 - Okaloosa Co., Fort Walton Beach - A 17-year-old Ft. Walton Beach male died in rough surf while swimming off of Okaloosa Island. Hazardous surf condition flags were posted over the lifeguard stands along the protected beach areas, but a couple of local teens ventured into the rough surf.

**23** 1945 - 0130 - Escambia Co., Pensacola - Tornado destroyed six homes, damaged 10 others. One home was thrown 300 feet onto another. Eight injuries.

**23** 1978 - 0930 - 1030 - Dade Co., Miami - Thunderstorm wind gusts of 51 mph damaged windows. Ten people were injured by flying glass. Several funnel clouds were reported in the area.

**23** 1983 - morning to afternoon - Severe weather outbreak across north central Florida. Eleven tornadoes and 12 other severe thunderstorms struck from the big bend area to Jacksonville and Orlando, injuring nine and causing considerable property damage. A tornado destroyed a 2-story beach house at Alligator Point in Franklin Co., and fifty mobile homes were damaged at Shell Point in Wakulla Co. Two people were injured when thunderstorm winds overturned a trailer at Mayo in Lafayette Co. A tornado struck Bell in Gilchrist Co., destroying several mobile homes and injuring four. A tornado destroyed a brick home at Fort White in Columbia Co. Other tornadoes were reported in Bradford, Union, Duval, Clay, Marion, Lake, Volusia, and Orange Counties during the early afternoon.

**24-25** 1979 - Broward, Dade Co. - Heavy rains caused flooding of roads, streets, and highways. Miami International had a record 24 hour rainfall 16.21". The weight of the water caused roofs to collapse, flooding damaged floors and carpets. A woman drove into a canal and drowned, a man lost control of his car, struck a utility pole and died.

**25** 1991 - afternoon - Central Florida - Widespread Severe weather outbreak. Many reports of tornadoes and severe thunderstorm winds during the afternoon with widespread minor property damage and only two minor injuries. Weak tornadoes struck Largo and Indian Shores in Pinellas Co. - Lakeland and Mulberry in Polk Co., and near McDill AFB and Temple Terrace in Hillsborough Co. Severe Thunderstorm Winds struck Clearwater, St. Petersburg Beach, Tampa, Sarasota, Venice, Port Charlotte, Wauchula, Arcadia, Avon Park, Lake Wales, Sebastian and Miami. Hail was also reported in Sarasota, Polk, and Pinellas Cos. Lightning struck a man working under a truck south of Miami.

**26** 1954 - 1600 - Polk Co., Winter Haven - Hail of "walnut to egg" size broke a few windows and caused minor damage to citrus fruit.

**26** 1993 - 0630 - Washington Co., Wausau - Tornado touched down several times, damaged several homes, a church, barns, boats, overturned a 35,000 lb tractor trailer and uprooted many large trees.

**26** 1994 - 1635-1654 - Charlotte Co., Punta Gorda - A large waterspout crossed a bridge over the Peace River between Port Charlotte and Punta Gorda. A pickup on the bridge was thrown 60' down into the river, injuring the driver. Two cars were rolled over and an infant in one suffered cuts. Funnel clouds and dime-size hail were reported in the area.

**26** 1995 - Volusia Co., New Smyrna Beach - A 74-year old male resident of Deltona drowned in a rip current.

**27** 1979 - 1300 to 1430 - Duval Co., Jacksonville - Thunderstorm winds downed power lines, and damaged several boats, roofs, and docks. Quarter inch hail also fell.

**27** 1980 - 1200 to 1300 - Monroe Co.- Thunderstorm wind gusts over hurricane force swept across the Florida Keys. A woman drowned when a boat capsized. This storm occurred during Cuban evacuation with estimated 10 to 15 boats sunk and at least two men drowned. True Cuban death toll not known.

**28** 1990 - 1300 - Baker Co., S. Baxter - Thunderstorm winds downed several trees. 1515 - Holmes County, Bonifay - Thunderstorm winds downed several trees and power lines. 1616 - Putnam Co., Bostwick - Thunderstorm winds downed power lines.

**29** 1955 - 1000 - 1700 - Ft. Pierce to Miami - Wind, Rain, Hail, Lightning - Storm most severe in Fort Lauderdale area where winds of 90 mph with gusts to 130 mph. Hailstones marble size at Fort Pierce and Miami Beach, egg size at Fort Lauderdale. Hail damaged roofs, smashed windows, dented automobiles, and cut shrubbery to shreds. Lightning contributed to property damage by burning out portions of electric power distribution systems.

**29** 1979 - afternoon - SE Palm Beach, Broward, Dade Counties - A severe thunderstorm with golfball size hail caused damage to fruit trees, nursery plants, and foliage crops. Power lines and trees were downed.

**30** 1988 - 1250 - Okeechobee Co. - A tornado damaged five buildings, including City Hall, and downed trees.

**30** 1996 0100 - Citrus Co. - Thunderstorm winds produced eight foot waves which capsized and sunk a 30 foot fishing vessel in Homosassa Bay.