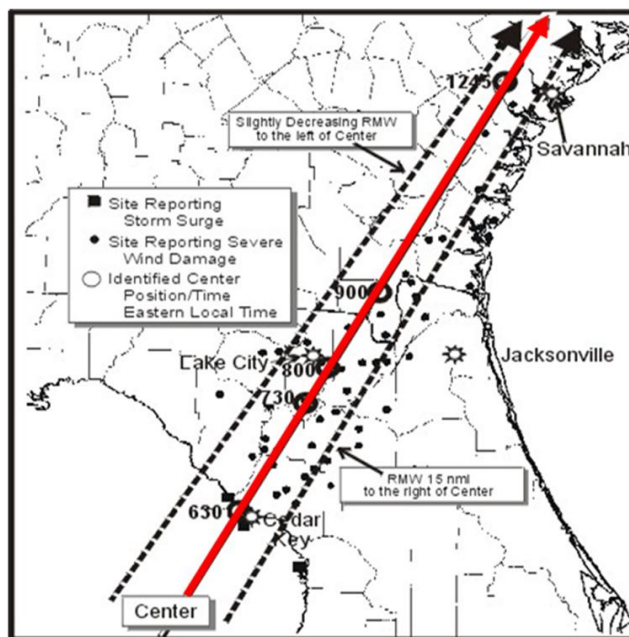


# Hurricane of 1896 Strikes with a Fury

## Fact Sheet

Event date: September 26 – 30, 1896  
 Peak winds: 130 mph

Landfall winds: 125 mph  
 Death toll: ~100



**Figure 1.** Damage reports along the center track of the hurricane as it passed through Cedar Key, FL.

**Summary of event:**

Cedar Key received a storm surge of 10.5 feet above mean sea level (MSL) and Yankeetown, FL received the brunt of the storm surge, with about 12.6 feet above MSL. Sustained winds of 70 mph were recorded in several locations, and damage estimates in Florida from timber alone totaled \$1.5 million. Some estimates indicate wind speeds of 125 mph just north of Cedar Key, FL. The death toll is estimated to be around 100 people, most of which were caused by storm surge.

Evidences of unusually violent winds were observed on every hand throughout the storm's course in the States of Florida and Georgia. In the counties of Levy, Alachua, Lafayette, Suwannee, Columbia, Bradford, and Baker, Fla., the destruction of pine timber was enormous, the monetary loss from that source alone being estimated at \$1,500,000. During the early part of the storm the trees were torn up by the roots, but as the force of the wind increased they were broken and twisted off and thrown forward in a confused mass. At Jacksonville, a little south and east of the storm's path, the self-registers show the maximum wind velocity, 70 miles per hour, to have occurred coincidentally with the minimum of pressure. Violent winds continued for an hour and a half after the occurrence of the barometric minimum. The average velocity during the continuance of the storm, or from 9.10 a. m. to 12 noon, was 52 miles per hour, rising during a portion of the time to 63 miles, which velocity was maintained continuously for an hour.

**Figure 2.** Excerpts from the Monthly Weather Review released November, 1896 regarding the destructive Cedar Key Hurricane of September 1896.



**Figure 3.** Fallen trees and other damage, in Yankeetown, FL.



**Figure 4.** Damage to a house done by the powerful hurricane force winds, in Cedar Key, FL.

**Links for more information:**

<http://www.aoml.noaa.gov/general/lib/lib1/nhclib/mwreviews/1896.pdf>.

**Acknowledgments:** The monthly weather review by the weather bureau, September 1896. The National Weather Service, Tampa Bay Area.