

October 24, 2005

Hurricane Wilma sets a record as the most rapidly expanding storm in the Atlantic by exploding from a tropical storm category to category 5 in 24 hours. Wilma makes landfall near Cape Romano as a major hurricane. The winds of the hurricane leave 98% of South Florida without power. The passage of Wilma results in hundreds of damaged or destroyed homes, with damage reaching \$20.6 billion (2005 USD), the third costliest tropical cyclone in United States history. 5 people die in the state as a result of the hurricane.



5th Anniversary

2010

2005

The 2005 Atlantic hurricane season was record-breaking in many categories. It was the busiest Atlantic hurricane season on record with 28 named storms. 2005 also holds the record for the most July hurricanes, earliest Category 3 to hit the U.S., and the most hurricanes for an entire season. This was the first time 4 storms had been named by July 5. In all, the 2005 hurricane season claimed over 3865 lives and did more than 150 billion in damage. Florida experienced impacts from 3 hurricanes (Dennis, Katrina, Wilma) and 3 tropical storms (Arlene, Rita, Tammy). Hurricane volunteers logged more than 4.7 million hours of service and organizations donated over \$18 million worth of food, ice, and water during the 2005 hurricane season.



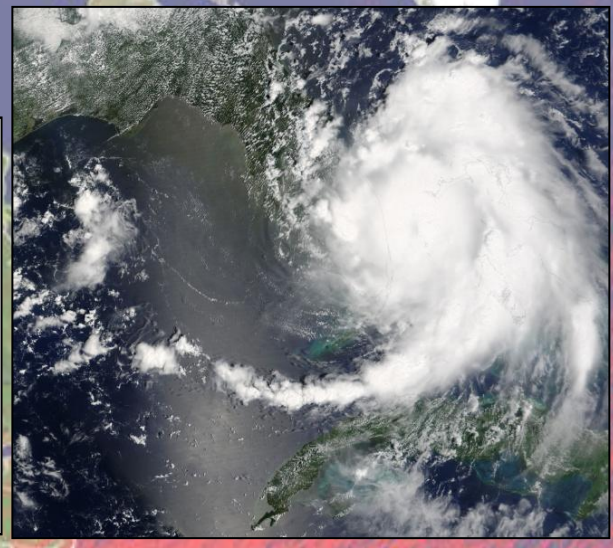
June 11, 2005

Tropical Storm Arlene strikes just west of Pensacola. Damage totals over \$3.5 million (2005 USD), and one person dies in Miami Beach from rip currents caused by the storm.



August 25, 2005

Hurricane Katrina makes landfall near the Broward/Miami-Dade County border. Damage amounts to \$523 million (2005 USD), and 12 people die in southern Florida from direct and indirect causes.



October 5, 2005



Tropical Storm Tammy hits near Atlantic Beach.

September 20, 2005

Hurricane Rita passes south of the Florida Keys, producing a 5 foot storm surge which affects up to 200 residencies.



July 10, 2005

Hurricane Dennis makes landfall on Santa Rosa Island as a major hurricane, producing 9 tornadoes throughout the state and storm surge as high as 9 feet in Apalachee Bay and 7 feet along the Panhandle. 2 people drown in the Gulf of Mexico, and the hurricane was indirectly responsible for 12 other fatalities. Damage in the state totals about \$1.5 billion (2005 USD).



10th Anniversary

September 22, 2000

Tropical Storm Helene hits near Pensacola, damaging hundreds of homes from floodwaters.



August 23, 2000



The National Hurricane Center forecasts Hurricane Debby to pass through the Florida Keys as a Category 2 hurricane. This results in officials declaring a mandatory evacuation for non-residents in the Keys, causing a significant loss of tourism revenue for Monroe County. Debby dissipates before hitting the area, though its remnants produce heavy rainfall across southern Florida.

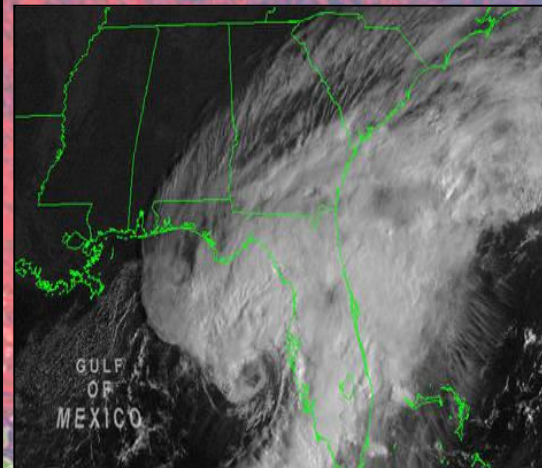
2000

October 3, 2000

The precursor disturbance to Tropical Storm Leslie produces 10—20 inches of rainfall across southeast Florida, flooding about 93,000 houses. The flooding causes \$950 million in damage (2000 USD) along with 3 indirect deaths.



September 18, 2000



Tropical Storm Gordon makes landfall on Cedar Key, dropping up to 9.48 inches of rainfall. Hundreds of homes are damaged from floodwaters or fallen trees, and damage in the state amounts to at least \$5.1 million (2000 USD). A surfer drowns in rough seas near Pensacola.

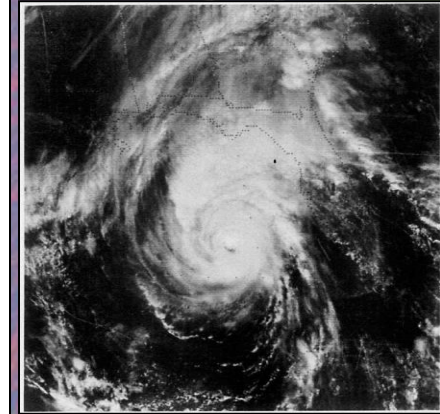
August 1-3, 1995

Hurricane Erin was the first hurricane to hit the U.S. since 1992's Andrew. Erin made landfall at Vero Beach on August 2nd. Upon emerging into the eastern Gulf of Mexico, Erin reintensified to a hurricane and continued strengthening until its final landfall near Ft. Walton Beach on the 3rd. Erin caused 6 drowning deaths across the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean off Florida and caused \$700 million (1995 US dollars) in damage.



November 21, 1985

Hurricane Kate, which reached hurricane strength only 2 days after forming, was the first hurricane to hit Florida in 10 years when it made landfall on Mexico Beach. Kate's storm surge was more destructive far to the east of the eye. 2 months after Hurricane Elena caused significant damage to the oyster industry, Hurricane Kate destroyed much of what little was left in Apalachicola Bay. Over 100,000 people evacuated from the Florida Panhandle prior to Kate's arrival. Kate was unusual, because it is one of only 7 storms in history to become a major hurricane in November.



15th Anniversary

25th Anniversary

1995

1995 is the third most active hurricane season on record.

October 4, 1995

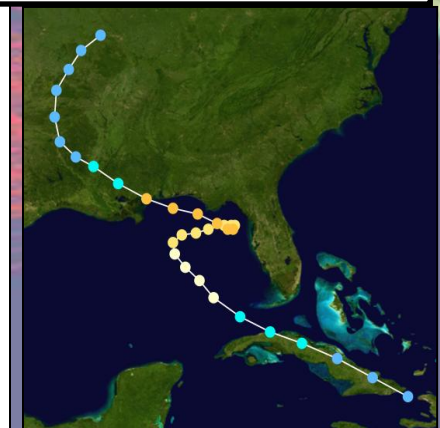
Hurricane Opal strikes the Panhandle near Santa Rosa Island and causes over \$1 billion in damage in Florida. Opal devastated the Pensacola/Panhandle area with a 15-ft storm surge. Officials had to "call off" the evacuation hours before the center of the storm was overhead because the local shelters were overflowing with people. One shelter had 400 people over their limit.



1985

Hurricane Elena pulls a loop in northern Gulf of Mexico, causing massive evacuations. Nearly 1 million people were evacuated, with a large section of the north-central Gulf Coast being asked to evacuate twice within a 3 day period. Total economic loss was near 1.25 billion, including a devastating blow the oyster industry.

August 31–September 2, 1985



Hurricane Eloise was the most destructive hurricane of the 1975 season, striking the coast between Fort Walton and Panama City as a Category 3 hurricane. Eloise made such an unexpected turn the day before landfall, officials drove through the streets of Panama City, Apalachicola, and Carrabelle with loudspeakers to alert the public about the oncoming storm. However, the beaches near Pensacola, where the storm was supposed to hit, were "99%" evacuated. A recorded gust of 156 mph was the highest ever to be recorded in the Panhandle in the 20th century and the region experienced record tides at 12-16 feet.

September 23, 1975



September 10, 1960

Hurricane Donna affects the entire eastern seaboard. Donna was the 7th most intense hurricane to strike the US in the 20th century. It first struck in the Keys then leaves a path of destruction across the entire Peninsula as it moved slowly northward and then along the eastern seaboard into Maine, making landfall 5 different times.



35th
Anniversary

40th
Anniversary

45th
Anniversary

50th
Anniversary

1975

1970

1965

September 8, 1965

1960

NOAA formed

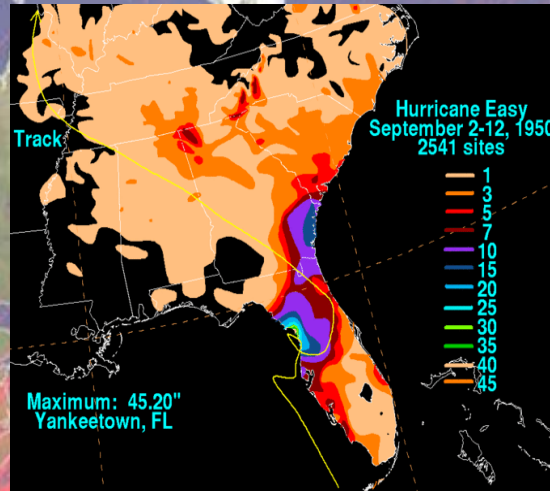


On September 4, as Hurricane Betsy was building strength, the storm whirled to a stop about 350 miles east of Jacksonville before changing directions and moving southwest towards Florida. The storm, more than 600 miles from edge to edge, flooded Miami and Fort Lauderdale with a 6 foot tide. Betsy was the first U.S. hurricane to cause damage in excess of \$1 billion, giving it the nickname "Billion-Dollar Betsy"



Hurricane Easy made a double loop track along the western Peninsula near Cedar Key and struck the same region of Florida twice in one day. Cedar Key recorded hurricane force winds for 18 hours. East set the record for tropical cyclone rainfall, with 45.2" of rain in 24 hours at Yankeetown. This record stands to this day. Easy damaged over 90% of homes and boats in the area and flooding caused severe crop damage. After the storm, hundreds of car owners from Clearwater to Jacksonville claimed that their cars had "blisters", air pockets under the paint that expanded because of low pressure.

September 5, 1950



60th
Anniversary

1950

Hurricane King strikes Miami and moves up the Peninsula, killing 6 in FL. Hurricane King cost \$28 million in damages in Florida, including \$15 million in Miami. 128 homes were completely destroyed and 13,464 homes damaged. It is estimated that a storm identical to King would cause \$2.8 billion damage if it struck in 2001.

October 18, 1950



The pine grove, Kamen Farm.
Damage from the hurricane of November 1950

August 30-31, 1950

The Weather Bureau, Joint Hurricane Center, and Air Force Hurricane Office decided to begin naming hurricanes after military codes. Hurricane Baker was the first named hurricane to hit Florida.

September 15-16, 1945

A Category 4 hurricane wallops Key Largo/Miami with gusts to 150mph then travels up the length of Florida. This storm caused 4 deaths in Florida and \$60 million in damages. The storm's greatest disaster occurred at the Naval Air Station at Richmond Heights. Hangars that held blimps and warplanes were blown down, causing enormous fires to erupt. 25 blimps, 183 military planes, 153 civilian planes, and 150 automobiles were destroyed. Over 200 people were hurt trying to fight the fire.



November 4, 1935

A hurricane with a rare track strikes Miami. It is named the "Yankee Hurricane" because it moved in from the northeast. Another odd feature of this storm was that heavier precipitation occurred in the left hand quadrant rather than the right.



65th Anniversary

75th Anniversary

1945

1935

September 2-4, 1935

The Labor Day Hurricane was the first of three Category 5 hurricanes the United States endured during the 20th century, causing 409 deaths. A small but violent storm, it causes almost complete destruction of over 30 miles and \$95 million (2010 USD) in damages. Just 30 hours before the storm hit the coast, it was barely at hurricane strength, but after quickly intensifying, it barreled onto the Upper Florida Keys with winds near 185mph. Nearly every structure was demolished. One way they measured the height of the storm surge (18-20 feet high waves at impact) was being able to see that the water rose so high it put out the fire in a train engine's boiler. This train was sent to rescue and bring back construction workers who were building a bridge that was to connect Key West to the mainland. About 25 wrist-watches were found after the storm, all stopped between 8:25-8:35pm, showing the time the surge came onto shore. After landfall, it continued northwest along the Florida west coast, weakening prior to landfall near Cedar Key on September 4 as a Category 2 hurricane.



October 17-18, 1910

Initial reports of this mid-October storm suggested that it was two separate storms. It was later identified as a single storm that stalled near western Cuba and made a small loop before moving northward to Cape Romano, Florida. The counterclockwise loop it made was due to a high pressure system over the central United States. The eye moved through the Keys, directly to the west of Key West, and caused \$250,000 damages in the Keys. The winds from the storm blew the water out of Tampa bay to the lowest water level recorded, 9 feet below the mean tide.

October 8 & 20, 1870

The "twin" hurricanes struck the Florida Keys in a period of less than two weeks. On October 7 the first storm moved very slowly northward from Cuba up the east coast of Florida as a Category 2 hurricane, causing over 1,200 casualties. Winds in Key West were reported to be near hurricane force for four consecutive days. Nine days later a second hurricane, a Category 1, moved through Cuba, past Key West and into Southwest Florida on October 20, causing 54 fatalities.

U.S. Weather Bureau
(now National
Weather Service)
formed



85th
Anniversary

1925

November 30, 1925

Nearly a month after the official end of the hurricane season, a category 1 hurricane struck Florida just south of Tampa. It was the latest hurricane to strike the US in the history of the Weather Bureau. 59 lives were lost across the Southeast U.S., mostly at sea.

100th
Anniversary

1910

September 8, 1900

Although not a Florida hurricane, the Galveston Hurricane of 1900 is to date the deadliest natural disaster ever to strike the United States with 8,000 – 12,000 people lost. It initially passed near the Florida Keys as a tropical storm on Sept. 5.

110th
Anniversary

1900

130th
Anniversary

1880

August 29-31, 1880

A total of 68 people were killed when this storm hit the Brevard County coast. A large surge of water flooded all nearby rivers and bays and submerged islands. Losses to crops were significant, turning vegetables into "seaweed". Just south of Cedar Key it moved into the Gulf of Mexico then turned northwestward and landed on the coasts of the Panhandle at Apalachicola and again on Pensacola.

140th
Anniversary

1870

175th
Anniversary

1835

September 14, 1835

A major hurricane strikes southeastern Florida, and recurves in the Gulf of Mexico before hitting near Tampa Bay. In the southeastern portion of the state, the hurricane severely floods several islands, while damage in and around Tampa totals \$4.1 million (2008 USD). After moving northeast through the state, the hurricane destroys the lighthouse at the Ponce de León Inlet.

This year was regarded as the “most treacherous” year for hurricanes in the 18th century, if not in the recorded Western Hemisphere. The hurricanes of 1780 are known for their great destruction and unparalleled number of deaths. Some may have altered the course of history by aiding in the American Revolution. At least 8 storms swept through the Atlantic Basin, 5 of which came in October. Most of these storms did not strike Florida, but they had political impacts on the state, such as sinking 13 British Royal Navy ships off the coast of Daytona Beach on October 3.

August 12, 1760

A hurricane wallops the Spanish settlement, Fort Miguel (present day Pensacola) 3 years after it was made (in 1757) and tore all the roofs off of houses and half of the stockade was destroyed.

September 22, 1565

The French lose their bid to control the Atlantic coast of North America when a storm smashes their fleet and destroys most of their vessels, allowing the Spanish to capture Fort Carolina, near present-day Jacksonville, Florida.

230th
Anniversary

235th
Anniversary

250th
Anniversary

290th
Anniversary

445th
Anniversary

1780

1775

1760

1740

1565

July 31, 1775

A fleet of ships lead by Admiral Don Juan de Ubilla was hit by a hurricane that killed 700 people and lost 14 million pesos of gold, silver and jewels along the coast of St. Lucie and Cape Canaveral. This storm, more than any other, gives the coast the name “Treasure Coast”.

September 11, 1740

The first of two (second on the 18th) hurricanes to hit near Mobile, Alabama within one week. This hurricane hit Pensacola just as the Spaniards were rebuilding their outpost from a previous year's storm. The second storm flooded all of the rivers and inlets of the area.