



# 1935 Hurricane Sweeps South Florida

## Fact Sheet

Event date: August 29 – September 10, 1935

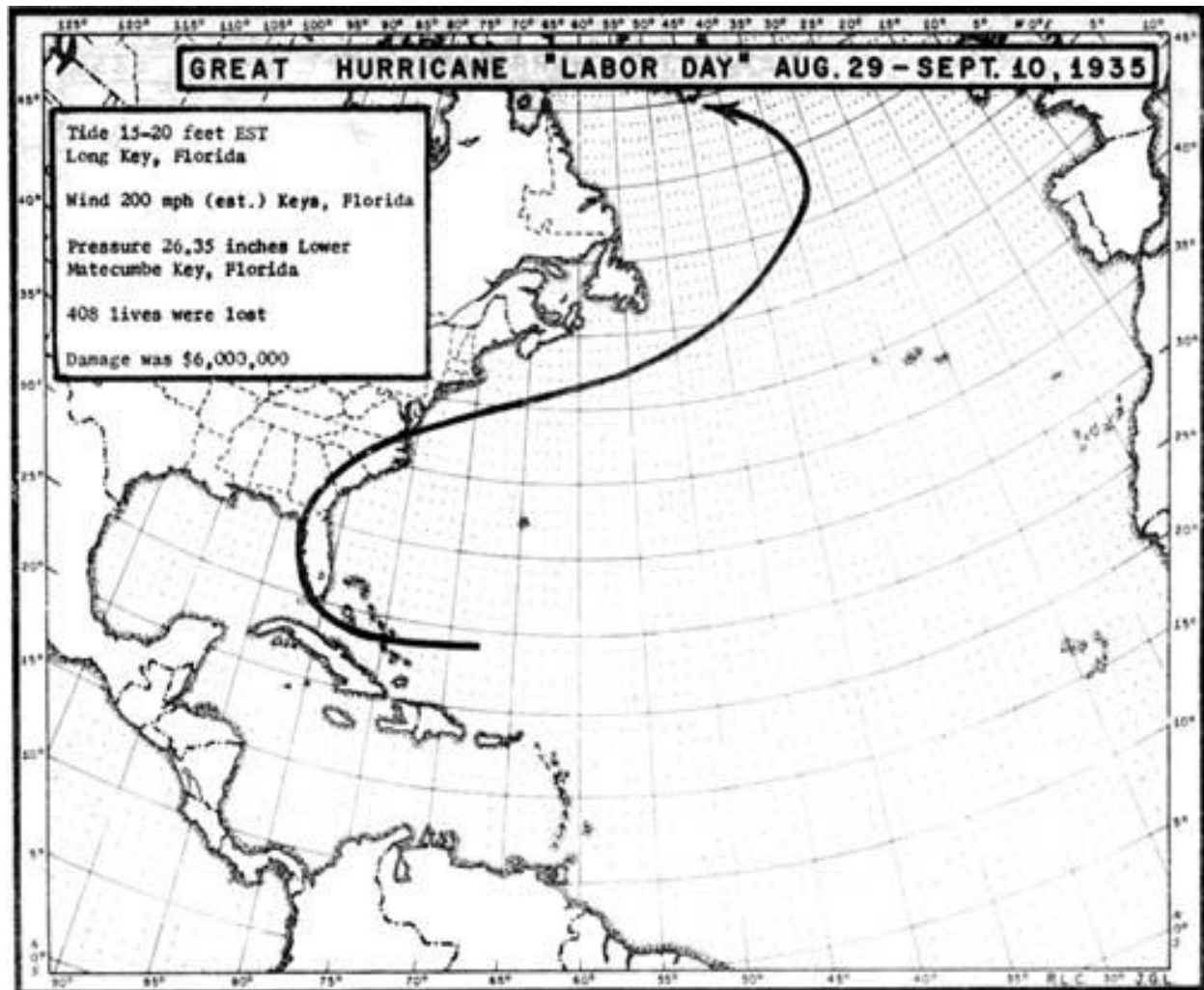
Peak winds: 200 mph

Landfall winds: 150 – 200 mph

Minimum pressure: 892 mb

Landfall pressure: 905 mb

Death toll: ~408



**Figure 1.** Proposed storm tack according to the National Hurricane Center.

### Summary of event:

Officially, 408 lives were taken by the great Labor Day Hurricane of 1935, most of them World War I veterans working in the Keys where the hurricane made its first landfall. The second landfall at Cedar Key saw 3 deaths and widespread damage.



While Clearwater suffered damage mainly to crops, other locations suffered significantly more. St. Petersburg and Tampa Bay experienced high tides with estimates around 5 feet above mean tide. Property damage there was reported as "considerable" but no deaths were reported. Tampa experienced storm surge as well, with Bayshore Drive being partially washed out, and several roofs torn off and trees uprooted. Buildings were unroofed in Sarasota and communication lines were crippled, but there was no loss of life reported.

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| <h1>HURRICANE RUSHES TOWARD FLORIDA</h1>   |  | <p>With the hurricane winds at St. Petersburg came torrents of rain and most of the city where thousands spend their Winters basking in the sunshine was in darkness.</p>                                  |
| <h2>AREA PREPARED FOR BLOW</h2> <p>Hurricane winds tore into this island community today, leaving in their wake the destruction of several buildings, including an empty theatre, and sweeping Gulf water into the highest tide since 1896. Streets were flooded.</p>  | <p>After lashing the keys early yesterday the hurricane had zigzagged across the southern tip of the mainland through sparsely settled sections and hurled part of its fury on Tampa, St. Petersburg, Bradenton, Sarasota communities. No reports from communication</p> | <p>Waterfront sections of the city were reported flooded.</p>  |
| <p>Northeast storm warnings were ordered from West Palm Beach northward to Titusville on the Atlantic coast and from Punta Gorda to Carrabelle on the west.</p> <p>Within the area are Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Palm Beach, Everglades, Naples, Fort Myers, Punta Gorda, Sarasota, Venice, Hollywood, Homestead and other localities which form the bulk of Southern Florida coast.</p> | <h2>Miami, Palm Beach and Sarasota Menaced by Tropical Storm.</h2>   | <p>Fishermen estimated the wind at 100 miles an hour, but the velocity had moderated considerably by nightfall.</p>  |
| <h2>80-MILE GALE FOREWARNS HIGH WINDS POUND TAMPA</h2>   | <p>As the storm, reported with a 100-mile an hour velocity at Boca Grande, south of St. Petersburg, whipped into Tampa Bay, two fishermen were reported missing in the Gulf and distress flares were seen in the stormy sky out in the Gulf.</p>                         | <h2>Torrents at St. Petersburg.</h2> <p>hurricane swept northwestward along the west coast tonight and lashed at the resort city of St. Petersburg and at Tampa, centre of the State's cigar industry.</p> |

Figure 2. Newspaper headlines and damage photographs.

Links for more information: <http://www3.gendisasters.com/florida/6382/southern-fl-labor-day-hurricane-sep-1935>

Acknowledgments: The New York Times, 1935.