

# Hurricane Donna Strikes Naples

## Fact Sheet

Date: August 30-September 12, 1960  
 Maximum winds: 150 mph  
 Minimum Pressure: 930 mb

Landfall winds: 135 mph  
 Landfall pressure: 950 mb  
 Deaths: 50 in the United States

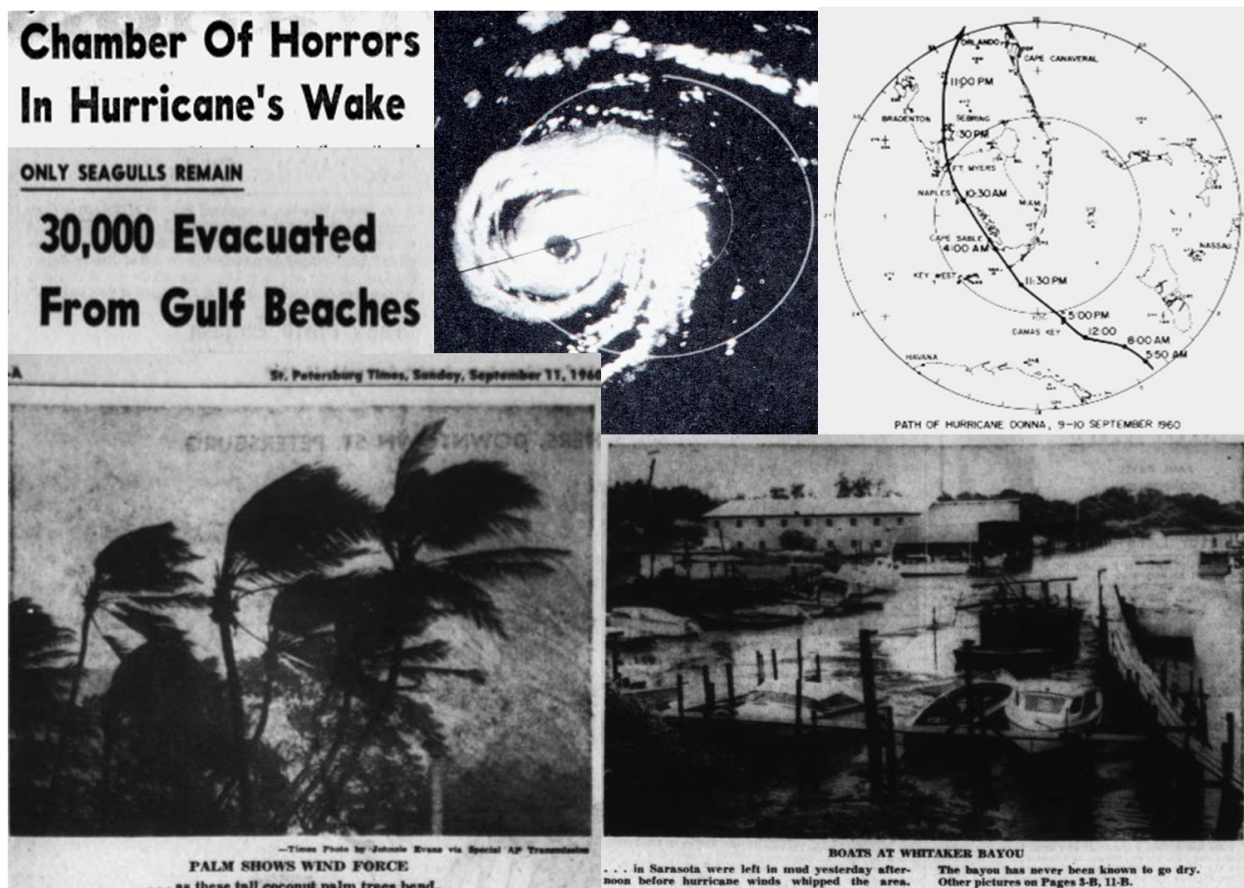


Figure 1. Headlines and pictures from St. Petersburg Times and National Hurricane Center storm archives.

### Summary of event:

Donna was first detected as a tropical wave moving off the African coast on August 29. It became a tropical storm over the tropical Atlantic the next day and a hurricane on September 1. Donna continued west, and made a northwestward turn on the 9th bringing the hurricane to the middle Florida Keys the next day at Category 4 intensity. Donna then turned northeastward and crossed the Florida Peninsula on September 11. Hurricane Donna proved to be a formidable opponent for Florida's Gulf coast.

Stories of survival and sorrow abound, including, “George Brainard, a beach merchant, [who] went to his store during the calm period as the eye of Donna passed through. He didn’t leave for safety in time. The eye passed on. The wind roared in on him and the Gulf seas broke all barriers. The body of George Brainard was found more than a mile from his home in the mangroves.” More stories of Donna’s damage were reported in local newspapers, and it was said that, “the Gulf sprinted across the marshlands, invaded his store and carried away three boats from [a] showroom. They still haven’t been found.” Byron Liles of Bonita Springs watched a storm surge of about 10 to 15 feet come across Hickory Boulevard. He said he watched as, “some homes were carried off their block bottoms, [and] swept into the mangroves.”

A woman said, “three feet of water went through my house, [and] wedged between the beds in one of my rooms was a huge tropical plant. I haven’t the slightest idea of how it got into my home.” An elderly couple’s trailer was found 150 yards away, across a bay on its back. The tidal water went in one window and out the other. “Enormous damage was found to be done in trees uprooted, blown down, many times across portions of buildings. There was no loss of life, and though streets are heavily cumbered with all kinds of litter there were very few instances of complete demolition of structures. It may be weeks before the debris is cleared away.”

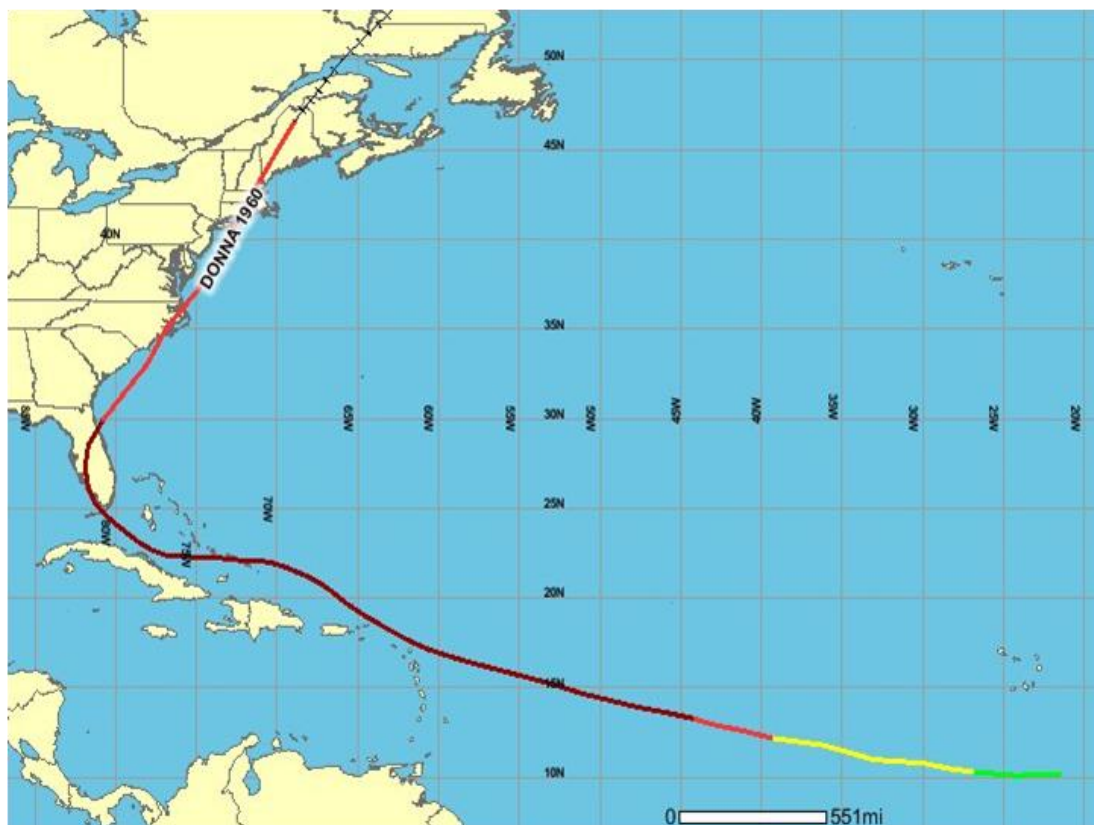


Figure 2. Hurricane Donna track from the NOAA Coastal Services Center.





## 4 Dead, 13 Injured In Hurricane

Fort Myers Hit By Full Force Of Big Wind

# Hurricane Heading Toward Tampa Bay



HURRICANE DONNA WASHED several fishing craft up on land in cove in rear of Sea Horse restaurant on the Grotto Long Point Rd., Noank. The picture was taken at the height of the storm Monday. (Photo by John R. Dick)



### Sarasota Area Hit

A youth was electrocuted at Winter Haven while trying to dismantle a television antenna in gale winds; a young Miami man was killed on a storm-slicked highway south of Miami and an unidentified body washed ashore at Tavernier in the keys.

Figure 4. Headlines from [www.hurricanes-blizzards-noreasters.com](http://www.hurricanes-blizzards-noreasters.com) and [www.sun-sentinel.com](http://www.sun-sentinel.com).

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Figure 5. Pictures from [www.hurricanes-blizzards-noreasters.com](http://www.hurricanes-blizzards-noreasters.com).

**Links for more information:** <http://www.hurricanes-blizzards-noreasters.com/hurricanedonna.html>, <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/southflorida/sfl-1960-hurricane.0,4024486.story>, <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/english/history.shtml#donna>, [http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/archive/storm\\_wallets/atlantic/atl1960/donna/](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/archive/storm_wallets/atlantic/atl1960/donna/), <http://www.aoml.noaa.gov/general/lib/lib1/nhclib/mwreviews/1960.pdf>, <http://www.naplesnews.com/news/2008/sep/09/remembering-donna/>.