



Hurricane Charley Strikes Florida

Fact Sheet

- Event date: August 9-15, 2004
- Peak winds: 150 mph
- Landfall winds: 150 mph
- Minimum pressure: 941 mb
- Landfall pressure: 941 mb
- Max storm surge: 7 ft on Sanibel Island



Figure 1. Woman overlooks her damaged home.

Summary of event:

Hurricane Charley strengthened rapidly, reaching its peak intensity just before striking the southwestern coast of Florida as a Category 4 hurricane on Friday the 13th of August 2004. Charley caused catastrophic wind damage in Charlotte County, Florida, and serious damage occurred well inland over the Florida peninsula. Homes were condemned throughout Charlotte, De Soto, and Hardee counties. Sustained winds of hurricane force were felt as far inland as Orlando.

Of the aftermath the governor said that, "Paradise is no longer... Our historic area is pretty much destroyed." After viewing Punta Gorda from the air, Governor Jeb Bush said, "Our worst fears have been realized... an entire community totally flattened." Bill Luke, a 65 year old man with four years of experience in the Marine Corps and 30 years in the police department said, "this is the most scared I've ever been. We were in a well built house, and I thought the roof would come off. I thought I was going to die." There were nine deaths in Florida attributed to Hurricane Charley, and

severe damage occurred well inland. A husband and wife were killed when their mobile home was destroyed by the hurricane. Two men died after being struck by flying debris, and another died as a result of a tree falling onto the structure he was in. The severe weather associated with Charley caused a woman to drive off the road and hit a tree, resulting in her death. Another man drowned when he drove off of a flooded highway into a lake, another was killed while in a tool shed hit by strong winds, and a girl traveling in a vehicle died when strong winds blew a moving van into her vehicle.

Along with stories of death and destruction came stories of survival. One family stayed in their home on Sanibel Island and rode out the storm in their closet. Although there was a time when they feared the house would collapse around them, they survived the raging winds.

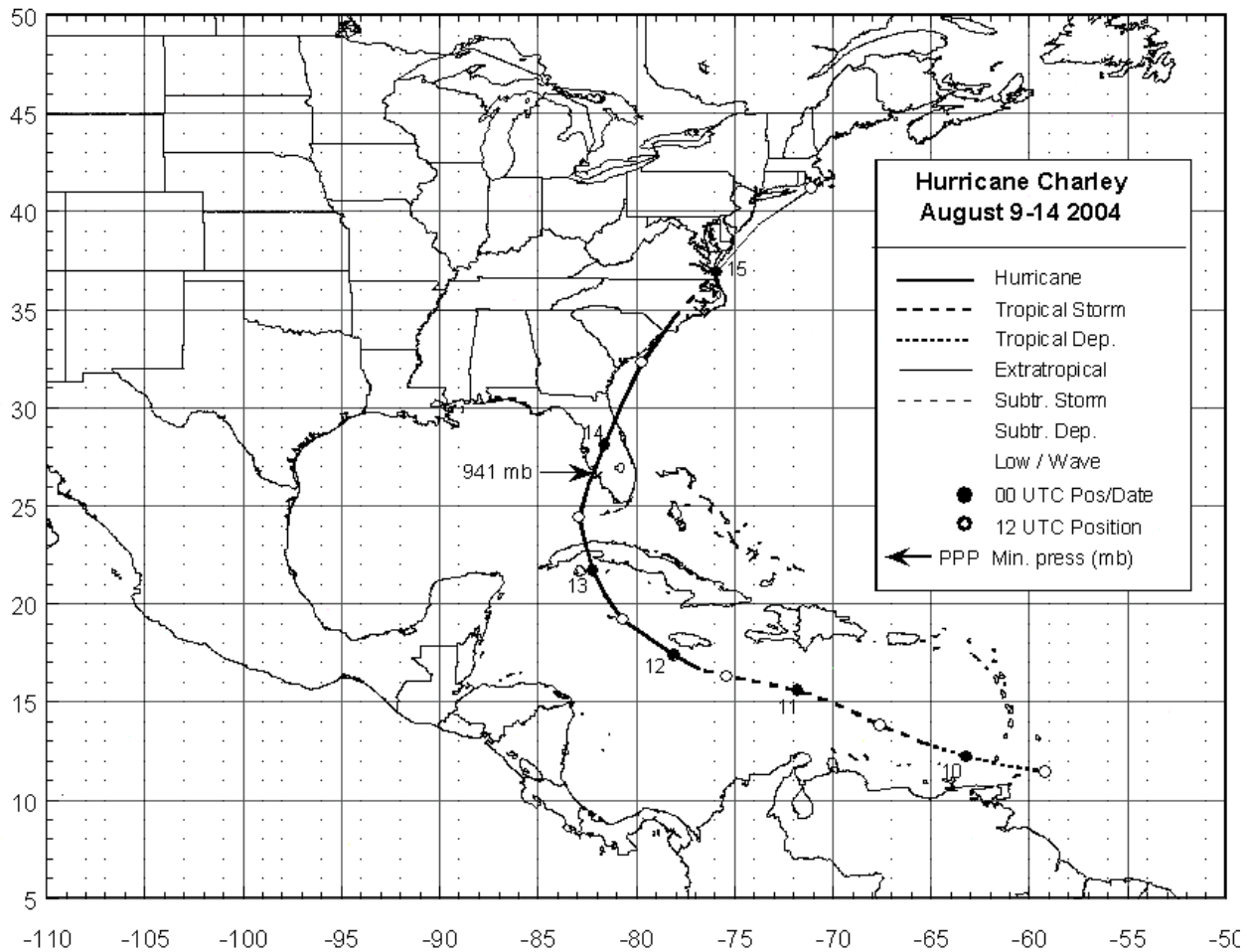


Figure 2. National Hurricane Center track for Hurricane Charley.

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Figure 3. Damage from Hurricane Charley and satellite image of Hurricane Charley's landfall.

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Figure 4. Damage from Hurricane Charley.

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Figure 5. Damage to buildings and uprooted trees from Hurricane Charley.

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Figure 6. Damage photographs from Hurricane Charley.

Acknowledgments: The Los Angeles Times. Los Angeles, CA: Aug 15, 2004. "Aftermath of a Hurricane."

Links for more information:

http://images.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.parrinspections.com/photos/gallery/1539_Damage4_Erwin.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.parrinspections.com/photo_gallery.asp&usq=jKFFZdKQqzd9N0XBJQLKIsOpvTM=&h=597&w=800&sz=181&hl=en&start=2&tbnid=bhj9vR9MRMHJKM:&tbnh=107&tbnw=143&prev=/images%3Fq%3Dhurricane%2Bcharley%2Bdamage%26hl%3Den
<http://www.nbc-2.com/Global/category.asp?C=172996>