



Summary of event:

The No name storm started to develop in the Gulf of Mexico on March 13, 1993. When this storm developed, it was not during the hurricane season, but had similar impacts. Thus, producing an unnamed hurricane-like storm which roared across Florida; powerful winds at 50 mph scampered eastward in front of a forceful low, producing numerous tornadoes. It took approximately 12 hours to cross the Gulf of Mexico and into Florida. The storm was **created when a mass of 20 - 30 degrees F air collided with moist 70 - 80 degrees F air over the Gulf of Mexico. It rapidly intensified, because of the jet stream winds aloft, reaching to 140 knots, and the temperature difference.** The hot, humid temperatures colliding with the cold, dry temperatures, along with the gusty winds aloft all combined together to create a superior atmosphere for a strong storm.

When it reached Florida **it moved rapidly into northwestern Florida on March 13th. A strong squall line developed as it reached the Florida coast. This created storm surges up to 12 feet, and hurricane force winds** (<http://www.ccb.ucar.edu/superstorm/mickey.ppt>). Many of the forecasters were correct in predicting high winds, but what the forecasters did not expect was the high water so early in the storm.

Detailed experience:

Eleven people drowned offshore in the Gulf of Mexico after strong winds swamped or capsized ships (including seven crewmen from a 200-foot Honduran freighter). Eleven others died during rescue operations and cleanup activities (<http://www4.ncdc.noaa.gov/cgi-win/wwcgi.dll?wwevent~ShowEvent~194933>). **In Levy county a tornado struck a home in which four people were asleep, pinning two of them under a fallen wall and suffocating them** (<http://www4.ncdc.noaa.gov/cgi-win/wwcgi.dll?wwevent~ShowEvent~195330>). Florida had an extensive amount of damage. Along Florida's Gulf coast there were **hurricane force winds, 12 feet storm surge, and 14 tornadoes** that spawned off of the storm; the damage that was caused to Florida was devastating as well. Many people were asleep when the storm hit land. The residents in Florida on the west coast, where the storm hit directly, were awakened due to water rushing inside their homes. There were **18,000 homes destroyed, \$500 million in property damage, and a whopping 26 lives lost along Florida's Gulf Coast** (<http://www.ccb.ucar.edu/superstorm/mickey.ppt>). With this storm, there was a cold front, which caused most of the east coast of the United States to be covered with snow. Areas over north Florida received several inches of snow. Due to the snow that was produced with this storm, it was also known as the White Hurricane. It affected Florida so bad that it was known as Florida's biggest winter storm since 1899.

NOAA AND THE PRESERVE

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Initiative



Intersection in St. Petersburg during the storm

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/forrestmontana/3750137447/in/set-72157621674448109/>