

# The Florida Hurricane

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THE Hurricane which swept across South Florida on Sept. 18th, 1926, in a path of destruction 60 miles wide, was one of the most terrible disasters in recent years. It did much greater damage than the Lorain Tornado or the Southern Illinois Tornado.

Tornados are of brief duration, remaining in one spot only a few minutes. The Hurricane which blew in from the Carribean, the breeding place of tropical storms, raged fiercely in Miami, from one o'clock in the morning until six o'clock then after a lull of two hours blew again more fiercely than ever until two o'clock in the afternoon. It wreaked its work of destruction for eleven hours therefore, the wind blowing at times at the rate of 130 miles per hour. So tremendous was its force that it drove the waters of the Atlantic deep over Miami Beach so that streets and palm lined gardens were waist high in water. The hundreds of craft lying in Biscayne Bay, from speed boats to giant freighters were lifted on the crest of the mountainous waves that the hurricane developed in the Bay and hurled upon the city's shore line so that when the waters receded they were lying high and dry in Royal Palm Park, on streets and boulevards as far as four or five blocks from the shore. Possibly never have been seen so many vessels stranded on a lee shore. It is estimated that 500 vessels were thus sunk, destroyed or cast ashore. With the terrific wind came rain that drove in like a tidal wave filling the city's streets with rivers of

water. The work of destruction was wrought in Miami, Hialeah, Lemon City, Dania, Hollywood, Fort Lauderdale. Then it raged across the peninsula utterly destroying Moore Haven on the shores of Lake Okeechobee. Then it crossed the Gulf and did much destruction in Pensacola and Mobile before its strength was spent.

About 400 known lives were lost in the hurricane, of whom 114 were in Miami, 54 in Hollywood, 22 in Hialeah, about 100 in Moore Haven, 10 in Fort Lauderdale and 11 in Dania. Several hundred more are missing, over 200 being missing in Miami. About 4000 are injured many of them very seriously. About 20,000 homes were totally destroyed or badly damaged and 50,000 people, according to surveys made by Messrs. Feiser and Baker of the Red Cross, were rendered homeless. They figured that \$5,000,000 was needed for relief, and nearly half of this amount was raised by public subscription throughout the United States in ten days.

Particularly pitiable was the plight of Moore Haven which was practically wiped out, the town being completely submerged by the waters of Lake Okeechobee.

Of the total loss from the hurricane of \$100,000,000, \$60,000,000 was incurred in Greater Miami, and \$16,000,000 in Moore Haven. There are 1000 in hospitals of those injured in Miami and thousands were injured in Hollywood, Fort Lauderdale and other places in the path of destruction.