

= Effects of Hurricane Charley in South Carolina =

The effects of Hurricane Charley in South Carolina included \$ 20 million (2004 USD) in damage and 135 @, @ 000 power outages . Hurricane Charley lasted from August 9 to August 15 , and at its peak attained 150 mph (240 km / h) winds , making it a strong Category 4 hurricane on the Saffir @-@ Simpson Hurricane Scale . The storm made landfall in southwestern Florida at maximum strength , making it the strongest hurricane to hit the United States since Hurricane Andrew struck Florida twelve years before , in 1992 .

Before the storm , Governor Mark Sanford declared a state of emergency as Charley approached its final landfall and issued a mandatory evacuation for residents on barrier islands and in coastal locations . About 180 @, @ 000 people evacuated the Grand Strand . Peak winds in the state were clocked at 63 mph (101 km / h) at the Isle of Palms . The storm spawned winds of 58 mph (93 km / h) at Folly Beach and 51 mph (82 km / h) in downtown Charleston . Numerous trees , tree limbs and electrical poles were knocked down in those regions . Flash flooding was also reported with rainfall peaking at over 7 in (180 mm) . There were no fatalities .

= = Preparations = =

Prior to the storm , a tropical storm watch was issued for locations from the Altamaha sound , Georgia to the South Santee River on August 12 . The next day , the watch was upgraded to a hurricane watch from the Altamaha sound to the South Carolina ? Georgia border . As Charley approached the region , a hurricane warning was issued for the entire area . A tornado watch was issued eastward from a line extending from Aiken to Lancaster County .

Governor Mark Sanford declared a state of emergency as Charley approached landfall and issued a mandatory evacuation for residents on barrier islands and in coastal locations in Georgetown and Horry Counties . In Georgetown County , this order was focused on residents and tourists east of U.S. Route 17 , likewise for Horry County . 180 @, @ 000 people evacuated the Grand Strand . Drawbridges in Beaufort and Charleston Counties were shut down , and bridges in Georgetown and Horry Counties were locked down . Hampton County requested 2 @, @ 000 sandbags , that were provided by the Department of Corrections . The Wateree Correctional Institution also filled 30 @, @ 000 sandbags for potential floods . State troopers directed traffic inland from Myrtle Beach . U.S. Route 501 used a lane reversal to allow for evacuations .

= = Impact = =

The first storm to make landfall in the state at hurricane intensity since Hurricane Hugo in 1989 , Hurricane Charley struck near Cape Romain , South Carolina as an 80 mph (130 km / h) hurricane , moved offshore briefly , and made its final landfall near North Myrtle Beach as a minimal hurricane with winds of 75 mph (120 km / h) . With the landfalling system , five tornadoes were reported in the state . However , only two were confirmed ; one moved through the Francis Marion National Forest , downing trees along its path . Storm surge ranged from 4 ft (1 @. @ 2 m) ? 6 ft (1 @. @ 8 m) , although only minor beach erosion occurred . A buoy situated 41 nmi (47 mi) southeast of Charleston recorded 16 ft (4 @. @ 9 m) seas and 74 miles per hour (119 km / h) winds .

Peak winds in the state were clocked at 63 mph (101 km / h) at the Isle of Palms . The storm spawned winds of 58 mph (93 km / h) at Folly Beach and 51 mph (82 km / h) in downtown Charleston . Trees , limbs and electrical poles were knocked down in those regions . Trees were blown onto U.S. Route 17 in Mount Pleasant , and awnings were torn off of a few structures . A total of 2 @, @ 231 houses were damaged ; 2317 of these were severely damaged and 40 were destroyed . Two @-@ hundred and twenty @-@ one of those damaged were beach front structures on Sunset Beach . Businesses had broken windows , six hotels had roof and outer wall damage . This led to \$ 30 million (2004 USD) in hotel profit loss in Myrtle Beach , primarily along U.S. Route 17 .

As dry air from northern sections of the state wrapped into the circulation of the storm , a band of

convection developed along a frontal boundary stretching from Newberry northward . Widespread rainfall peaking at over 7 in (180 mm) fell to the west of the storm 's track . In downtown Charleston , 2 @. @ 09 in (53 mm) of rainfall was reported , while in Hampton 1 @. @ 53 in (39 mm) of rain fell . However , the bulk of the rainfall remained offshore . With the soil still saturated from Tropical Storm Bonnie , some flooding in low @- @ lying areas of Charleston County occurred . Up to 1 ft (0 @. @ 30 m) of water accumulated on South Carolina Route 17 and on local streets . Flash floods were also observed in Mount Pleasant . High winds spread vegetative debris , clogging storm drains and caused further flooding . A bridge in Union County washed out following rainfall from Charley and Tropical Storm Bonnie . 135 @, @ 000 customers were without power , and storm damage totaled \$ 20 million (2004 USD) .

Following the storm , Progress Energy Carolinas assembled 1 @, @ 200 tree and power line personnel to assist in damage recovery . Federal disaster funds were approved for the counties of Georgetown and Horry . The declaration covered damage to public property on August 14 ? 15 . The funding covered state and local government costs for debris removal and emergency services related to the hurricane .