

= Hurricane Andrew =

Hurricane Andrew was , at the time of its occurrence in August 1992 , the most destructive hurricane in United States history . It caused major damage in the Bahamas and Louisiana , but the greatest impact was in South Florida , where it made landfall at Category 5 hurricane intensity on the Saffir ? Simpson hurricane scale , with wind speeds up to 165 mph (270 km / h) . Passing directly through the town of Homestead , Florida , a suburb south of Miami , Andrew obliterated entire blocks of homes , in many cases leaving only the concrete foundations . Over 25 @, @ 000 houses were destroyed in Miami @-@ Dade County alone , and nearly 100 @, @ 000 more were severely damaged . The damage total across the affected regions exceeded \$ 26 billion (1992 USD) , and 65 people lost their lives in the hurricane .

Andrew originated from a tropical wave over the central Atlantic , becoming the fourth tropical cyclone and the first hurricane of the 1992 Atlantic hurricane season . Initially , strong wind shear prevented much intensification , but after turning westward , Andrew entered a stage of rapid intensification ; it peaked as a powerful Category 5 hurricane near the Bahamas on August 23 . Though it briefly weakened to Category 4 strength while traversing the island nation , Andrew regained its Category 5 status before making two separate landfalls in South Florida ? the first on Elliott Key and the second in Homestead . In Miami @-@ Dade County alone , damage was originally estimated at \$ 25 billion (1992 USD) . Several hours later , the hurricane emerged over the Gulf of Mexico at Category 4 strength , with the Gulf Coast of the United States in its projected path . After weakening slightly , Andrew moved ashore near Morgan City , Louisiana , as low @-@ end Category 3 storm . The effects of land caused the small hurricane to rapidly lose its intensity , and it diminished to a depression by August 27 while crossing Mississippi . The next day , Andrew merged with a frontal system over the southern Appalachian Mountains .

In the Bahamas , Andrew brought storm surge , hurricane @-@ force winds , and tornadoes , causing widespread structural damage , especially on Cat Cays . About 800 houses were destroyed in the archipelago , and there was substantial damage to the transport , water , sanitation , agriculture , and fishing sectors . Overall , Andrew left four dead and \$ 250 million (1992 USD) in damage throughout the Bahamas . In parts of southern Florida , Andrew produced severe winds ; a wind gust of 177 mph (282 km / h) was observed at a house in Perrine . These winds wreaked catastrophic damage in Florida ? Miami @-@ Dade County cities of Florida City , Homestead , and Cutler Ridge receiving the brunt of the storm . A total of 63 @, @ 000 homes were destroyed and more than 101 @, @ 000 others were damaged , leaving roughly 175 @, @ 000 people homeless . As many as 1 @. @ 4 million people lost power at the height of the storm . In the Everglades , 70 @, @ 000 acres (280 km²) of trees were downed . Rainfall in Florida was substantial , peaking at 13 @. @ 98 in (355 mm) in western Miami @-@ Dade County . Altogether , Andrew killed 44 and left a record \$ 25 billion in damage in the state .

Before moving ashore Andrew caused extensive damage to oil platforms in the Gulf of Mexico , leading to \$ 500 million in losses for oil companies . It produced hurricane @-@ force winds along its path through Louisiana , leaving about 152 @, @ 000 without electricity . Over 80 % of trees in the Atchafalaya River Basin were downed , and the agriculture there was devastated . Throughout the basin and Bayou Lafourche , 187 million freshwater fish were killed in the hurricane . An F3 tornado in St. John the Baptist Parish wrecked 163 structures . With 23 @, @ 000 houses damaged , 985 others destroyed , and 1 @, @ 951 mobile homes demolished , property losses in Louisiana exceeded \$ 1 @. @ 5 billion . The hurricane caused the deaths of 17 people in the state , six of whom drowned offshore .

Andrew spawned at least 28 tornadoes along the Gulf Coast , especially in Alabama , Georgia , and Mississippi . Throughout its path , Andrew left 65 dead and \$ 26 billion in damage (1992 USD , \$ 43 @. @ 8 billion 2016 USD) ; it is currently the fourth costliest hurricane in Atlantic hurricane history , behind only hurricanes Katrina and Wilma in 2005 , Ike in 2008 , and Sandy in 2012 . Some sources put the damage from Andrew as high as \$ 34 billion (1992 USD , \$ 57 @. @ 3 billion 2016 USD) .

= = Meteorological history = =

A tropical wave moved off the coast of Africa on August 14 . Under the influence of a ridge of high pressure to its north , the wave tracked quickly westward . An area of convection developed along the wave axis to the south of the Cape Verde islands , and on August 15 , meteorologists began classifying the system with the Dvorak technique . The thunderstorm activity became more concentrated , and narrow spiral rainbands developed around a developing center of circulation . Based on a Dvorak T @-@ number of 2 @.@ 0 , it is estimated that Tropical Depression Three developed late on August 16 , while about 1 @,@ 630 miles (2 @,@ 620 km) east @-@ southeast of Barbados . Embedded within the deep easterlies , the depression tracked west @-@ northwestward at 20 mph (32 km / h) . Initially , moderate wind shear prevented strengthening , until a decrease in shear allowed the depression to intensify into Tropical Storm Andrew at 1200 UTC on August 17 .

By early August 18 , the storm maintained concentrated convection near the center with spiral bands to its west as the winds increased to 50 mph (80 km / h) . Shortly thereafter the thunderstorms decreased markedly during the diurnal minimum and as the storm turned to the northwest , increased southwesterly wind shear from an upper @-@ level low prevented Andrew from maintaining deep convection . On August 19 , a Hurricane Hunters flight into the storm failed to locate a well @-@ defined center and on the following day , a flight found that the cyclone had degenerated to the extent that only a diffuse low @-@ level circulation center remained ; observations indicated the pressure rose to an unusually high 1 @,@ 015 mbar (30 @.@ 0 inHg) . The flight indicated Andrew maintained a vigorous circulation aloft , with winds of 80 mph (130 km / h) recorded at flight level . Subsequently , the upper @-@ level low weakened and split into a trough , which decreased the wind shear over the storm . Simultaneously , a strong high pressure cell developed over the southeastern United States , which built eastward and caused Andrew to turn to the west . Convection became more organized as upper @-@ level outflow became better established . An eye formed , and Andrew attained hurricane status early on August 22 , while located about 650 miles (1 @,@ 050 km) east @-@ southeast of Nassau , Bahamas . Six hours after becoming a hurricane , Andrew was predicted to make landfall near Jupiter , Florida with winds of 105 mph (169 km / h) .

The hurricane accelerated as it tracked due westward into an area of very favorable conditions , and began to rapidly intensify late on August 22 ; in a 24 ? hour period the atmospheric pressure dropped by 47 mbar (47 hPa ; 1 @.@ 4 inHg) to a minimum of 922 mbar (922 hPa ; 27 @.@ 2 inHg) . On August 23 , the storm attained Category 5 status on the Saffir ? Simpson hurricane scale , and at 1800 UTC , Andrew reached peak winds of 175 mph (280 km / h) while located a short distance off Eleuthera island in the Bahamas . Operationally , the National Hurricane Center assessed its peak intensity as 150 mph (240 km / h) , which was upgraded to 155 mph (249 km / h) in a post @-@ analysis after the season ended ; the hurricane was later re @-@ classified as a Category 5 hurricane . Even with winds of 175 mph (280 km / h) , Andrew was a small tropical cyclone , with winds of 35 mph (56 km / h) extending out only about 90 miles (140 km) from its center . After reaching that intensity , the hurricane underwent an eyewall replacement cycle . At 2100 UTC on August 23 , Andrew made landfall on Eleuthera with winds of 160 mph (260 km / h) . The cyclone weakened further while crossing the Bahama Banks , and at 0100 UTC on August 24 , Andrew hit the southern Berry Islands of the Bahamas with winds of 150 mph (240 km / h) . As it crossed over the warm waters of the Gulf Stream , the hurricane rapidly re @-@ intensified as the eye decreased in size and its eyewall convection deepened . At 0840 UTC on August 24 , Andrew struck Elliott Key with winds of 165 mph (266 km / h) and a pressure of 926 mbar (27 @.@ 3 inHg) . About 25 minutes after its first Florida landfall , Andrew hit just northeast of Homestead with a slightly lower pressure of 922 mbar (922 hPa ; 27 @.@ 2 inHg) .

As the eye moved onshore in Florida , the convection in the eyewall strengthened due to increased convergence , and Hurricane Hunters reported a warmer eyewall temperature than two hours prior . However , Andrew weakened as it continued further inland , and after crossing southern Florida in four hours , the storm emerged into the Gulf of Mexico with winds of 135 mph (217 km / h) . In the Gulf of Mexico , the eye remained well @-@ defined as the hurricane turned to the west @-@

northwest , a change due to the weakening of the ridge to its north . Andrew steadily re-intensified over the Gulf of Mexico , reaching winds of 145 mph (233 km / h) late on August 25 . As the high pressure system to its north weakened , a strong mid-latitude trough approached the area from the northwest . This caused the hurricane to decelerate to the northwest , and winds decreased as Andrew approached the Gulf Coast of the United States . At 0830 UTC on August 26 , the cyclone made its final landfall in a sparsely populated area of Louisiana about 20 miles (32 km) west-southwest of Morgan City with winds of 115 mph (185 km / h) . Hurricane Andrew weakened rapidly as it turned to the north and northeast , falling to tropical storm intensity within ten hours . After entering Mississippi , the cyclone deteriorated to tropical depression status early on August 27 . Accelerating northeastward , the depression began merging with the approaching frontal system , and by midday on August 28 , Andrew ceased to meet the qualifications of a tropical cyclone while located over the southern Appalachian Mountains . The remnants continued moving towards northeast and lost its identity on August 28 , while merging with the remnants of Hurricane Lester within the frontal zone over the Mid-Atlantic states .

= = Preparations = =

= = = Bahamas = = =

Before the hurricane passed through the Bahamas , forecasters predicted a storm surge of up to 18 ft (5 @ 5 m) , as well as up to 8 in (200 mm) of rain . On August 22 , hurricane watches were issued from Andros and Eleuthera islands northward through Grand Bahama and Great Abaco . They were upgraded to hurricane warnings later that day , and on August 23 , additional warnings were issued for the central Bahamas , including Cat Island , Exuma , San Salvador Island , and Long Island . All watches and warnings were discontinued on August 24 . Advance warning was credited for the low death toll in the country .

= = = Florida = = =

Initially , forecasters predicted tides up to 14 feet (4 @ 3 m) above normal along the east coast of Florida , near the potential location of landfall . The National Hurricane Center later noted that storm surge up to 10 feet (3 @ 0 m) would occur along the east coast of Florida , as high as 13 feet (4 @ 0 m) in Biscayne Bay , and to a height of 11 feet (3 @ 4 m) of the west coast of Florida . Rainfall was predicted to be between 5 and 8 inches (130 and 200 mm) along the path of the storm . In addition , the National Hurricane Center noted the likelihood of isolated tornadoes in Central and Southern Florida during the passage of Andrew on August 23 and August 24 .

Late on August 22 , a hurricane watch was issued for the east coast of Florida from Titusville to the Florida Keys , which included Dry Tortugas . On the following day , a hurricane warning was posted from Vero Beach southward to the Florida Keys , including Dry Tortugas . To the north , the east coast of Florida from Vero Beach to Titusville was placed under a tropical storm warning on August 23 . Simultaneously , a hurricane watch was issued for the west coast of Florida from Bayport southward to near Flamingo . Later that day , the portion to the south of Venice was upgraded to a hurricane warning and was expanded to include Lake Okeechobee . To the north of Venice , the hurricane watch was downgraded to a tropical storm warning . By 1800 UTC on August 24 , all watches and warnings issued in anticipation of the storm were discontinued .

Evacuations were ordered in nine counties : Broward , Charlotte , Collier , Lee , Martin , Miami @-Dade , Monroe , Palm Beach , and Sarasota . In addition , officials in Lee County recommended an evacuation for the county on August 23 , about 20 hours before tropical storm force winds were reported there . Overall , almost 1 @ 2 million people evacuated , which contributed to low number of fatalities , despite the intensity of the storm . United States Coast Guard vessels on or near the Florida coastline were either secured onshore or sent to ride out the storm at sea . As Andrew was approaching , an estimated 20 @, @ 000 @- @ 30 @, @ 000 tourists

were in the Florida Keys (Monroe County) . Ultimately , the sheer number of evacuees led to likely the largest traffic jam in the history of Florida , mostly along Interstate 95 .

= = = Gulf Coast of the United States = = =

While the hurricane was approaching the Gulf Coast of the United States , the National Hurricane Center issued a hurricane watch from Mobile , Alabama to Vermilion Bay , Louisiana , about 43 hours before landfall . Eight hours later , the agency upgraded the watch to a warning from Pascagoula , Mississippi to Vermilion Bay , which was later extended to Bolivar Peninsula , Texas . Due to the hurricane 's threat , about 1 @. @ 25 million people evacuated the Louisiana coast , and another 250 @, @ 000 people evacuated from Orange and Jefferson counties in Texas .

= = Impact = =

Though Andrew was a small tropical cyclone for most of its lifespan , it caused extreme damage , especially in the Bahamas , Florida , and Louisiana . The vast majority of the damage was as a result of extremely high winds , although a few tornadoes spawned by Andrew caused considerable damage in Louisiana . Throughout the areas affected , almost 177 @, @ 000 people were left homeless . Outside of the Bahamas , Florida , and Louisiana , effects were widespread , although damage was minimal . Overall , \$ 26 @. @ 5 billion in losses and 65 fatalities were attributed to Andrew . Many other estimates , however , indicate Andrew caused next to \$ 34 billion in damage overall . As a result of damage in Florida and Louisiana , Andrew was listed as the costliest hurricane in U.S. history , but is now fourth following Hurricanes Katrina (2005) , Sandy (2012) , and Ike (2008) .

= = = Bahamas = = =

In the Bahamas , Andrew produced hurricane @- @ force winds in North Eleuthera , New Providence , North Andros , Bimini , Berry Islands . The storm first struck Eleuthera , where it produced a high storm surge that was described as a " mighty wall of water " . At The Current , a small village in the northwestern portion of the island , more than half of the houses were destroyed and the rest of the buildings sustained minor to major damage . One person drowned from the surge in Lower Bogue , Eleuthera , and two others died in nearby The Bluff . On Current Island , the hurricane destroyed 24 of the 30 houses . Harbour Island , also situated near Eleuthera , reported wind gusts of 138 mph (222 km / h) ? the strongest gust speed observed in the Bahamas during Andrew 's passage . News reports indicated severe damage to 36 houses on Harbor Island .

The hurricane produced several tornadoes in the area . At the capital city of Nassau , sustained winds reached 92 mph (148 km / h) , while gusts up to 115 mph (185 km / h) were reported . According to the Bahamas Red Cross , only minor damage occurred in Nassau . However , on the private island of Cat Cay , many expensive homes sustained heavy damage . Much of the northwestern Bahamas received damage , with estimates reaching \$ 250 million . A total of 800 houses were destroyed , leaving 1 @, @ 700 people homeless . Additionally , the storm cause severe damage to the sectors of transport , communications , water , sanitation , agriculture , and fishing . Four deaths in the country were attributed to the hurricane , of which three were direct ; the indirect fatality was due to heart failure during the passage of the storm .

= = = Florida = = =

Tides were generally between only 4 to 6 feet (1 @. @ 2 to 1 @. @ 8 m) above normal in the Biscayne Bay area , though near the Burger King International Headquarters , tides reached as high as 16 @. @ 9 feet (5 @. @ 2 m) above normal . Storm surge on the west coast was widespread , but mostly light , with a peak height of 6 feet (1 @. @ 8 m) , measured at both Everglades City and Goodland . The storm surge was reported as far north as Homosassa . Strong winds from the storm

were confined to a relatively small area , stretching from Key Largo to about Miami Beach . A house in Perrine initially reported a wind gust of 212 mph (341 km / h) ; this measurement was reduced to 177 mph (285 km / h) , after a wind @-@ tunnel testing at Clemson University of the same type of anemometer revealed a 16 @. @ 5 % error . At some locations , the instruments measuring wind speeds failed before the highest winds occurred . At the National Hurricane Center , sustained winds of 115 mph (185 km / h) and gusts to 164 mph (264 km / h) were measured before the anemometer failed . The highest sustained wind speed in relation to the storm was 146 mph (235 km / h) , recorded at the Turkey Point Nuclear Generating Station , before instruments failed there , too . In Key Largo , a 13 @-@ minute wind speed of 114 mph (183 km / h) was reported . Tropical storm force winds reached as far north as West Palm Beach . On the west coast of Florida , sustained winds did not exceed 39 mph (63 km / h) at Marco Island , though a wind gust of 100 mph (160 km / h) was reported in Collier County . Rainfall was generally light , possibly as a result of the storm 's relatively fast movement . Overall , precipitation from Andrew peaked at nearly 14 inches (360 mm) in western Miami @-@ Dade County . Heavy rainfall in other areas was sporadic , with precipitation reported as far north as Central Florida .

Storm surge from Andrew caused more than \$ 500 million in losses to boats and a hotel , which had its lobby flooded with 2 to 3 feet (0 @. @ 61 to 0 @. @ 91 m) of water . Almost all the damage in Florida was caused by strong winds . Although effects from Andrew were catastrophic , the extent of damage was limited mainly from Kendall to Key Largo due to the small wind field of the storm . At the height of the storm , more than 1 @. @ 4 million people lost electricity and another 150 @, @ 000 were without telephone service . It is estimated that throughout Florida some 63 @, @ 000 homes were destroyed , leaving at least 175 @, @ 000 people homeless . In addition to homes , the storm damaged or destroyed 82 @, @ 000 businesses , 32 @, @ 900 acres of farmland , 31 public schools , 59 health facilities / hospitals , 9 @, @ 500 traffic signals , 3 @, @ 300 miles (5 @, @ 300 km) of power lines , and 3 @, @ 000 watermains . At the Homestead Air Force Base , re @-@ opened two years later as Homestead Air Reserve Base , most of the 2 @, @ 000 buildings on the base became " severely damaged or unusable " . The Cutler Ridge Mall suffered severe wind and water damage ; after the storm , significant looting was reported at that location . In Everglades National Park and Biscayne National Park , more than 25 % of trees were damaged or destroyed , including one @-@ fourth of the royal palms and one @-@ third of the pine trees in the former .

Some officials in Florida considered Andrew the worst storm in the state since the Labor Day hurricane in 1935 . Within Miami @-@ Dade County alone , the storm destroyed about 25 @, @ 524 homes and damaged 101 @, @ 241 others . Additionally , 90 % of mobile homes in the county were destroyed , while the destruction of 99 % of mobile homes occurred in Homestead . More than 50 streets were blocked by fallen trees and power lines . Approximately 20 million cubic yards of debris left by the storm were disposed of . Outside of Miami @-@ Dade County , effects were relatively minimal , except in Broward , Monroe , and Collier counties . In Broward County , property damage reached about \$ 100 million and three fatalities were reported . In addition to the damage at Everglades National Park , effects in Monroe County were significant , especially in the Upper Florida Keys . Strong winds damaged billboards , awnings , commercial signs , several boats , planes , trees , and 1 @, @ 500 homes , with 300 of those becoming uninhabitable . Damage in that county was about \$ 131 million . In Collier County , slight damage to houses occurred , with property losses reaching \$ 30 million . Overall , Andrew caused 44 fatalities and \$ 25 @. @ 3 billion in damage (1992 USD , \$ 42 @. @ 7 billion 2016 USD) in Florida alone , making it the costliest hurricane to hit the state . Some sources estimated that Andrew caused more than \$ 32 billion in damage in the state (1992 USD , \$ 54 billion 2016 USD) . Of the 44 deaths , 15 were direct fatalities , while 29 were indirectly caused by the storm . It was later noted that had the storm been slightly larger or made landfall a few miles further north , it would have significantly affected Miami and Fort Lauderdale , which would have resulted in an even higher damage and death toll . An analysis by the American Meteorological Society indicated that unusual to most hurricanes , wind damage from Andrew was mostly north of the eyewall path and occurred primarily on the eastern edge of the storm .

== Louisiana ==

After hitting Florida, Andrew moved across the Gulf of Mexico and made landfall about 23 mi (37 km) west @-@ southwest of Morgan City in south @-@ central Louisiana ; at landfall , the maximum sustained winds were 115 mph (185 km / h) . As it moved ashore , the hurricane produced storm tides of at least 8 ft (2 @.@ 4 m) , causing flooding along the coast from Vermilion Bay to Lake Borgne . River flooding was also reported , with the Tangipahoa River in Robert cresting at 3 @.@ 8 ft (1 @.@ 2 m) above flood stage . Before making landfall , Andrew spawned an F3 tornado in Laplace , which killed two people and injuring 32 . The tornado was on the ground for about 10 minutes , during which it damaged or destroyed 163 structures , leaving 60 families homeless . Collectively , 14 tornadoes were reported in the parishes of Ascension , Iberville , Pointe Coupee , and Avoyelles , as well as in Baton Rouge . Heavy rains accompanied the storm 's passage through the state , peaking at 11 @.@ 02 in (280 mm) in Robert . Elsewhere in the state , 9 fatalities and at least 75 injuries were reported . Offshore Louisiana , a group of six fishermen from Alabama perished due to drowning .

Along the Louisiana coastline , damage largely resembled that of a Category 2 hurricane . Damage was heaviest in St. Mary Parish , about 32 mi (51 km) east of where Andrew made landfall . Hurricane @-@ force winds damaged roofs , although most homes fared well during the storm , with the main exception being large trees falling onto houses . In Cypremort Point State Park , where winds were estimated at 90 mph (140 km / h) , several mobile homes were destroyed . Houses in the Morgan City , Patterson , and Berwick areas suffered minor damage , mainly limited to shingles being torn off ; some large trees fell , causing severe damage to mobile homes . Similar damage was experienced further north in St. Mary Parish , in the towns of Franklin , Charenton , and Jeanerette , where mobile homes were toppled and debris from homes were scattered . At Port Fourchon , power lines were knocked down and a restaurant was unroofed , where winds were estimated to be between 80 and 85 mph (129 and 137 km / h) . Damage was lighter in Jefferson Parish , where damage to mobile homes was reported and shingles were blown off , due to winds between 60 and 65 mph (97 and 105 km / h) . The levee in the parish remained untouched . Across the state , the hurricane damaged 23 @,@ 000 homes and destroyed 985 homes and 1 @,@ 951 mobile homes ; private property damage was estimated at \$ 1 billion . The high winds destroyed large areas of sugar and soybean crops , estimated at \$ 289 million in damage . During the storm 's passage , upwelling occurred in the Atchafalaya Basin and Bayou Lafourche , killing 187 million freshwater fish . Damage to the fishing industry was estimated at \$ 266 million . Overall , losses in the state of Louisiana reached approximately \$ 1 @.@ 56 billion .

== Remainder of United States ==

While Andrew was entering the Gulf of Mexico , oil companies evacuated hundreds of employees from offshore drilling platforms . The storm damaged 240 oil and gas facilities off the coast of Louisiana . Overall , Hurricane Andrew caused about \$ 500 million in damage to oil facilities . One company reported 13 platforms lost , 104 structures damaged , and five drilling wells blown off course .

As Andrew moved ashore in Louisiana , its outer fringes produced a storm tide of about 1 @.@ 3 ft (0 @.@ 40 m) in Sabine Pass , Texas . Winds were minor in the state , reaching 30 mph (48 km / h) in Port Arthur . After moving through Louisiana , Tropical Storm Andrew crossed Mississippi , prompting 3 severe thunderstorm warnings , 21 tornado warnings , and 16 flood warnings . Funnel clouds were observed near the path of the storm , along with 26 tornadoes . Structural damage was generally minimal , occurring from the tornadoes and severe thunderstorms . Strong winds knocked down trees in the southwestern portion of the state . The storm dropped rainfall across much of the state , peaking at 9 @.@ 30 in (236 mm) at Sumrall .

In Alabama , rainfall caused flooding in low @-@ lying areas and creeks , covering a few county roads but not entering many houses or businesses . Along the coast , the storm produced flooding and high tides . Along Dauphin Island , high tides left severe beach erosion , with up to 30 ft (9

@. @ 1 m) lost in some areas . Precipitation amounts in the state peaked at 4 @. @ 71 in (120 mm) in Aliceville . Two damaging tornadoes occurred in the state , and wind gusts of 41 mph (67 km / h) were reported in Huntsville . Damage was generally minor in Alabama .

Tropical storm force wind gusts and damaging tornadoes extended eastward into Georgia . Monetary losses in the state reached about \$ 100 @, @ 000 . Rainfall from Andrew spread across the southeastern United States along the Appalachian Mountains corridor ; totals of over 5 inches (125 mm) were reported near the tri @-@ point border between Georgia , South Carolina , and North Carolina . Rainfall continued along the path of Andrew 's remnants through the Mid @-@ Atlantic and Ohio Valley , with precipitation measured as far north as Upstate New York .

= = Aftermath = =

Initially , the Bahamas National Disaster Coordinator believed that foreign aid was not required . However , shortly after the storm , the Government of the United Kingdom began distributing blankets , food , ice , and water . The HMS Cardiff , a Royal Navy type 42 destroyer , was the operational guard ship at the time and assisted in relief operations in and around the Gregorytown area . In addition , assistance came from Canada , Japan , and the United States , as well as the United Nations . The American Red Cross delivered 100 tents , 100 rolls of plastic sheeting , and 1 @, @ 000 cots . In Florida , then @-@ President of the United States George H. W. Bush assessed damage in the Miami area with then @-@ Governor of Florida Lawton Chiles . Shortly thereafter , Bush declared the region a disaster area , which provided public assistance to victims of the storm in Broward , Collier , Miami @-@ Dade , and Monroe Counties . Then @-@ Lieutenant Governor of Florida Buddy MacKay flew over the impact area and described the scene as looking " like a war zone " . Governor Chiles considered asking the Florida State Legislature to raise taxes , stating that " No matter how much Congress appropriates to repair damage from Hurricane Andrew , the state will face a substantial cleanup bill " . In September 1992 , President Bush initially proposed a \$ 7 @. @ 1 billion aid package to provide disaster benefits , small @-@ business loans , agricultural recovery , food stamps , and public housing for victims of Hurricane Andrew . After the United States House of Representatives appropriated aid to victims of Hurricane Iniki in Hawaii and Typhoon Omar in Guam , the cost was later increased to \$ 11 @. @ 1 billion . The bill , which was the most costly disaster aid package at the time , was passed by Congress as House Resolution 5620 on September 18 , and signed into law by President Bush on September 23 .

Crime , especially looting and theft , rose sharply in the areas south of Miami immediately after Andrew . Reports indicate that merchandise was stolen at a number of damaged or destroyed shopping centers in southern Miami @-@ Dade County . Additionally , looting occurred in neighborhoods severely affected by the storm , regardless of the how few of the owners possessions remained . Initially , the slow response of federal aid prompted Dade County Emergency Management Director Kate Hale to famously exclaim at a nationally televised news conference , " Where in the hell is the cavalry on this one ? They keep saying we 're going to get supplies . For God 's sake , where are they ? " Almost immediately , President Bush promised , " Help is on the way , " and mobile kitchens , food , and tents , along with over 20 @, @ 000 units from the Florida Army National Guard (124th Infantry Regiment from Florida) ; the 24th Infantry Division from Fort Wainwright , the 82nd Airborne Division in Fort Bragg , and the 10th Mountain Division from Fort Drum . In order to provide temporary housing for the homeless , military personnel set up six tent cities , five in Florida City and Homestead , with an additional one later opened at the Miccosukee Indian Reservation .

The storm struck Florida in the midst of 1992 presidential election campaign . A poll conducted by CBS News in September showed that 65 % of Miami @-@ Dade County residents approved of Bush 's handling of the disaster , while 61 % of approved statewide . Despite the support of Bush 's response and his proposal to rebuild Homestead Air Force Base , he benefited little politically and trailed 48 % -42 % against Bill Clinton in another poll taken in September . Additionally , 75 % of voters in Miami @-@ Dade County and 82 % of Floridians overall stated that the president 's actions in response to Andrew would not impact their vote in November . Bush went on to carry the state of

Florida , but by a margin of only 1 @. @ 89 % .

In the aftermath of the storm , extensive psychological effects were reported . Difficulty during clean @- @ up and recovery lead to increased divorce rates and a spike in Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) . The cases of PTSD primarily impacted children . A sampling of 378 adolescents by the University of South Carolina 's Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics indicated that 3 % of males and 9 % of females met the criteria for PTSD . Dozens of children in the area attempted suicide , while counselors reported that between 50 and 60 children discussed killing themselves between December 1992 and January 1993 .

More than 930 @, @ 000 policyholders in South Florida lost coverage after 11 insurance companies went bankrupt , caused by more than 600 @, @ 000 insurance claims filed . This led the Florida Legislature to create new entities , such as the Joint Underwriting Association , the Florida Windstorm Underwriting Association , and the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund , in effort to restore adequate insurance capacity . Stricter building codes were created in Florida in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew . In July 1996 , Governor Chiles established the Florida Building Codes Study Commission , with the purpose of assessing the buildings codes at the time , as well as enacting improvements and reform to the system . The commission study indicated that building codes and regulations were developed , amended , and administered by over 400 local jurisdictions and state agencies .

In 1998 , the Florida Building Code was established and put into effect by 2002 . It phased out local laws and regulations and replacing them with universal statewide building codes . After hurricanes Charley , Frances , Ivan , and Jeanne in 2004 , a study conducted by the University of Florida in the following year noted that " Homes built under the new Florida Building Code that became effective in 2002 sustained less damage on average than those built between 1994 and 2001 . " A report by the Florida Legislature in 2006 after Hurricanes Dennis , Katrina , and Wilma in 2005 came to a similar conclusion , indicating that " they added further evidence that the Florida Building Code is working . "

On August 26 , George H. W. Bush toured devastated areas of Louisiana with Governor Edwin Edwards . President Bush remarked , " The destruction from this storm goes beyond anything we have known in recent years , " but noted that damage was less severe than in Florida . After his visit to Louisiana , President Bush declared only Terrebonne Parish as a disaster area , but later included 34 other parishes under this declaration . 1 @, @ 300 National Guardsmen were deployed to southern Louisiana . In early September , officials announced that 1 @, @ 400 mobile homes , homes , and apartments would become available to residents whose dwellings became uninhabitable . H.R. 5620 also included disaster aid to the state of Louisiana .

= = = Retirement = = =

After the season had ended , the World Meteorological Organization 's RA IV Hurricane Committee retired the name Andrew from the Atlantic tropical cyclone naming lists and replaced it with Alex . The name Andrew will never again be used for an Atlantic hurricane .