

Flossy Hits Northwest Florida

9-24-1956

Causes At Least
Four Deaths In
Gulf Of Mexico

Flossy Strikes
Northwest Fla.

PANAMA CITY, Fla., Sept. 24 (AP)—Hurricane Flossy lashed the northwest Florida resort coast tonight with 100-mile-an-hour force after causing at least four deaths in glancing blows at the Louisiana and Alabama gulf coasts.

Flossy struck the mainland at a newly deserted beach area near Fort Walton, 50 miles west of Panama City. Her force generated blinding sandstorms that blasted paint off automobiles.

In its wake, the hurricane left floods in Louisiana, stranded more than 60 persons in the storm-tossed Gulf of Mexico and was indirectly responsible for the deaths of a pregnant mother and her three children near Tallahassee, Fla.

Reported Weakening

The New Orleans Weather Bureau said Flossy is weakening since slamming into the mainland but noted she still packed winds ranging up to 80 miles-an-hour in heavier squalls. At 8 p.m. the storm's center was about 30 miles northwest of Panama City and moving eastnortheast toward sparsely settled sections of northwest Florida, southeast Alabama and southwest Georgia.

The Eglin Air Force Base communications center near Pensacola said at 9:20 p.m. the storm center was at Vernon, about 30 miles inland and was dissipating rapidly. Eglin reported very little damage in the Fort Walton beach area.

Warnings Raised

Hurricane warnings were ordered raised east of Pensacola to St. Mark's, Fla. Storm warnings were continued from Brunswick, Ga., northward to Wilmington, N.C. The Weather Bureau warned of high winds and squalls in Flossy's path tonight. High winds were predicted for the South Atlantic coastal area tomorrow. Tides up to eight feet were forecast in the area from Panama City to Cedar Keys, Fla. Residents were urged

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to seek higher ground.

Property damage was unofficially estimated at up to two million dollars, mostly to oil drilling equipment in the gulf. There was no immediate report of property damage to the Florida coastal area.

A training plane, apparently being evacuated from Tyndall Air Force Base near Panama City, crashed into a house near Tallahassee and killed an expectant mother and her three children. The father, a Negro, was at work when his family was wiped out.

Dead were Mrs. Mary Ella Walker, 23; Philip Jr., 3; Dorothy, 2; and Mary Lee, 1. The pilot, Lt. Roderick Adams, 24, bailed out before the crash and was only slightly injured.

Two Mobile, Ala., men were hurricane casualties and two other men drowned in the gulf near the mouth of the Mississippi River.

Harold Adair, 45, died when an automobile swerved off a rain-slick Mobile street and overturned. Jim Lewis Williams, 28, was electrocuted when he grabbed a live wire sagging between two utility poles.

The drowning victims were first mate Charles Ayres, 47, of Brooklyn, who fell overboard from the motor vessel Carport, and John Ritter, the second mate, who disappeared after jumping in to rescue Ayers.

Ships in the stormy Gulf of Mexico took a heavy beating from the hurricane.

Two tugs, the 60-foot Virginia D. of Mobile and the Martha, out of New Orleans, sank in heavy seas in Mobile Bay. Both crews were rescued. The tug Peter, also out of New Orleans and previously reported missing with the survivors, later turned up moored at an Army ammunition dump near Mobile.

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Rain From Flossy Drenches Valley; Over 3 Inch Fall

Heavy Downpour Causes \$100,000 Loss To Turkeys

A heavy downpour pushed into the Shenandoah Valley yesterday and Wednesday night by Coastal Storm Flossy drenched the area with more than three inches of rain in places and brought heavy losses to turkey flocks on the range.

Conservative estimates last night were that at least 50,000 turkeys perished in the rain. The birds are valued at an average of \$2.00 by some producers, making the loss at least \$100,000. Some turkeys are covered by insurance.

Reports of turkey losses came from all sections of the county. The losses in flocks ranged from a few dozen to as many as 2500 and 3000. The turkeys were from 9 to 12 weeks old and some were too young to withstand the elements.

Reports Incomplete

Larger contract feeders in Harrisonburg, Broadway and Elkton said they had not heard from all of their flocks. They were hopeful that the rainfall was not as heavy in the adjacent counties of West Virginia where they have placed many turkeys.

There were reports of heavy flock damage in Greene county, where the rainfall was heavier than in Rockingham.

One of the largest growers said he felt that the number of turkeys lost would be only a fraction of the record crop but said the number would work great hardship on small turkey raisers.

With a light rain continuing last night there was sure to be more losses reported today. There were reports last night of growers trying to keep their birds warm with fires of old automobile tires.

Heavier in East

The Valley, some sections of which had not received heavy rains since July, was soaked. The rainfall was heavier to the south and east and continued almost continuously for hours.

Elkton reported a downpour which lasted most of Thursday morning and well into the day. The rain measurement there was 3.25 inches. The Goods Mill section, which has not benefitted by as much rain as other areas in the past two months, had 3½ inches, J. C. Jarrels reported.

The rainfall was lighter in Harrisonburg, the Madison College station registering 1.98 inches. At Dale Enterprise, to the west, the precipitation was even less, amounting to only 1.54 inches.

Streams Rise

As the ground became soaked, streams began to rise and some overflowed into lowlands. Most of the streams were low because there has been little rain this month. Late yesterday water was flowing over the highways in low places and drainage ditches along the roads were running full.

The rain was the heaviest since 1.80 inches fell on July 20 and two inches on July 5. July rainfall approached a record at Dale Enterprise weather station.

The downpour brought in by Storm Flossy, which started out as a hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico, was nothing compared to that caused by Hurricanes Connie and Dianne last August and Hurricane Hazel in October 1954.

The Connie rainfall on Aug. 11-12-13 last year totaled 5.20 inches. Four days later Dianne brought three inches and a flood in the Shenandoah Valley. The streams were high before the second Hurricane blew up the coast. Streams in some areas were as high as they were during the big floods of other years.

4.70 Inches in 1954

Hurricane Hazel, on October 15, 1954, brought the heaviest one day rainfall recorded at Dale Enterprise in some years. The measurement was 4.70 inches.

Rain was welcomed by many persons whose wells and cisterns were showing the effects of the lack of moisture. Some old reliable springs had been reported at unusually low stages. There was little water in Dry River be-

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Rain From Flossy

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fore the rain came. The water level at Riven Rock, source of the Harrisonburg supply, had been reported as gradually falling before the rain.

MANY VIRGINIA AREAS REPORT HEAVY RAIN By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A steady downpour pushed by high winds from storm Flossy fell across Virginia Thursday, sending some rivers over their banks and flooding several highways.

The downpour stretched from the North Carolina border, below which the former hurricane Flossy loitered, to the northern Washington metropolitan area and west to beyond the Blue Ridge.

Coastal residents anxiously watched rising tides as winds which buffeted Virginia early Thursday began to subside and the rain changed to a drizzle. The Weather Bureau at Richmond said the inclement weather would continue until early Friday.

The State Highway Department cancelled ferry service at Jamestown and Hopewell. Ferry service, called off Wednesday night, was resumed across Hampton Roads.

Rising waters from the Appomattox River restricted State Rt. 10 near Hopewell to one-way traffic, but the route was later reopened to two-way travel. State Rt. 33 near West Point also was held to one-way traffic as eight inches of water covered the route. A department spokesman said several secondary highways also were flooded.

Winds at Chincoteague on Virginia's Eastern Shore reached gusts of 48 m.p.h. which subsided to gusts of 35 in the afternoon. Norfolk reported gusts of 23 m.p.h. and Washington 31.

South Roanoke measured 4.80 inches of rain Thursday as the drizzle added more.

Rainfall totaled 3.17 inches at Richmond, 3.27 at Danville, 2.58 at Norfolk, 2.52 at Chincoteague and 2.76 at Pulaski.