[MAWS General List] Hurricane Michael Upgraded to a Category 5

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Inbox | x |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Forums | x |

https://ssl.gstatic.com/ui/v1/icons/mail/profile_mask2.png

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  | | --- | | **maws\_general\_list@yahoo.com [MAWS\_General\_List] <MAWS\_General\_List@yahoogroups.com>** | | Apr 19, 2019, 3:29 PM (21 hours ago) |  | https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/images/cleardot.gif  https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/images/cleardot.gif |
| |  | | --- | | to MAWS\_General\_List  https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/images/cleardot.gif | | | |

"Florida knew Hurricane Michael was bad. Now, scientists reveal just how strong it was"      (Source:  Miami Herald and others, 4/19/19)  
  
With just a little over a month to the start of hurricane season, scientists have upgraded last year’s beast — Hurricane Michael — from a Category 4 to a rare Category 5.  
  
Michael, which devastated Florida’s Mexico Beach when it made landfall on Oct. 10, becomes the first hurricane to make landfall in the United States as a Cat 5 since Hurricane Andrew brought “destruction at dawn” to South Miami-Dade in August 1992.  
  
This figure, released Friday, represents a 5 mph increase over the operational estimate and nudges Michael into the Category 5 platform on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale at the time of its landfall.  
  
Michael was responsible for 16 deaths and caused about $25 billion in damage to the U.S. Cuba also was hit by Category 2 winds from Michael.  
  
Michael is only the fourth hurricane to hit the U.S. as a Category 5, according to the hurricane center.  
  
Before Andrew there was Hurricane Camille in 1969, which made landfall at Pass Christian, Mississippi, on Aug. 18, 1969, three days after hitting Cuba as a Category 2.  
  
The Labor Day Hurricane in September 1935, which hit the Florida Keys and particularly wreaked havoc on Islamorada, was the first since records were kept to land in the U.S. as a Cat 5.  
  
Michael is also the strongest hurricane landfall on record in the Florida Panhandle, the hurricane center reported.  
  
The hurricane center’s new analysis also revealed that Michael’s atmospheric pressure, a reliable measure of a storm’s intensity, was at 919 millibars at landfall in Mexico Beach. Meteorologists note that the lower a storm’s central pressure, the higher its winds. Michael’s central pressure at landfall is the third lowest on record for a U. S. hurricane since records began in 1900 — trailing only Camille, which went as low as 900 millibars, and the Labor Day Hurricane of 1935 at 892 millibars.  
  
Andrew in 1992, by comparison, recorded 922 millibars at its lowest reading.

**Michael's high water mark one of the six highest in 85 years of U.S. records**

According to a [database](http://stormsurge.wcu.edu/download_data.php) of high water marks of landfalling U.S. hurricanes from 1933 – 2017 compiled by Katie Peek of Western Carolina University, the peak high water marks of 20.6' - 21.2’ in Mexico Beach would put Michael in fifth or sixth place for highest water levels ever recorded from a U.S. landfalling hurricane since 1933. The database, which culls data from 36 sources—primarily publications by NOAA, USGS, and FEMA—lists twenty hurricanes with maximum high-water marks in excess of 15 feet above normal (including Michael):

Katrina, 2005: 34.11’ above MSL at Biloxi, MS (Cat 3)  
Camille, 1969: 24.6’ above MSL at Pass Christian, MS (Cat 5)  
Carla, 1961: 22’ above MSL at Calhoun County, TX (Cat 4)  
Opal, 1995: 21.5’ above MSL at Mirimar Beach, FL (Cat 3)  
**Michael, 2018: 20.6' - 21.2’ above MSL at Mexico Beach, FL (Cat 4)**  
Irene, 2011: 20.77’ above NAVD at Lido Beach, NY (Cat 1)  
Audrey, 1957: 20.3’ above MSL at St. James Parrish, LA (Cat 3)  
Hugo, 1989: 20.2’ above NGVD at Awendaw, SC (Cat 4)  
Isaac, 2012: 19.7’ above NAVD at Harrison County, MS (Cat 1)  
Ike 2008: 19.4’ above NGVD at High Island, TX (Cat 2)  
Sandy, 2012: 18.98’ above NAVD at Monmouth, NJ (Cat 1)  
Hazel, 1954: 18’ above MSL at Sunset Beach, NC (Cat 4)  
Rita, 2005: 17.8’ above NGVD at Creole, LA (Cat 3)  
Andrew, 1992: 17.2’ above MSL at Perrine, FL (Cat 5)  
Isabel, 2003: 16.24’ above NGVD at Kill Devil Hills, NC (Cat 2)  
Long Island Express, 1938: 15.8’ above MSL at Providence/Kent County, RI (Cat 3)  
Fran, 1996: 15.4’ above MSL at New Hanover County, NC (Cat 3)  
Carol, 1954: 15.1’ above MSL at Kent County, RI (Cat 3)  
Ione, 1955: 15.1’ above MSL at River Bend, NC (Cat 3)  
Floyd, 1999: 15’ above NGVD at New Hanover County, NC (Cat 2)