

...2005 SOUTH FLORIDA WEATHER SUMMARY...

THE WEATHER IN 2005 OVER SOUTH FLORIDA...WHICH COMPRISES THE SEVEN COUNTIES OF MIAMI-DADE...BROWARD...PALM BEACH...COLLIER...HENDRY...GLADES AND MAINLAND MONROE...WAS WETTER THAN NORMAL AS FAR AS PRECIPITATION IS CONCERNED...WITH TEMPERATURES AVERAGING NEAR NORMAL.

THE MOST NOTEWORTHY WEATHER EVENTS OF 2005 WERE THE TWO HURRICANES THAT DIRECTLY IMPACTED SOUTH FLORIDA: KATRINA ON AUGUST 25 AND WILMA ON OCTOBER 24. THESE TWO HURRICANES ACCOUNTED FOR 11 DIRECT DEATHS...30 INDIRECT DEATHS...AND OVER 10 BILLION DOLLARS IN DAMAGE WHICH INCLUDES ALMOST 1 BILLION DOLLARS IN AGRICULTURAL LOSSES.

HURRICANE KATRINA WAS A CATEGORY ONE HURRICANE WHICH MADE LANDFALL NEAR THE MIAMI-DADE/BROWARD COUNTY LINE WITH MAXIMUM SUSTAINED WINDS OF 80 MPH BEFORE TAKING A TURN TO THE WEST-SOUTHWEST ACROSS MIAMI-DADE AND MAINLAND MONROE COUNTIES. HURRICANE FORCE WINDS WERE FELT OVER MOST OF MIAMI-DADE AND MAINLAND MONROE COUNTIES...AS WELL AS PARTS OF BROWARD AND COLLIER COUNTIES...WITH TROPICAL STORM FORCE WINDS OVER THE REST OF SOUTH FLORIDA SOUTH OF LAKE OKEECHOBEE. RAINFALL WAS EXCESSIVE OVER CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN MIAMI-DADE COUNTIES...WITH RAINFALL ESTIMATES OF 15 TO 20 INCHES FROM PERRINE TO HOMESTEAD.

HURRICANE WILMA WAS A MAJOR CATEGORY THREE HURRICANE WHICH MADE LANDFALL NEAR CAPE ROMANO ON THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA COAST WITH MAXIMUM SUSTAINED WINDS OF 115 MPH...THEN MOVED RAPIDLY NORTHEAST ACROSS SOUTH FLORIDA AS A CATEGORY TWO HURRICANE WITH MAXIMUM SUSTAINED WINDS OF 105 MPH WHEN IT EXITED THE EAST COAST NEAR PALM BEACH GARDENS. DUE TO THE LARGE SIZE OF WILMA...HURRICANE FORCE WINDS WERE FELT OVER ALL SEVEN COUNTIES IN SOUTH FLORIDA WITH HIGHEST RECORDED WIND GUSTS OF AROUND 120 MPH. SOUTH FLORIDA SUFFERED WIDESPREAD MINOR STRUCTURAL DAMAGE...WITH POCKETS OF MORE EXTENSIVE DAMAGE...MAINLY TO ROOFS AND WINDOWS OF HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS. TREES AND OTHER VEGETATION WERE SIGNIFICANTLY DAMAGED...AND AN ESTIMATED 2.6 MILLION CUSTOMERS LOST POWER. STORM SURGE FLOODING WAS MOST SIGNIFICANT IN SOUTHERN COLLIER AND MAINLAND MONROE COUNTIES...WITH HIGHEST WATER LEVELS IN MARCO ISLAND...CHOKOLOSKEE...AND FLAMINGO.

SOUTH FLORIDA WAS IMPACTED BY THREE OTHER TROPICAL CYCLONES DURING 2005: TROPICAL STORM ARLENE IN JUNE WHICH HELPED TO PRODUCE A RECORD-BREAKING WET JUNE IN NAPLES...HURRICANE DENNIS IN JULY WHICH CAUSED TROPICAL STORM FORCE WINDS OVER MIAMI-DADE...BROWARD...PALM BEACH...COLLIER...AND MAINLAND MONROE COUNTIES...AND HURRICANE RITA IN SEPTEMBER WHICH CAUSED TROPICAL STORM FORCE WINDS OVER MIAMI-DADE...BROWARD...COLLIER...AND MAINLAND MONROE COUNTIES. IN ALL...12 PEOPLE LOST THEIR LIVES AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE TROPICAL SYSTEMS WHICH IMPACTED SOUTH FLORIDA DURING THE RECORD-BREAKING HURRICANE SEASON OF 2005.

AS FOR OTHER HAZARDOUS WEATHER...RIP CURRENTS ONCE AGAIN PROVED TO BE A KILLER IN 2005...CLAIMING THE LIVES OF FOUR PEOPLE...THREE OF THEM IN BROWARD COUNTY. LIGHTNING RESULTED IN ONE DEATH AT A HIGH SCHOOL IN COCONUT CREEK IN NORTHERN BROWARD COUNTY IN EARLY OCTOBER. NINE PEOPLE WERE INJURED BY LIGHTNING IN SOUTH FLORIDA IN 2005.

SIX TORNADOES WERE OBSERVED ACROSS SOUTH FLORIDA WHICH CAUSED 85 THOUSAND DOLLARS IN DAMAGE...AND 25 WATERSPOUTS WERE NOTED OVER THE

COASTAL WATERS. OTHER SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS CONTAINING AT LEAST 58 MPH WINDS AND/OR HAIL OF THREE-QUARTERS OF AN INCH OR GREATER WERE OBSERVED ON 52 OCCASIONS...CAUSING 90 THOUSAND DOLLARS IN DAMAGE.

LOCALIZED FLOODING FROM VERY HEAVY RAINS OCCURRED SIX TIMES...INCLUDING TWICE IN OAKLAND PARK IN BROWARD COUNTY DURING A ONE-MONTH PERIOD ON OCTOBER 22 AND NOVEMBER 20. DAMAGE FROM FLOODING WAS ESTIMATED AT 150 THOUSAND DOLLARS.

AS FAR AS TEMPERATURES WERE CONCERNED...JULY AND AUGUST FEATURED RECORD WARMTH...WITH ALL-TIME WARMEST JULY READINGS RECORDED AT MIAMI...FORT LAUDERDALE...AND HOLLYWOOD. THE COMBINED MONTHS OF JULY AND AUGUST WERE THE WARMEST ON RECORD AT MIAMI WITH AN AVERAGE TEMPERATURE OF 85.2 DEGREES. THESE VERY WARM SUMMER TEMPERATURES WERE MAINLY A RESULT OF VERY WARM OVERNIGHT LOW TEMPERATURES AS OPPOSED TO HOT DAYTIME READINGS. DESPITE THE RECORD-BREAKING JULY AND AUGUST...THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE IN 2005 FOR MIAMI...FORT LAUDERDALE...WEST PALM BEACH AND NAPLES WAS 75.6 DEGREES WHICH IS ONLY 0.3 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL. A RELATIVELY COOL AND VERY WET JUNE...ALONG WITH A COOLER THAN NORMAL MARCH AND APRIL CONTRIBUTED TO THE OVERALL TEMPERATURES AVERAGING NEAR NORMAL. THE HIGHEST TEMPERATURE RECORDED AT ANY OF THE FOUR LOCATIONS WAS 96 DEGREES AT NAPLES ON AUGUST 16 AND 19...AND AT WEST PALM BEACH ON JULY 23. THE COLDEST TEMPERATURES OF 2005 WAS JANUARY 24 WITH LOW TEMPERATURE READINGS OF 38 DEGREES AT NAPLES AND WEST PALM BEACH...41 DEGREES AT FORT LAUDERDALE AND 43 DEGREES AT MIAMI.

RAINFALL FOR THE YEAR AT THESE FOUR SOUTH FLORIDA LOCATIONS AVERAGED 65.16 INCHES...WHICH IS 6.4 INCHES ABOVE THE 30-YEAR NORMAL. THE ACTIVE TROPICAL CYCLONE SEASON GREATLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE ABOVE-NORMAL RAINFALL...WITH THE RAINY SEASON ACCOUNTING FOR OVER 70 PERCENT OF THE YEARLY RAINFALL. NAPLES HAD AN ESPECIALLY WET YEAR WITH THE TOTAL RAINFALL OF 63.43 INCHES BEING OVER 11 INCHES ABOVE NORMAL...INCLUDING A RECORD-SETTING JUNE RAINFALL TOTAL OF 21.28 INCHES. JUNE AND OCTOBER WERE SIGNIFICANTLY WETTER THAN NORMAL AT ALL SOUTH FLORIDA LOCATIONS. THE GREATEST 24 HOUR AMOUNT OF RAIN...6.14 INCHES...FELL AT NAPLES ON OCTOBER 24 DURING HURRICANE WILMA.

NO SIGNIFICANT WINTER WEATHER EVENTS OCCURRED IN SOUTH FLORIDA IN 2005.

THE TEMPERATURE OUTLOOK FOR 2006 IN SOUTH FLORIDA...AS FORECAST BY THE CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER...IS FOR WARMER THAN NORMAL TEMPERATURES. THE PRECIPITATION OUTLOOK CALLS FOR BELOW NORMAL PRECIPITATION IN THE WINTER AND EARLY SPRING...FOLLOWED BY ABOVE NORMAL PRECIPITATION FOR MUCH OF THE SUMMER AND EARLY FALL.