

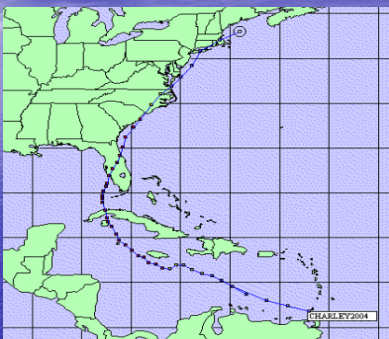
Hurricane Charley August 2004

Charles Meyn

Outline

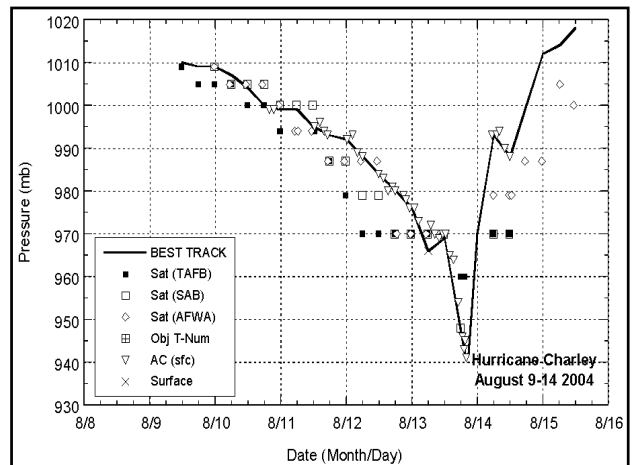
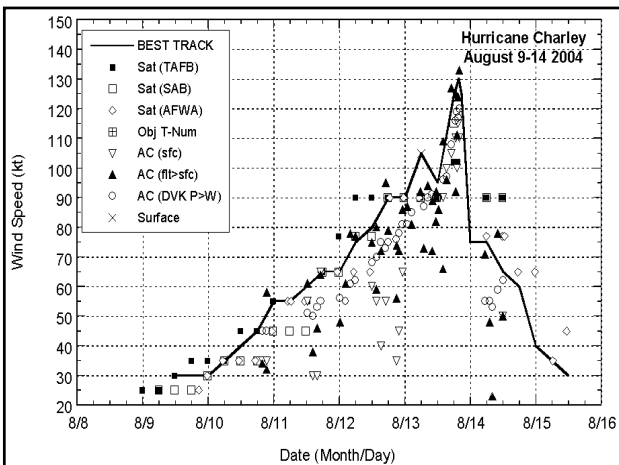
- Tracking
- Preparation
- Effects
- Response

Path of the Storm



Path of the Storm

- Tropical depression headed through Lesser Antilles and rapidly strengthened becoming Tropical Storm Charley on the morning of August 10
- Reached Hurricane strength 90 miles south of Jamaica on August 11
- Turned northward through Cuba





Sudden Course Change

- Originally predicted to head for the Tampa-St. Petersburg Area
- Abruptly turned to the northeast towards Fort Meyers
- Track was well within NHC margin of error but many in Media had downplayed the total error path in favor of the central predicted path

Rapid Intensification

- Struck Cuba as a Category 3
- Weakened to a Category 2
- Expected to hit Florida as a Category 3
- Rapidly strengthened to category 4 in a 3 hour period
- Struck Charlotte County Florida as a category 4 at 3:45pm August 13 (150 mph winds and a central pressure of 941 millibars)

National Hurricane Center Warning

- Hurricane Watch – Coastal Area could experience hurricane conditions within 36 hours
- Hurricane Warning – Coastal Area is predicted to experience hurricane conditions within 24 hours

Preparation

- August 11 – 9pm Hurricane watch issued for Southwestern Florida
- August 12 – 9pm Upgraded to Hurricane warning
- August 12 – Officials evacuate barrier islands and mobile home parks in Charlotte County
- Coastal areas of nearby counties were also evacuated as were non-residents from the Florida keys
- 1 Million People total evacuated

Wind damage



- Largest Cause of damage in Storm
- Most powerful Storm to hit Florida since Andrew in 1992



Other Effects



- Created 9 Tornadoes in Florida on August 13
- This waterspout moved onshore in Lee county
- 5 inches of Rain in Florida
- 4 Meter maximum Storm Surge In Cuba
- 2 Meter maximum Surge in Florida

Response

- President Bush declares Florida federal disaster area only 1 hours after landfall
- Water, Food, Temporary Shelters and thousands of government employees and responders already on standby flood into area
- Compare to Katrina response
- Possible motive with 2004 elections

Toll of Charley

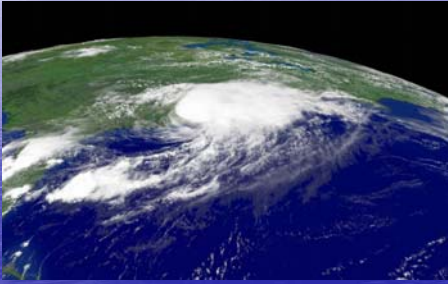
- 10 Deaths in United states
- Most by blown debris or being inside of collapsing structures
- 1 man attempted to drive through a flooded highway and went over the side into a lake
- 1 man died in Riptides off of Rhode Island

- Roughly 14 Billion dollars in property damages (about half of which insured)
- With the small Storm surge nearly all damage caused by wind
- 2nd costliest Hurricane in US history to that point (3rd since Katrina)
- 2 Million without power immediately after storm

2004 Hurricane season

- Charley was the first of 4 major hurricanes to strike US
- Frances cut through Florida just days after Charley
- Ivan followed killing 60 on the gulf coast
- Jeanne struck nearly the same path through Florida as Frances and killed 1100 in Haiti
- <http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2004/hurricanes/>

Any Questions?



References

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