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Historical Weather Event

Hurricane Andrew is among the terrifying storm that hit South Florida back in 24th August 1992. Hurricane Andrew killed at least two citizens in Florida, as well as causing destruction. It originated from the North Atlantic Ocean and moved westward of the Bahamas and later made landfall at the southern tip of Florida. Hurricane Andrew was considered powerful than Betsy, though it was small in size since it only covered a diameter of 40 miles (Dash, 14-16). As a result, many citizens were left without homes by Hurricane Andrew. The hurricane also slashed ashore twenty-eight miles south of Miami.

Fifteen people were confirmed dead in Miami, and dozen more succumbed to injuries from the storm, and four were reported dead in the Bahamas. Hurricane Andrew is considered one of the strongest storms to hit the United States of America. The storm was experienced after Katrina, and that is considered to be the second costly storm in America. The hurricane Andrew started as a weak storm that the majority thought would cool down. Weather forecaster did not believe that it would become one of the major storms. The speed of the hurricane Andrew was estimated to be about 160 miles per hour (Dash, 14-16).

The impact of Hurricane Andrew differed from one neighborhood to the other. For example, Austin's houses suffered extreme damage and were only some years old, while some neighborhoods suffered little damage. The majority of damages were as a result of faulty construction since some builders were allowed to utilize short cut, for instance, the use of fragile

strand board rather than roofing nails. Bahamas, Florida, and Louisiana were the most hit regions by Hurricane Andrew (Wasileski, 111-116). The damage took place as a result of strong winds though few tornadoes generated by Hurricane Andrew lead to extensive damage in Louisiana.

In all regions affected by Hurricane Andrew, approximately 177,000 citizens were rendered homeless. The overall loss was estimated to be \$34 billion in damage. The hurricane further damaged over 9,500 traffic signs, 31 public schools, 59 health facilities, 82,000 businesses, among other things. Hurricane Andrew also had an extreme impact on the environment; it destroyed 33% of coral reefs from Biscayne National Park, including 90% native pinelands at South Dade (Dash, 17-18). Further, Andrew led to the creation of 30 years' worth of wreckage. However, hurricane Andrew had minimal impact on wildlife, but in marine, the effect was quite noticeable due to the change in water quality and overwash of the beach.

As a result, of the hurricane, the nation came up with new regulations that aimed to minimize damages in case of any other storm. More dollars were invested in housing construction to ensure that homes will be safer. In highly populated areas, it was challenging to evacuate people, and the forecasters failed to predict the storm accurately. Though the hurricane led to significant flooding, the wind caused the majority of the damage (Wasileski, 110-116). The majority of the hurricane damages were experienced inland. Other indirect fatalities were as a result of electrocutions, fires, and other incidents related to the recovery process.

Comparing the hurricane Andrew and Great Miami Hurricane 1926, it is evident that Andrew caused many deaths than Miami hurricane. The Andrew destroyed more houses than the Miami hurricane since it destroyed approximately 3,500 while Andrew destroyed more than 177,000 people. The overall loss of Miami hurricane is minimal as compared to Andrew Hurricane with assets damage excess of \$22 billion (Malmstadt, Kelsey & James, 115-119). The

speed of the Andrew hurricane winds was slightly higher than the wind speed of Miami Hurricane since it was 145 miles per hour. The Miami hurricane did not destroy facilities such as schools, health, and traffic signs, which Andrew hurricane damaged most. Again, Hurricane Andrew destroyed several regions than the Miami hurricane; hence it was fatal. Therefore, the hurricane Andrew impact was considerably intensive as compared to the effects of the Miami Hurricanes. The main impact of Andrew hurricane was the destruction of properties and the forceful movement of people. The results of the Miami hurricane seemed uniform, while the implications of hurricane Andrew differed in different areas, with some being profoundly affected by the storm than others.

The avenues of conveying warnings in Miami were not effective since only a few individuals owned radios. Therefore, the majority of the people did not have a chance to hear the warnings through the broadcast from Florida, then only radio station (Barnes, 12). Though the warning had been issued through a newspaper majority of people ignored it and, as a result, this contributed to high fatalities. The weather bureau had played their role well in warning people about the anticipated storm. This indicated how the Miami residents were inexperienced towards hurricanes. Despite being warned, the majority of those who died decided to leave their homes and only later to be exposed to the strong wind of a hurricane.

Regarding hurricane Andrew, lack of preparedness was as a result of the inability to retain and learn crucial lessons from previous hurricanes. The warnings of hurricane Andrew anticipation led to many evacuations in Louisiana, Texas, and Florida (Cutter, 110-112). In Florida 55,000 left, 517,000 left Miami County and 300,000 abandoned Broward County. Therefore, it is evident that forecasters had played their role by warning the populace about the storm. To some extent, the warnings reduced the number of wounded and deaths that would have

been experienced in various regions. Otherwise, death would have been much higher than the one experienced.

Works Cited

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