



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Risk
Management
Agency

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INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM: IS-08-008

TO: All Approved Insurance Providers
All Risk Management Agency Field Offices
All Other Interested Parties

FROM: William J. Murphy /s/ *William J. Murphy* 9/29/2008
Deputy Administrator for Insurance Services

SUBJECT: Claims Alert – Sources of Weather Information for Florida Citrus Fruit Policy; Excess Wind Cause of Loss for Citrus IV, V, VII, and VIII

BACKGROUND:

The 2009 Florida Citrus Fruit Crop Provisions added a cause of loss, “excess wind”, for fresh fruit only. This provision has been in the Texas Citrus Fruit policy since at least 1998 and has been successfully administrated. The definition references a natural movement of air that has sustained speeds exceeding 58 miles per hour recorded at the U.S. Weather Service reporting station operating nearest to the grove at the time of damage. Following the occurrence of Tropical Storm Fay in late August, Approved Insurance Providers (AIPs) had questions regarding the excess wind provision. Sustained winds are calculated by averaging the wind gusts over a 2 minute period, the standard for the National Weather Service (NWS). NWS stations are located in the larger coastal cities; however, inland reporting stations at airports are also part of the system. There are currently 70 reporting stations in Florida (see attachment). It is appropriate to utilize data from these (NWS) reporting stations for loss adjustment purposes. Wind speeds recorded at reporting station nearest to the insured’s grove is the basis for determining excess wind.

While wind data is also available from the Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN), it is not a part of the NWS reporting system and thus not suitable for loss adjustment purposes.

ACTION:

For the purpose of obtaining data to substantiate an Excess Wind cause of loss, data for sustained wind speed may be obtained from the National Weather Service. To obtain wind speed data from these sources, the following websites may be used:



The Risk Management Agency Administrators
And Oversees All Programs Authorized Under
The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

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National Weather Service Southern Headquarters: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/>

Certified weather information may be purchased from the National Climatic Data Center. It is available on-line within a day or two of the weather event. It is stamped “certified” and is designed to stand up in a court of law. There is a charge of approximately \$100.00 for one sheet with a lesser charge for additional sheets. To learn more about these services:

National Climatic Data Center (NCDC): <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/>

NCDC Order Information: <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/about/ncdcordering.html>

When you go on the NCDC website it will take you to the home page. Click on “Most Popular” in the left hand column. That takes you to a page where you click on “Quality Control.” From there, follow the prompts.

It is useful to note that the NWS has five forecasting centers covering mainland Florida. The forecast centers publish post storm reports on their website which include data on the maximum sustained winds averaged over a 2 minute interval observed at the reporting stations. To find reports that are no longer on the forecast center home page, enter “ <storm name> post report <forecast center name>” in the “search for” tab. These reports are labeled as “preliminary reports” and are not suitable for loss adjustment purposes. However, the preliminary reports are placed on the website in a timely fashion and can serve to help the AIP determine where excess wind may have occurred, and what certified data they will need to order.

DISPOSAL DATE:

This Informational Memorandum is for transmitting information and is consistent with existing policy provisions and procedures.

ATTACHMENT

Florida Reporting Stations

[Crestview, Sikes Airport](#) (KCEW)
[Destin, Ft. Walton Beach Airport](#) (KDTS)
[Marianna Municipal Airport](#) (KMAI)
[Tyndall Air Force Base](#) (KPAM)
[Panama City-Bay County Intl Airport](#) (KPFN)
[Floralá Municipal Airport](#) (K0J4)
[Perry-Foley Airport](#) (K40J)
[Apalachicola](#) (KAAF)
[Miami Nexrad](#) (KAMX)
[Naples Municipal](#) (KAPF)
[Boca Raton Airport](#) (KBCT)
[Brooksville, Hernando County Airport](#) (KBKV)
[Bartow Municipal](#) (KBOW)
[Cocoa Beach / Patrick Air Force Base](#) (KCOF)
[Jacksonville, Craig Municipal Airport](#) (KCRG)
[Cross City Airport](#) (KCTY)
[Daytona Beach International Airport](#) (KDAB)
[New Smyrna Beach Municipal Airport](#) (KEVB)
[Key West Airport](#) (KEYW)
[Fort Lauderdale / Hollywood Intl Airport](#) (KFLL)
[Fort Myers, Page Field](#) (KFMY)
[Fort Pierce, St. Lucie County Intl Airport](#) (KFPR)
[Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport](#) (KFXE)
[Gilbert Field](#) (KGIF)
[Gainesville Regional Airport](#) (KGNV)
[Hurlburt Field](#) (KHRT)
[Homestead Air Force Base](#) (KHST)
[Hollywood, North Perry Airport](#) (KHWO)
[Orlando, Kissimmee Municipal Airport](#) (KISM)
[Jacksonville International Airport](#) (KJAX)
[Lakeland Regional](#) (KLAL)
[Leesburg International Airport](#) (KLEE)
[Macdill Air Force Base, Fl.](#) (KMCF)
[Orlando International Airport](#) (KMCO)
[Miami International Airport](#) (KMIA)
[Melbourne International Airport](#) (KMLB)
[Marathon Airport](#) (KMTH)

Florida Reporting Stations

[Jacksonville, Naval Air Station](#) (KNIP)
[Pensacola, Naval Air Station](#) (KNPA)
[Boca Chica Naval Air Station](#) (KNQX)
[Mayport Naval Station](#) (KNRB)
[Milton, Whiting Field North](#) (KNSE)
[Ocala Municipal Automatic Weather Observing](#) (KOCF)
[Ormond Beach Municipal Airport](#) (KOMN)
[Miami, Opa Locka Airport](#) (KOPF)
[Orlando Executive Airport](#) (KORL)
[West Palm Beach, Palm Beach International Airport](#) (KPBI)
[Punta Gorda, Charlotte County Airport](#) (KPGD)
[St. Petersburg / Clea](#) (KPIE)
[Pompano Beach Airpark](#) (KPMP)
[Pensacola Regional Airport](#) (KPNS)
[Fort Myers, SW Florida Intl Airport](#) (KRSW)
[Orlando / Sanford Airport](#) (KSFB)
[St. Augustine Airport](#) (KSGJ)
[St. Petersburg, Whitted Airport](#) (KSPG)
[Sarasota-Bradenton Intl Airport](#) (KSRQ)
[Stuart, Witham Field Airport](#) (KSUA)
[Titusville](#) (KTIX)
[Tallahassee Regional Airport](#) (KTLH)
[Miami, Kendall-Tamiami Executive Airport](#) (KTMB)
[Tampa International Airport](#) (KTPA)
[NASA Shuttle Landing Facility](#) (KTTS)
[Vandenberg Airport](#) (KVDF)
[Valparaiso / Eglin Air Force Base](#) (KVPS)
[Jacksonville, Cecil Field Airport](#) (KVQQ)
[Vero Beach Municipal Airport](#) (KVRB)
[The Villages](#) (KVVG)
[Okeechobee County Airport](#) (KOBK)
[Peter O Knight Airport](#) (KTPF)
[Plant City Airport](#) (KPCM)