

High Two - Unit Four - Summary

Twenty-six years ago in late August, a meteorologist named Lixion Avila from the National Hurricane Center of Florida, who was tracking a strong wind called Andrew, telephoned his boss at 3:00 A.M. and warned that this condition would grow into force four and even five, which indicated that catastrophic damage would occur.

After the news went on air, officials said that all of the coastal areas should be evacuated, and news anchors talked about canned food and water storage during the hurricane as well as fuel shortage, which is recommended to store some in homes.

Although people and the government were highly prepared for the hurricane, Andrew was more brutal than expectations, and 273 km per hour storm ruined the city. Most of the houses were damaged, and the electricity went out.

The enormous damages were related to private homes; thus, much objective evidence was reported. In one case, the family members declared that they were running room to room while windows were shattering. Another citizen confessed that if he had already known the force four's real power, he would have left the town without any doubt.

After the storm subsided, the fear shadowed the city. The remains were a ruined city. A man declared that he lost his entire life, including car, house, job, and dog, just in two hours, while his wife was searching among the wastes of their home. The officials estimated a total loss of nearly \$20 billion to reconstruct the city.

NOAA's National Hurricane Center does not control the naming of tropical storms. Instead, there is a strict procedure established by the World Meteorological Organization. For Atlantic hurricanes, there is a list of male and female names that are used on a six-year rotation. The only time that there is a change is if a storm is so deadly or costly that the future use of its name on a different storm would be inappropriate. If more than twenty-one named tropical cyclones occur in a season, any additional storms will take names from the Greek alphabet.

