

Thunderstorm Hazards

Tornadoes – A violently rotating column of air extending from the base of a thunderstorm down to the ground. As stated in the tornado section above, Bradford County is vulnerable to tornadoes based on Florida’s overall vulnerability.

Damaging Winds – Known as “straight-line winds”, the damage caused by this hazard is often confused with tornadic activity. Damaging winds are categorized as microbursts or macrobursts. Depending on the type of burst, these winds can reach speeds of up to 168 MPH.

Hail – According to the National Weather Service, hail is precipitation that is formed when updrafts in thunderstorms carry raindrops upward into extremely cold areas of the atmosphere. While Florida touts the most thunderstorms, hail is less common than in other places due to the height of the freezing level compared to other states.

Flash Floods – Mostly caused by slow moving thunderstorms, repeated thunderstorms, or tropical systems, flash floods are among the top fatality-producing weather hazards, second only to heat. Intensity is effected based on duration of rain, topography, soil conditions, and ground cover.

Lightning – As defined by the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration, lightning is a rapid discharge of electrical energy in the atmosphere. The United States experiences about 25 million lightning strikes per year.

Occurrences

According to data found on the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration’s Storm Event Database, Bradford County has been subjected to 113 events listed as “Thunderstorm Wind” since January 1, 1050. These occurrences, according to that data, have produced an estimated \$99,200 in damage.

(Source: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/>)

Vulnerability

The vulnerability to thunderstorm, lightning and hailstorm events can be defined as to the extent to which people will experience harm and property will be damaged from the natural hazard. Bradford County is vulnerable to these wind disasters due to a high concentration of the population residing in mobile homes.

Each jurisdiction has been affected by thunderstorm/wind and hailstorm occurrences. The entire unincorporated and incorporated area residents of Bradford County especially the mobile