

Heavy cost of Hurricane Frances

Hurricane is one of the most dangerous weather forms today. And it attacks mostly Florida. Hurricane Frances destroyed parts of Florida earlier this month.

Insurance payments to victims of Hurricane Frances reached \$4.4billion, making the storm the fourth most expensive in US history.

In August Hurricane Charley has already cost \$7.4bn and insurers have yet to calculate the costs of Hurricane Ivan.

Heavy losses from flooding are expected from Frances and Ivan, but with less structural damage than from Charley.

Hurricane Frances hit central Florida on 3 September with winds of 169 km/h.

Charley struck Florida in August with a wind speed of 233 km/h, while Ivan arrived with winds of 214 km/h when it hit Alabama.

The Insurance Institute, based in New Jersey, said Florida accounted for \$4.1billion in insured property losses, with more than 500,000 claims from Frances.

About one out of every five Florida homes has been damaged by a hurricane so far this year.

However, Ivan, Charley and Frances together do not pose a risk to the industry.

The hurricane which cost insurers the most was Hurricane Andrew which struck Florida and the Gulf Coast in August 1992, resulting in \$15.5billion of insured losses, or about \$20.6bn in today's terms.

FLOOD- water that has overflowed previously dry area

INSURANCE-company which gives costumers financial protection against loss