

Ginger Pulls Into Pamlico Raining High Tides



Ginger hit the North Carolina coast as a hurricane Thursday inflicting nearly \$1 million worth of damage, then it moved inland and caused tidal rivers to flood homes, businesses and streets.

It was reduced to tropical storm status as it continued moving over land during the night.

Even so, it packed a fearsome arsenal of rain. Nearly nine inches fell in some sections of eastern North Carolina and the small Pungo River town of Belhaven was isolated as the river rose two to three feet deep in the streets and highways.

Beaufort County civil defense director, Gene Allgood, said this morning was still too early to estimate damage in the Beaufort county area. No loss of life, attributed directly to Ginger, has been reported.

Beaufort County hospital officials reported today that extensive preparation was made to receive storm victims but had received none as of late this morning.

High Water

Flooding is extensive throughout the county. Washington city street intersections in low areas are still under water. Flooding last night reached past Evans Seafood and to the back entrances of downtown businesses. Stewart parkway was under water. The Washington Yacht and Country club area was submerged and homes along the river not elevated received the incoming Pamlico.

Highway 17 from the Washington bridge to Chocowinity was under water in several sections and businesses along the highway were taking a beating. Cars left parked were submerged to the extent that all that was visible in some cases were the tops.

McCotter's Marina suffered from the rising tides and wind ripped a section of roofing off the boat docking facilities.

A Charlotte street resident reported a huge 50-year-old tree snapped falling across her garage. The garage was demolished.

Windows were smashed throughout the county.

Tides in the city area officially peaked at 7 p.m. yesterday for a period of one hour and fifteen minutes at a maximum of 6.2 feet above normal. The tides started receding at 8:20 last night and dropped to 4.2 feet where the water remained into the late morning today.

The continued high tides in the Pamlico were attributed to the fact that the winds remain from the Northeast to east, holding the water inland.

Rainfall in the city has been reported at 8.75 inches in one area and 10.1 inches measured at the city water plant.

Earl Bonner, director of public works, said it would take a day or two for city sewer service to return to normal. The flooding is running through the system slowing sewer service in some areas.

City garbage employees are working doubletime to continue regular sanitation service. Garbage will be picked up on the usual schedule.

Ed Wyatt, city manager, praised the work of city employees and expressed his appreciation to citizens for their



indulgence. He said limbs and storm debris will be picked up as soon as essential services are back to normal and the city is "livable."

The storm knocked out electric service in the Bayview, River road, and Jamesville highway areas as well as on parts of Highway 17. Most service has been returned but several areas were still without power this morning. Electric crews from Fayetteville and Greenville are working in the Washington area to assist the city.

Officials this morning said it was too early to predict when the water level would return to normal.

Farm Losses

Extensive agricultural losses in Beaufort County were reported today although no dollar and cents estimate could be pinned down immediately.

Max Chesnutt said at noon today, following a tour on the north side of the Pamlico River; "We have been struck a heavy blow."

Chesnutt said most of the crop damage had been to corn and soybeans. Beaufort is the largest soybean producing county in the state.

The County Extension chairman reported that the soybean crop has been "severely damaged." He added that the dollar and cents loss is an unknown quantity.

Chesnutt said approximately one half of the corn crop has been harvested. He estimated that no more than half of the remaining crop will be harvested because much of it is blown down and wet.

Both Chesnutt and Allen James, County ASCS manager, said most of the damage will be from water rather than wind. Both said many fields throughout the county are flooded from the heavy rains

which accompanied Hurricane Ginger.

A large corn and soybean producer in the Pantego area, A. D. Swindell, said about half of the corn crop remained unharvested in that section and losses were expected to be heavy.

"We grow 2,000 acres of corn and all of it has been blown flat, with some left that is even waist high. You can see from one end of the row to the other," Swindell said.

Pitt County Extension Chairman Edwin L. Yancey said the heavy rains from Ginger would delay the peanut digging. Glenn Toomey, extension cotton specialist, said cotton picking also would be delayed and the grade of lint might be reduced in many fields.

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but no injuries were reported.

The weather bureau said that because of the enormity of the eye, many areas along the coast would experience long periods of light winds if the hurricane moved ashore. It warned residents: "Do not venture from your place of safety since winds will increase again from the opposite direction."

At 10 a.m., the weather service said the center of the storm was estimated to be near latitude 34.7 north, longitude 76.4 west, 10 miles closer to land than an hour earlier.