

## Tropical Storm Emily: Quick as lightning

Jesse Ferrell | July 31, 2017



an [EarthCam](#) view of Siesta Beach, Florida

### UPDATE 8/1 9 AM:

The most impressive wind gust from Emily was on the other side of Florida Monday -- 65 mph at the C-MAN STATION FWYF1 FOWEY ROCKS (and can only be seen in the "Continuous Wind Data." This was during a thunderstorm, and was measured at 144 feet.

The runner-up was 55 mph from NDBC BUOY NPSF1 off the Tampa coast in the eyewall of the storm. The highest rainfall amounts are shown below (click on map to enlarge); heavy rainfall was scattered due to the weak nature of the storm and quick movement.

### ORIGINAL BLOG ENTRY JULY 31, 2017:

Tropical Storm Emily sprung up this morning at 7:45 a.m. (having only been declared as a depression 90 minutes earlier) off the coast of Florida, then made landfall a few hours later.

While making landfall, the storm cranked out over 7,000 cloud-to-ground lightning strikes in the bands moving around her eyewall according to lightningmaps.org (enlarge), an unusual amount of lightning for a tropical storm (although hurricanes have even less).

The cold front that spawned Emily had another 18,000 strikes off to the east. Hundreds of those strikes were associated with a band of heavy rain that developed suddenly and hit the Sarasota area (as you can see from the radarscope image above). Broadcasting the Siesta Key [Earthcam](#) live on Facebook, you could see the frequent lightning, heavy rain and high winds of that one storm band coming in.

After it moved inland, a strong area of rotation formed on radar, causing a Tornado Warning to be issued for the Bradenton area. Only one storm report was filed -- 3-inch branches and power lines down, between South Venice and Englewood, Florida.

A little later, there was one point where there were several Special Marine Warnings, warning of waterspouts, and the Earthcam again showed extreme wind and rain as a band of storms approached Naples, Florida. As of 2 p.m., 10 inches of rain had fallen near landfall, according to the GREarth estimates, with as much as 4 inches in several areas of the state.