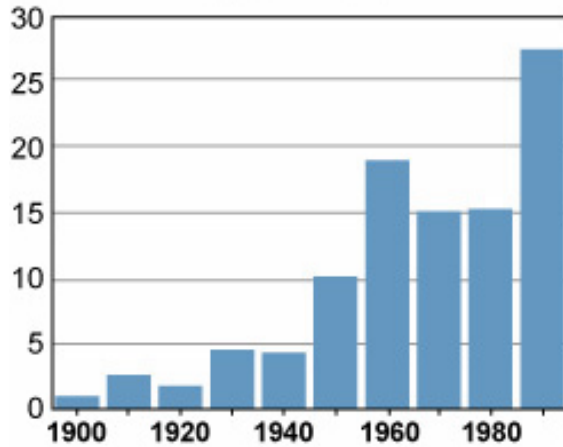


## Handout 6. Danger from Hurricanes

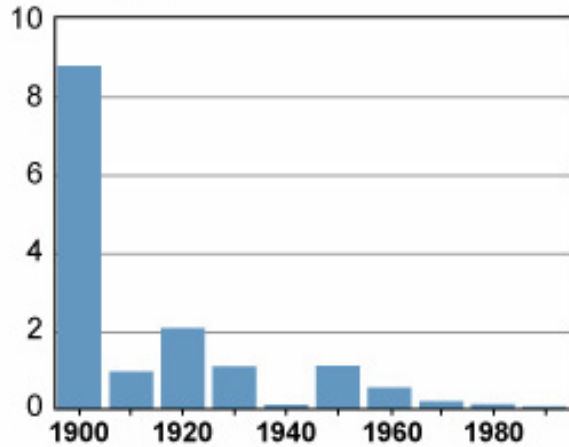
### U.S. Property Loss

Billions of dollars (1990 dollars)



### U.S. Loss of Life

Thousands of deaths



These awesome storms have been a deadly problem for residents and sailors ever since the early days of colonization. Today, hurricane damage costs billions of dollars. During this century, 23 hurricanes have each caused damage in excess of \$1 billion (adjusted for inflation). Damage from Hurricane Andrew (1992) alone was estimated at more than \$25 billion in South Florida and Louisiana and undoubtedly would have been higher had the storm hit Miami directly.

Thankfully, the number of people injured or killed during tropical cyclones in the United States has been declining, largely because of improvements in forecasting and emergency preparedness. Nonetheless, our risk from hurricanes is increasing. With population and development continuing to increase along coastal areas, greater numbers of people and property are vulnerable to hurricane threat. Large numbers of tourists also favor coastal locations, adding greatly to the problems of emergency managers and local decision makers during a hurricane threat.

Source: <http://hurricanes.noaa.gov/prepare/>