



# FLORIDA KEYS

## National Weather Service

### Forecast Office

<http://www.weather.gov/keywest>

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*ISSUED: 11:34 PM EDT WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2012*

#### **WAKE LOW PRESSURE PRODUCES STRONG WINDS ACROSS THE KEYS**

A RARE WEATHER PHENOMENON KNOWN AS A WAKE LOW PRESSURE SYSTEM CREATED STRONG WINDS THROUGHOUT THE FLORIDA KEYS AND ADJACENT COASTAL WATERS DURING THE LATE AFTERNOON AND EVENING HOURS ON WEDNESDAY. A SQUALL LINE OF THUNDERSTORMS POSITIONED WELL AHEAD OF A COLD FRONT MOVED SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST OF THE LOWER KEYS DURING THE MID-AFTERNOON HOURS. SURFACE PRESSURES TO THE NORTH OF THIS SQUALL LINE BEGAN TO FLUCTUATE, AND RAPIDLY SINKING AIR ON THE FRINGE OF A RAIN SHIELD THAT TRAVERSED THE KEYS RESULTED IN STRONG WIND GUSTS. THE STRONGEST WINDS ALONG THE ISLAND CHAIN WERE REPORTED IN THE UPPER KEYS NEAR TAVERNIER, WHERE A TRAINED SPOTTER MEASURED A PEAK GUST OF 51 MPH JUST BEFORE 5:00 PM. A LARGE TREE WAS TOPPLED NEAR TAVERNIER, REPORTEDLY CAUSING DAMAGE TO A WATER LINE. ANOTHER TRAINED SPOTTER REPORTED THAT BAYSIDE CANALS NEAR TAVERNIER WERE EMPTIED DUE TO PERSISTENTLY STRONG SOUTHERLY WINDS, AND BOATS WERE RESTING ON CANAL BOTTOMS. THE HIGHEST WIND SPEEDS WERE MEASURED AT THE ELEVATED COASTAL MARINE AUTOMATED NETWORK (CMAN) STATIONS ALONG THE FLORIDA REEF. WIND SPEEDS WERE SLOW TO DIMINISH THROUGH THE EVENING HOURS ON WEDNESDAY ACROSS THE ISLAND CHAIN AND ADJACENT COASTAL WATERS. PLEASE PERUSE OUR LOCAL STORM REPORT TEXT PRODUCTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AS DAMAGE REPORTS ARE RELAYED TO THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE. A SUMMARY OF SUSTAINED WIND SPEEDS AND PEAK GUSTS FROM SELECTED SENSORS THROUGHOUT THE ISLAND CHAIN ARE LISTED IN THE TABLE ON THE NEXT PAGE.

**Peak Sustained Winds and Reported Wind Gusts (mph) – January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

<b>Station – Station Type</b>	<b>Maximum Sustained Wind</b>	<b>Peak Wind Gust</b>	<b>Time of Gust</b>
Sand Key Light - CMAN	35	47	5:31 pm
Key West NWS - RSOIS		41	4:22 pm
Key West Int'l Airport - ASOS	31	39	4:59 pm
Boca Chica NAS - ASOS	25	39	5:51 pm
Cudjoe Key – Mesonet	29	40	3:44 pm
Ramrod Key – Mesonet	27	43	6:21 pm
Sombrero Key Light - CMAN	41	59	6:29 pm
Marathon Airport - ASOS	25	38	4:32 pm
Long Key Light – CMAN	30	46	4:29 pm
Upper Matecumbe - Weatherflow		37	4:50 pm
Tavernier – Trained Spotter		51	4:45 pm
South Key Largo - Weatherflow		40	5:05 pm
Molasses Reef Light - CMAN	50	59	4:58 pm