
1919 The Storm

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ABSTRACT

A powerful hurricane devastated Corpus Christi on September 14, 1919. It left an official death toll of 284 with estimates of up to 500 more uncounted dead. Low-lying sections of the city were inundated by up to twelve feet of storm-driven tides. Downtown buildings lining the bay were destroyed or heavily damaged, while the rest of the downtown was flooded with oil-slicked waters. On North Beach, Corpus Christi's first suburban neighborhood of substantial residences, more than 220 homes were demolished by the storm tide. Those residents unable to reach the safety of high ground were swept into Nueces Bay to battle the storm and debris for their lives. Many died, but some survived the fourteen-mile struggle across the bay to come ashore on the back side of Nueces Bay.

Local historian and businessman Jim Moloney will discuss the 1919 hurricane and its effects on the city and surrounding areas. A few copies of the book by the same title will be available for sale.