

# Sarnafil Roofs Withstand Florida Hurricanes

**Project:**

Pensacola Civic Center  
Pensacola, Fla.

**Building Owner:**

Escambia County, Fla.

**Roofing Contractor:**

Edwards Roofing Co., Inc.  
Pensacola, Fla.

**Roofing System:**

Sarnafil S327 60-mil membrane,  
mechanically-fastened Engineered  
System with Sarnabars and  
Sarnafasteners

**Project Size:**

136,200 sq. ft.

**Completed:**

September 1995

**Sarnafil Roofs Stand Up to Ivan**

When Hurricane Ivan reared its ugly head early in the morning of Sept. 16, 2004, it demolished coastal homes and businesses with its giant waves and malicious winds, leaving parts of Florida's Panhandle virtually destroyed. But, what didn't make the headlines were the area roofs left unscathed.

The Pensacola Civic Center in Pensacola, Fla. is a case in point. Used as a shelter for 1,200 local residents, it was critical that the structure remain intact. Its Sarnafil Engineered Roofing System did not disappoint, remaining unscathed from Ivan's 130 mph winds. The Engineered System is designed with metal bars and cover strips installed on top of the membrane for maximum wind uplift protection. While the roof easily withstood the storm, some of the multi-ton HVAC units on top of the roof were unable to survive the strong winds and were blown off.

"The design of the roof on the Civic Center is a testament to Sarnafil's Engineered Roof System," said Tom Wiese, Sarnafil technical sales representative for Northwest Florida. "After the storm passed, many of the surrounding buildings were badly damaged or destroyed while the Sarnafil roof protected the building and its occupants."

But, its notable operation precedes Hurricane Ivan as well. Installed in 1995, the roof has required very little maintenance or upkeep.

"For the size of the roof, the amount of maintenance we've had has been minimal. That to me is beautiful," said John Crosson, Civic Center operations manager. "The roof is just something we haven't had to think about."

**Civic Center History**

The Pensacola Civic Center lost 80% of its original EPDM roof in August 1995 to Hurricane Erin, causing \$7 million in dam-

ages. Escambia County turned to Edwards Roofing for the solution. Having installed Sarnafil roofs locally for 22 years, Rick Edwards, president of Edwards Roofing, was sure of the solution.

"We knew Sarnafil's membrane and bar attachment system would be a good choice," Edwards said. "It came with a wind-rated warranty which was a huge factor to [Escambia County], after having just been through a hurricane and losing a roof."

Edwards Roofing worked quickly to cover up the building's damaged EPDM roof. One quarter inch-thick Georgia-Pacific Dens-Deck® roof board was mechanically fastened to the roof deck followed by Sarnafil membrane secured with Sarnabars and cover strips.

"The height of the building and the wind exposure were the greatest challenges," Edwards said. "The number of bars that had to be put up there was very extensive – that's what it took to keep this type of roof in place and it's proven to work."

#### **Florida's Panhandle Relies on Sarnafil**

Across the street from the Civic Center is the Crowne Plaza Grand Hotel, Pensacola. The Hotel, which was outfitted with Sarnafil's G410 60-mil Feltback membrane fully adhered to cellular, lightweight concrete, lost the top of its east facade to Ivan. With the 15th floor walls blown in, the insulation and structural deck were exposed to the elements, but the roof's membrane remained completely attached.

Less than a mile away is the Pensacola Police Headquarters. Its 25,000-sq.-ft. roof, which was added to the station in March 2004, experienced only minor leaks during the storm as a result of water blown in through rooftop heating and cooling units. Also clad with Sarnafil's G410 60-mil Feltback membrane, the roof



*Crowne Plaza Grand Hotel, Pensacola, with the upper floors' walls blown in.*

stayed completely in tact during Hurricane Ivan.

Twenty-five miles east of Pensacola is the Fountain Professional Centre, in Navarre, Fla., a professional services building built in February 2004. Sarnafil's S327 60-mil EnergySmart Roof® membrane was mechanically fastened to the 7,000-sq.-ft. roof deck by Edwards Roofing. Warranted for 20 years, the roof was a clear choice for Owner and President Greg Fountain.

"I'm happy to report the system performed flawlessly during Hurricane Ivan," said Fountain. "We are about 2,000 ft. from the water facing the Gulf of Mexico."

What's the reason for Sarnafil's success in Northwest Florida?

"It's a couple of things," says Wiese. "One, our contractors are recognized as industry leaders for their workmanship, and secondly, we've taken a lot of care in the design of our systems."

"The Engineered System on the Civic Center is head and shoulders above anything out there and the Adhered Feltback System at the Crowne Plaza - we've had great success with that system throughout the Pensacola area as well."

The future of Pensacola's commercial roofs seems to be sealed. Crosson said he's optimistic about the Civic Center's prolonged strength.

"Considering what it went through, I'm not worried about the roof," said Crosson who experienced roof damage in his own Pensacola home. "Let's just put it this way - I want one for my house."

For more information on how you can have a cost-effective Sarnafil roofing or waterproofing system on your institutional, industrial or commercial building, contact Sarnafil today.

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Job # 0927/5M/0205

  
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