

HURRICANE IVAN VERSUS INTEGRASPEC ICF AT ORANGE BEACH, ALABAMA, USA IN OCTOBER 2004



Located halfway between Pensacola, Florida and the Gulf Shores, the 160,000ft² Grande Caribbean apartment block at Orange Beach, Alabama features 101 luxury apartments with ground level and underground parking.

Constructed using IntegraSpec Insulating Concrete Formwork (ICF), the structure has been battered by several hurricanes, including Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

But it was in 2004 that the area surrounding the Grande Caribbean suffered its biggest challenge – the Category 3 Hurricane Ivan completely destroyed nearly all the wood framed buildings near the coast, but the Grande Caribbean suffered absolutely no structural damage.

Designer Andrew Lindsay explains: “The only things we lost were just a few pieces of Hardie-plank siding due to installation problems; the roof also suffered minor damage for the same reasons. But there was absolutely no damage to the ICF.”

There was over 7ft of water in the underground car park, but it never reached the living spaces.

“Two days after the storm, the building was inspected and certified as safe to live in,” added Andrew Lindsay.

And a year later in 2005, the building came through Hurricane Katrina completely unscathed!