

## = Effects of Hurricane Floyd in New England =

The effects of Hurricane Floyd in New England stretched across the region from Connecticut to Maine and included two casualties . Floyd , once a large and powerful hurricane , made landfall in North Carolina and weakened as it tracked northward along the U.S. East Coast . By September 17 , 1999 , the storm , downgraded in strength to a tropical storm , was situated over New England . It produced heavy rainfall and gusty winds throughout the entire region , leading to widespread downing of trees and extensive power outages before it moved away later that day . In Danbury , Connecticut , Floyd triggered severe flooding , considered the worst in 40 years , that damaged hundreds of homes . Precipitation in some areas amounted to 10 in ( 250 mm ) , with wind gusts approaching hurricane force in Massachusetts .

## = = Background = =

Floyd 's origins are traced back to a westward @-@ moving tropical wave that developed into a tropical depression on September 7 , 1999 , while centered 1 @, @ 000 mi ( 1 @, @ 600 km ) east of the Lesser Antilles . The system moved west @-@ northwestward , and intensified into a tropical storm on September 8 . Continuing to intensify , Floyd attained hurricane strength on September 10 . The hurricane ultimately peaked as a Category 4 hurricane on the Saffir ? Simpson Hurricane Scale as it struck the Bahamas . The storm turned northwestward and soon northward , brushing the coast of Florida and the southeast United States . On September 16 , Floyd made landfall as a Category 2 hurricane in North Carolina , and moved northeastward along the Eastern Seaboard . It passed through the Mid @-@ Atlantic States as it deteriorated into a tropical storm , and lost its tropical identity over southern Maine .

## = = Preparations = =

On September 15 , an existing tropical storm watch was extended northward to the Merrimack River in Massachusetts . The next day , a tropical storm warning was extended northward to Plymouth , Massachusetts , but was soon replaced by a hurricane warning . The watch stretching to the Merrimack River was then replaced by a warning . By 0900 UTC on September 17 , all tropical cyclone advisories were lifted . In Connecticut , utility companies readied supplies and emergency crews in advance of the hurricane . In Massachusetts and Rhode Island , with the anticipation of heavy rains , the United States Geological Survey ( USGS ) prepared to send eight teams into the field to take measurements along 30 rivers . Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Almond advised residents to prepare for the storm 's onslaught . The storm disrupted many residents ' travel plans in the state , while people evacuated from certain coastal communities . The threat of Hurricane Floyd forced schools , malls , and the University of Massachusetts Amherst to close .

## = = Impact = =

## = = = Southern New England = = =

In Connecticut , the storm caused one casualty : a man drowned after boating in the swollen Quinnipiac River . The storm caused extensive flooding and serious damage . Wind gusts exceeding 50 mph ( 80 km / h ) , combined with the saturated ground , brought down many trees and triggered severe power outages in the area . As Floyd tracked up the Connecticut River Valley towards Massachusetts , it dropped heavy precipitation . The heaviest rainfall occurred in a southwest ? northeast orientated swath from northern New Jersey to southwestern Connecticut , including southeastern New York . At the Danbury Airport , 11 @. @ 13 in ( 283 mm ) of rain was reported . Rainfall rates of 1 to 2 in ( 25 to 51 mm ) per hour occurred at Bethel and Danbury . Numerous rivers overflowed ; for example , the Still River and its tributaries triggered severe flooding . The worst of

the flooding ? considered the worst in 40 years ? took place at Danbury . Hundreds of homes , two car dealerships , several roads , and other structures were damaged there . At Greentree Motors , all 200 vehicles were declared a total loss . Parts of the city were submerged with 4 ft ( 1 @. @ 2 m ) of water . However , throughout the state , roads were closed and basements were inundated . The flooding inflicted at least \$ 1 @. @ 3 million in monetary damage within Fairfield County . Portions of the state were declared a federal disaster area .

Floyd brought intense winds and heavy rain to Rhode Island . The strongest winds were confined to Washington and Providence counties . The winds brought down numerous trees , tree limbs and power lines . Rainfall typically ranged from 2 to 5 in ( 51 to 127 mm ) , with a report of 7 @. @ 12 in ( 181 mm ) at North Smithfield , Rhode Island . The Pawtuxet River reached flood stage on September 16 , and crested the next day . Although it surpassed its banks , no flood damage was reported . The storm 's effects in the state were mostly minor .

In Massachusetts , the storm produced wind gusts of 60 to 70 mph ( 97 to 113 km / h ) , reaching 76 mph ( 122 km / h ) at the New Bedford Hurricane Barrier . The strongest winds were concentrated over two sections of the state ? the western mountains terrain and Cape Cod . The winds brought down trees and power lines in these areas , particularly around Pittsfield . In terms of rainfall , the storm dropped 6 to 10 in ( 150 to 250 mm ) in many locations . The heavy precipitation caused rivers to swell , and in some cases flow over their banks . Storm surge at the Fox Point Hurricane Barrier reached 4 @. @ 2 ft ( 1 @. @ 3 m ) .

= = = Northern New England = = =

By September 17 , Floyd was located over southwestern Maine , dropping heavy rains . The entire state received precipitation , with the highest totals confined to southern areas . The National Weather Service issued a flood watch for two @-@ thirds of the state . The storm was described as " tame " , and damage was generally minor . In much of Androscoggin County , rainfall amounted to between 7 and 8 in ( 180 and 200 mm ) ; Poland reported 8 @. @ 72 in ( 221 mm ) . Several rivers approached or exceeded flood stage due to rainfall from Floyd and Hurricane Dennis less than a week earlier , causing minor flooding . Floyd helped to alleviate drought conditions in Maine . Some roads in susceptible areas were submerged , and a few basements were flooded . Wind gusts of 30 to 40 mph ( 48 to 64 km / h ) blew down trees and snapped branches , especially in the area surrounding Baxter State Park . Around 15 @, @ 000 residents were affected by power outages as a result . Following the event , five counties ? Androscoggin , Cumberland , Kennebec Oxford , and Somerset ? were declared disaster areas , making federal aid available to those areas .

Rainfall in New Hampshire generally ranged from 4 to 7 in ( 100 to 180 mm ) , although a few higher totals were recorded . At Mount Washington , 9 @. @ 54 in ( 242 mm ) of precipitation fell . The rainfall swelled rivers , pushing them above flood stage ; the Saco River at Conway crested at 15 @. @ 56 ft ( 4 @. @ 74 m ) , surpassing the 9 @-@ ft ( 2 @. @ 7 m ) flood stage . Along the Saco and Pemigewasset rivers , minor flooding took place , though only in low @-@ lying terrain . Strong winds also impacted the state , with gusts often exceeding 40 mph ( 64 km / h ) . The winds brought down several small trees in Jaffrey , and triggered power outages that affected 10 @, @ 000 residents . A federal disaster area was declared in the state .

In Vermont , for the first time in years , the Tunbridge World 's Fair was canceled due to the storm . One woman sustained injuries after a tree crashed on her vehicle . Floyd produced high winds and heavy rain throughout the state , leading to widespread downed trees and powerlines . Thousands of residents in the state lost power after 60 mph ( 97 km / h ) winds impacted the area . Rainfall totals of 3 to 6 in ( 76 to 152 mm ) were common , although there were localized higher reports . The rainfall was offset by persistent drought conditions , however . Numerous tributaries overflowed their banks , and significant flooding was reported . In Weathersfield , part of U.S. Route 5 was washed away . Some schools were closed and events canceled in the region . The downed trees caused structural damage , blocked roadways , and affected hiking trails . The high winds also damaged buildings and some apple orchards , Waves of 8 to 10 ft ( 2 @. @ 4 to 3 @. @ 0 m ) occurred on Lake Champlain , damaging numerous watercraft along the shore . The hurricane caused one death

. Most of Vermont was declared a disaster area after the storm .