

= 1939 Atlantic hurricane season =

The 1939 Atlantic hurricane season officially began on June 12 , 1939 , and lasted until November 7 , 1939 . These dates mark the period of each year when most tropical cyclones form in the Atlantic basin . The 1939 season had below normal activity , with only six tropical storms , of which two became hurricanes and one became a major hurricane , equivalent to Category 3 status or higher on the modern Saffir Simpson Hurricane Scale . The first tropical cyclone formed on June 12 , and the last dissipated on November 6 .

All of the storms affected land to some extent . The first two cyclones of the season made landfall along the coast of the United States , collectively causing only minor damage . Hurricane Five , the strongest of the year , took a northeastern path through the western Atlantic , striking Bermuda on October 16 . The fifth and final storm was a minimal hurricane that wrought damage throughout the western Caribbean Sea , most notably in Jamaica and Cuba . The weakest known storm was Tropical Storm Four , with winds of only 50 miles per hour (80 km / h) and a minimum barometric pressure of 1 003 millibars (29 . 62 inHg) .

= = Timeline = =

= = Storms = =

= = = Tropical Storm One = = =

The first tropical storm of the season developed in the extreme western Caribbean Sea on June 12 . Reports of the storm first came from the Mexican Weather Service office in Chetumal , Quintana Roo , and during the afternoon of June 12 , vessels just offshore recorded squally conditions and choppy seas . The cyclone moved northward , parallel to the coast of Belize , before moving over the northeastern corner of the Yucatán Peninsula . It continued steadily northward through the Gulf of Mexico , slowly strengthening to a peak of 50 miles per hour (80 km / h) on June 14 with a minimum central pressure of 1 000 . 0 hectopascals (29 . 53 inHg) . An area of high pressure to the north caused the storm to execute a counter clockwise loop . A trough of low pressure turned it back to the north , and the cyclone made landfall near Mobile , Alabama , as a minimal tropical storm on June 16 . Turning to the northwest , it quickly weakened to a tropical depression and dissipated on June 17 over Mississippi .

In advance of the system , officials issued storm warnings for coastal areas of Alabama and western Florida , and residents in low lying areas were advised to seek higher ground . Damage associated with the cyclone was generally minor , and only one life was lost when a boy fell into the swollen waters of a river and drowned .

= = = Hurricane Two = = =

On August 7 , a tropical storm formed north of the Leeward Islands , likely from a tropical wave . It tracked to the west northwest , slowly strengthening to a hurricane as it moved through the Bahamas on August 11 . Later that day , it met the east coast of Florida , and crossed the state in around 15 hours . After weakening to a tropical storm , it quickly re strengthened upon emerging into the Gulf of Mexico , and made another landfall near Apalachicola , Florida , on August 13 . Over land , the cyclone slowed considerably and quickly deteriorated . By August 14 , the storm had weakened to a tropical depression as it drifted through Alabama . The depression turned to the northeast , and remained a tropical depression until it dissipated over New York on August 20 . Due to timely reports and warnings , the storm was reportedly forecast with " exceptional accuracy " .

In Florida , damage was minor , amounting to uprooted trees , broken windows , moderate crop damage , and downed power lines . A few flimsy structures and small watercraft also sustained

damage . Along the Florida Panhandle , the storm 's winds impacted power , telephone , and telegraph lines , and inflicted \$ 2 @, @ 000 worth of damage to a dock warehouse . A man in Cedar Key , Florida , drowned after rough surf overturned his rowboat , and at least two other people suffered minor storm @-@ related injuries . Torrential rain fell in Alabama as a result of the storm 's slow forward movement , leading to severe flooding . Further inland , the storm spawned a tornado in North Carolina which caused one death . As the depression continued heading inland , it dropped heavy precipitation throughout the Mid @-@ Atlantic States , exceeding 14 inches (36 cm) in Tuckerton , New Jersey , and 18 inches (460 mm) in Manahawkin , New Jersey .

= = = Tropical Storm Three = = =

An operationally unnoticed tropical storm developed on August 15 . At its peak , sustained winds were 65 mph (100 km / h) and the minimum pressure of 1 @, @ 000 mbar (30 inHg) . By August 19 , the storm dissipated .

= = = Tropical Storm Four = = =

An area of disturbed weather over Central America organized into a tropical storm in the Bay of Campeche on September 23 . Uneventfully , it moved generally north @-@ northeastward through the Gulf of Mexico and its winds strengthened to a peak of 50 miles per hour (80 km / h) . The storm made landfall on south @-@ central Louisiana on September 26 , and dissipated later that day . The Weather Bureau office in New Orleans posted numerous advisories , although the effects from the storm were minimal .

= = = Hurricane Five = = =

On the afternoon of October 9 , reports from the Leeward Islands of low pressures and unsettled weather indicated that a storm was forming in the vicinity . The disturbance strengthened into a tropical storm on October 12 to the northeast of Puerto Rico . The quickly escalating storm tracked northwestward before turning towards the northeast , away from a high pressure area building in from the west . Early on October 15 , the storm attained hurricane intensity and continued to mature until October 16 , when it reached its peak at a strength corresponding to Category 4 status on the modern @-@ day Saffir @-@ Simpson Hurricane Scale . That same day it passed just east of Bermuda . It weakened as it accelerated to the northeast , and became extratropical near Newfoundland a couple of days later .

Numerous ships encountered the hurricane along its course . On the President Harding , en route to New York , one crew member drowned due to the rough conditions and 73 crew and passengers suffered injury , of various severity , requiring a call for emergency medical supplies . The ship itself sustained a bit of damage . As the storm passed near the island of Bermuda , it generated strong winds ? gusting to 131 miles per hour (211 km / h) ? and heavy precipitation . Damage was fairly significant ; the winds uprooted trees , shattered windows , and disrupted public utilities .

= = = Hurricane Six = = =

On October 29 , the fifth and final known tropical cyclone of the season developed in the western Caribbean Sea from a tropical wave . It initially moved northwestward , but turned toward the east shortly thereafter . Drifting due eastward , the storm grew into a minimal hurricane on October 31 while passing over the Cayman Islands . The hurricane 's center passed just north of the island of Jamaica later that day as it weakened back into a tropical storm . Eventually , the storm turned abruptly northeastward and crossed the eastern tip of Cuba . By November 3 , it had emerged into the Atlantic and entered the southern Bahamas . Beginning to accelerate , the tropical storm passed to the west of Bermuda before becoming extratropical on November 6 .

At Grand Cayman , winds from the storm reached 92 miles per hour (148 km / h) with a minimum

pressure of 990 @.@ 0 hectopascals (29 @.@ 23 inHg) . According to press reports , the hurricane inflicted considerable damage on the Cayman Islands . In northern Jamaica , property damage was also widespread . The hurricane brought heavy rainfall , high winds , and pounding surf to the island , leaving one dead . Another death was reported in Cuba , where the torrential rains also caused extensive flooding and losses to livestock and crops .