

= 1953 Atlantic hurricane season =

The 1953 Atlantic hurricane season was the first time an organized list of female names was used to name Atlantic storms . It officially began on June 15 , and lasted until November 15 , although activity occurred both before and after the season 's limits . The season was active with fourteen total storms , six of which developed into hurricanes ; four of the hurricanes attained major hurricane status , or a Category 3 or greater on the Saffir @-@ Simpson scale .

The strongest hurricane of the season was Carol , although by the time it struck Atlantic Canada it was much weaker . Both hurricanes Barbara and Florence struck the United States ; the former crossed the Outer Banks and impacted much of the east coast , and Florence struck a sparsely populated region of the Florida Panhandle without causing much damage . Bermuda was threatened by three hurricanes within two weeks . In addition to the hurricanes , Tropical Storm Alice developed in late May and left several fatalities in Cuba . The final named storm of the season , Hazel , produced additional rainfall in Florida after previous flooding conditions . There were several unnamed storms , the last of which dissipated on December 9 .

= = Storms = =

= = = Tropical Storm Alice = = =

A tropical storm developed east of Nicaragua on May 25 , executing a counterclockwise loop over Central America . After weakening over land , Alice re @-@ intensified over the western Caribbean , moving over western Cuba on May 21 with winds of 50 mph (80 km / h) . On June 1 , it entered the Gulf of Mexico , and later executed another loop off the northwest coast of Cuba . Alice quickly weakened due to a cold front , and advisories were discontinued by June 3 . While near Cuba , Alice produced drought @-@ breaking rainfall that caused flooding and several unofficial drowning deaths .

After passing near Cuba , Alice turned to the north and restrengthened to peak winds of 70 mph (110 km / h) (in fact , it is possible Alice briefly reached hurricane intensity but data was inconclusive) . It again weakened before making landfall near Panama City Beach on June 6 as a minimal tropical storm , and Alice dissipated shortly thereafter . Alice brought heavy rainfall to Florida , peaking at 13 @.@ 48 inches (342 mm) in Lake Placid . Near where it made landfall , the storm dropped light rainfall , and there were no reports of damage in the state . Alice was the first North Atlantic tropical cyclone to have a female name . It was also one of 22 tropical or subtropical cyclones on record in the month of May .

= = = Tropical Storm Two = = =

= = = Hurricane Barbara = = =

A tropical wave developed into Tropical Storm Barbara over the Bahamas on August 11 . It intensified as it moved north @-@ northwestward , becoming a hurricane by the next day , and reaching peak winds of 90 mph (150 km / h) just south of Cape Hatteras on August 13 . Barbara moved over the Outer Banks , passing between Morehead City and Ocracoke , and it turned and accelerated to the northeast . Steadily weakening and losing tropical characteristics , the hurricane transitioned into an extratropical cyclone late on August 15 . It turned northward , crossing eastern Nova Scotia and dissipating over Labrador on August 16 .

Before Barbara struck the Outer Banks , officials ordered evacuations for a few islands , and several thousand tourists voluntarily left the region . Wind gusts reached 90 mph (140 km / h) at Hatteras and Nags Head . Torrential rainfall fell across the state and extended northward into Virginia , peaking at 11 @.@ 1 in (280 mm) near Onley along the Eastern Shore of Virginia .

Across the region , the hurricane left flooding and downed trees , some of which survived the Great Atlantic Hurricane of 1944 . Monetary damage from Barbara was estimated around \$ 1 @. @ 3 million (1953 USD , \$ 11 @. @ 5 million 2016 USD) , mostly from the crop damage . Newspaper reports indicated there were seven deaths in the country ; two additional deaths occurred offshore Atlantic Canada when a dory sunk .

= = = Hurricane Carol = = =

On August 28 , a tropical wave developed into a tropical depression near Cape Verde . After moving west @- @ southwestward , it turned to the northwest , intensifying into a tropical storm on August 31 and into a hurricane on September 2 . Passing northeast of the Lesser Antilles , Carol rapidly intensified to Category 5 intensity , reaching peak winds of 160 mph (260 km / h) on September 3 , making it the strongest hurricane of the season . It gradually weakened , bypassing Bermuda on September 6 and producing high waves . Carol later turned to the north @- @ northeast , brushing Cape Cod and causing boating accidents across New England . Four people were killed in the region . Fishing losses totaled around \$ 1 million (1953 USD , \$ 8 @. @ 84 million 2016 USD) .

After bypassing New England , Carol brushed western Nova Scotia before moving ashore near Saint John , New Brunswick as a minimal hurricane . As it moved ashore , it produced hurricane conditions in eastern Maine , one of only six Atlantic hurricanes to do so . In Nova Scotia , several boats were wrecked or washed ashore , with one drowning death reported . High seas caused coastal flooding , while strong winds downed large areas of trees . Heavy losses to the apple crop occurred in Annapolis Valley , totaling \$ 1 million (1950 CAD , \$ 9 @. @ 15 million 2016 USD) . Carol later dissipated southwest of Greenland on September 9 .

= = = Tropical Storm Five = = =

On August 29 , a tropical storm developed near Isla de la Juventud , south of the western tip of Cuba . It moved erratically , first quickly northwestward through Cuba , followed by a turn to the east across southern Florida . While moving through the state , the storm dropped heavy rainfall , reaching 4 @. @ 67 in (119 mm) at Fort Lauderdale Beach ; similar rainfall was observed in the northern Bahamas . Although one Weather Bureau forecaster described the system as " wide and flat " , the storm gradually organized over the western Atlantic Ocean . On August 31 , after turning to the northwest , the storm reached peak winds of 40 mph (65 km / h) , although it weakened to a tropical depression before moving ashore near Savannah , Georgia on September 1 . It turned to the north over land , and dissipated over Kentucky on September 3 .

= = = Hurricane Dolly = = =

The origins of Dolly were from a tropical wave that moved through the eastern Caribbean Sea , producing 10 in (250 mm) in Saint Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands . The rains closed schools and government buildings around San Juan , Puerto Rico , and flooding was reported in Guayama , Yabucoa , and Patillas . On September 8 , a tropical storm developed north of Puerto Rico , which moved slowly west @- @ southwestward before turning to the north . It quickly intensified , and after Hurricane Hunters reported an eye , Dolly reached hurricane status on September 9 . At that time , hurricane warnings were issued in the Bahamas , although the storm turned away from the archipelago . It intensified to peak winds of 75 mph (121 km / h) on September 10 , as reported by aircraft .

Dolly weakened as it accelerated northeastward , although it still threatened to strike Bermuda with strong winds . As a result , the United States Air Force ordered all of the planes on the island to fly to the mainland . After continued weakening , Dolly passed over the island on September 11 , producing only gale @- @ force winds , rains , and little to no damage . It deteriorated into a tropical storm on September 12 and transitioned into an extratropical cyclone later that day . The remnants

of Dolly later turned eastward , dissipating just west of Portugal on September 17 .

== Hurricane Edna ==

Shortly behind Dolly , another tropical wave spawned a tropical depression over the Lesser Antilles on September 15 . As it moved through the region , it produced unsettled conditions across the northeast Caribbean . Dolly quickly intensified as it tracked northwestward , attaining hurricane status on September 15 and peak winds of 115 mph (185 km / h) the next day . After peaking , the hurricane turned to the northeast and maintained most of its intensity for a few days . It passed just north of Bermuda early on September 18 with winds of 115 mph (185 km / h) , before beginning a steady weakening trend as it accelerated . By September 19 , Edna completed the transition into an extratropical cyclone , lasting another day before dissipating west of Ireland .

Before Edna struck Bermuda , the islanders were well @-@ prepared due to being previously impacted by hurricanes Carol and Dolly , and they boarded up their homes . The hurricane caused " considerable damage " , with wind gusts reaching 120 mph (190 km / h) . The winds downed trees , blocking roads , and also caused disruptions to the power and water services . During its passage , Edna produced heavy rainfall and also damaged several roofs . There were three injuries on the island .

== Tropical Storm Eight ==

A tropical depression formed in the western Gulf of Mexico on September 14 and moved eastward . The storm produced heavy seas across the region , which damaged two small boats . After turning to the northeast , the storm reached peak winds of 70 mph (110 km / h) , followed by executing a clockwise loop from September 16 through September 18 . After maintaining peak winds for about five days , the storm weakened , by which time it curved to the northeast . On September 20 , it moved ashore in Taylor County , Florida and later crossed the state . The storm dissipated on September 21 just off the Georgia coast .

== Hurricane Florence ==

Florence developed on September 23 near Jamaica from a tropical wave . While passing that island , it produced heavy rainfall that blocked roads . It intensified to hurricane status on September 24 while passing through the Yucatán Channel , and while doing so left heavy damage in western Cuba . After turning north and entering the Gulf of Mexico , Florence quickly intensified to peak winds of 115 mph (185 km / h) . It gradually weakened before making landfall on September 26 as a minimal hurricane in a sparsely populated region of the Florida Panhandle .

Before Florence hit the United States Gulf Coast , about 10 @, @ 000 people evacuated Panama City , Florida , and the Weather Bureau issued timely warnings that was credited in preventing any deaths or major injuries . Winds reached 84 mph (135 km / h) at Eglin Air Force Base , and the heaviest rainfall was 14 @. @ 71 in (374 mm) in Lockhart , Alabama . The combination of winds and heavy rainfall left crop damage in the Florida panhandle and southeastern Alabama , although coastal damage was not severe . Overall , 421 houses were damaged and another three were destroyed , with monetary damage estimated around \$ 200 @, @ 000 (1953 USD , \$ 1 @. @ 77 million 2016 USD) . After landfall , Florence quickly transitioned into an extratropical cyclone , and as it continued across the southeastern United States it produced moderately heavy rainfall . It dissipated on September 28 southeast of New England .

== Hurricane Gail ==

On October 2 , a tropical wave spawned a tropical depression about 815 mi (1310 km) west @-@ southwest of the Cape Verde islands . The depression quickly intensified into Tropical Storm Gail , and the next day , a ship encountered the storm , reporting a minimum pressure of 986 mbar (29

@. @ 12 inHg) . As the ship crossed through the center , it reported winds of 80 mph (130 km / h) , indicating Gail attained hurricane status . Initially believed to have dissipated and reformed as a new unnamed storm on October 5 , in reality Gail continued northwest and then meandered around the central Atlantic before being absorbed by a front on October 12 .

= = = Tropical Storm Eleven = = =

On October 3 , a tropical storm developed near the southern coast of Cuba . It moved northwestward , crossing the island before turning to the northeast . Early on October 5 , the storm brushed southeastern Florida , producing gusty winds and rainfall . The threat of the storm prompted small craft warnings from the Florida Keys through South Carolina . As it accelerated northeastward , the storm strengthened slightly to maximum sustained winds of 45 mph (75 km / h) , before becoming extratropical on October 6 . Two days later , the remnants moved over Atlantic Canada with winds of 70 mph (120 km / h) , producing flooding rainfall that washed out several roads . The storm caused two deaths after it wrecked a boat in Broad Cove , Nova Scotia . Later , the cyclone passed south of Greenland before dissipating southwest of Iceland on October 10 .

= = = Hurricane Hazel = = =

The twelfth tropical storm and the final named storm of the season formed in the Yucatán Channel on October 7 . Given the name Hazel , the storm tracked north @-@ northeastward , then northeastward through the Gulf of Mexico while gradually intensifying . On October 9 , Hazel strengthened into a hurricane made landfall just north of Fort Myers , Florida at its peak intensity of 85 mph (140 km / h) . Peak wind gusts were 80 mph (130 km / h) , with a minimum pressure of 987 @. @ 0 mb (29 @. @ 15 inHg) reported in Okeechobee City . The storm crossed the state in about six hours , during which it weakened slightly back to a tropical storm . Over the western Atlantic Ocean , Hazel re @-@ intensified to its peak winds , although by late on October 10 it transitioned into an extratropical storm between North Carolina and Bermuda . The remnants continued northeastward , dissipating southeast of Newfoundland on October 12 . On Sable Island , the storm produced heavy winds and rain .

Due to the fairly light winds across Florida , damage from Hazel was minor , estimated around \$ 250 @, @ 000 (1953 USD , \$ 2 @. @ 21 million 2016 USD) . During its passage , the storm spawned a tornado in St. James City that destroyed several homes , and there were indications of another tornado in Okeechobee City . The primary impact from Hazel was from its rainfall , peaking at 10 @. @ 53 inches (267 mm) in Daytona Beach . The rains added to previous flooding conditions across the state , causing a record flood stage along the St. Johns River that flooded 6 mi (9 @. @ 7 km) of highway . Overall flooding damage was estimated up to \$ 10 million (1953 USD , \$ 88 @. @ 4 million 2016 USD) , but it was impossible to determine how much was due to Hazel .

= = = Tropical Storm Thirteen = = =

A tropical storm developed on November 23 about 460 mi (740 km) northeast of Barbuda in the Lesser Antilles . It moved northeastward , strengthening to peak winds of 50 mph (85 km / h) on November 24 . It later turned sharply to the west as it began a weakening trend , followed by a curve to the north . The cyclone dissipated on November 26 about 450 mi (725 km) east @-@ northeast of Bermuda , without ever affecting land .

= = = Tropical Storm Irene = = =

The final tropical cyclone of the season developed on December 7 about 705 mi (1735 km) east @-@ northeast of the Lesser Antilles as a tropical depression . It tracked generally westward , briefly intensifying into a tropical storm on December 8 . The next day it dissipated about 270 mi (435 km) north of the Lesser Antilles .

= = Storm names = =

These names were used to name storms during the 1953 season . The list was the same for the 1954 season as well . Initially , all female names were used ; it was not until the 1979 season that male and female names were used in alternating order . Names that were not assigned are marked in gray . All storm names were named for the first time . No names were retired .