

= Hurricane Florence (2000) =

Hurricane Florence attained Category 1 intensity on three separate occasions in mid @-@ September 2000 . The tenth tropical cyclone and sixth named storm of the 2000 Atlantic hurricane season , Florence developed on September 20 from a cold front to the southwest of Bermuda . Initially a subtropical cyclone , it quickly organized , attaining hurricane status twice in a two @-@ day period before weakening while remaining nearly stationary . Florence accelerated northeastward , reaching peak winds as a hurricane after passing near Bermuda . On September 17 , the storm was absorbed by a larger extratropical cyclone . Hurricane Florence threatened Bermuda during its third time at hurricane intensity , bringing tropical storm force winds to the island but causing no reported damage . However , three deaths in North Carolina were blamed on rip currents triggered by the hurricane on September 12 .

= = Meteorological history = =

During the first week of September , a cold front moved off the East Coast of the United States and stalled over the Atlantic Ocean . By September 8 , a weak frontal wave began developing along the cold front . Late on September 9 , convection increased over the broad low pressure area , and the overall system intensified beneath an upper @-@ level low . Subsequently , the system abandoned its frontal features as its appearance became more circular . With persistent but limited convection near and to the west of the center , the National Hurricane Center (NHC) estimated the system developed into a subtropical depression late on September 10 about 375 mi (604 km) west @-@ southwest of Bermuda ; it was considered subtropical because the upper @-@ circulation was believed to have been cold @-@ core . Operationally , advisories on the system were not initiated until 21 hours later .

Subsequent to developing , deep convection began developing and increasing around the center . On September 11 , an Advanced Microwave Sounding Unit temperature cross @-@ section analysis indicated the system developed a warm thermal core ; as a result , it was re @-@ classified as Tropical Depression Ten . Convection continued increasing , and it intensified to tropical storm status by 1200 UTC . Operationally , it was considered a tropical depression , and significant strengthening was not expected . However , reports from Hurricane Hunters confirmed the presence of tropical storm force winds , and as a result the National Hurricane Center named the cyclone Florence . The storm continued quickly intensifying , and with the Hurricane Hunters reporting flight @-@ level winds of over 85 mph (140 km / h) , it was estimated Florence attained hurricane status late on September 11 , or just six hours after the National Hurricane Center began issuing advisories on the storm . The strongest winds were confined to a very small area near the edge of the convection . Initially , the hurricane was tracking west @-@ southwestward , steered by a mid @-@ level ridge to its northwest .

On September 12 , the entrainment of drier air weakened Florence to tropical storm status . At the same time , its motion became nearly stationary as a ridge to its southeast weakened steering currents . An eye developed in the center of the cyclone , and Florence again attained hurricane status late on September 12 . Cooler water temperatures caused the hurricane to again weaken to tropical storm status on September 13 . The next day , increased vertical wind shear accelerated the weakening , leaving its cloud pattern disorganized . An approaching short @-@ wave trough turned Florence to the east @-@ southeast and later to the east @-@ northeast as its forward motion increased . Convection increased near the center as the overall structure improved . Based on reports from the Hurricane Hunters , Florence was upgraded to hurricane status on September 16 about 200 mi (320 km) southwest of Bermuda . Later that day , the hurricane passed about 75 mi (120 km) northwest of Bermuda , its closest approach . Late on September 16 , Florence reached peak winds of 80 mph (130 km / h) as an eyewall became apparent . Cooler waters weakened the hurricane to tropical storm status by September 17 as its motion accelerated further due to the approaching trough . Later that day , Florence was absorbed by the extratropical storm associated with the trough about 80 mi (130 km) south of Cape Race on the island of Newfoundland .

= = Impact and naming = =

Early in its duration , Hurricane Florence produced large swells that affected the East Coast of the United States . Rip currents caused three deaths due to drowning in North Carolina , all in the southern portion of the state . Seven other people needed rescue , and at least two beaches were closed . Florence contributed to a locally high number of rip current @-@ related deaths in 2000 ; in response , the National Weather Service office in Wilmington implemented a new rip current warning system for the summer of 2001 .

On September 14 , the government of Bermuda issued a tropical storm watch for the island ; it was upgraded to a tropical storm warning the next day and later to a hurricane warning . The island endured sustained winds of 41 mph (67 km / h) , gusting to 58 mph (93 km / h) . Rainfall at L.F. Wade International Airport accumulated 0 @. @ 47 in (12 mm) . Later , the remnants of Florence produced significant rainfall , peaking at 2 @. @ 26 in (57 @. @ 5 mm) , along Newfoundland 's Avalon Peninsula . Waves up to 16 ft (4 @. @ 9 m) high churned the waters off the east coast of the island .