

= 1897 Atlantic hurricane season =

The 1897 Atlantic hurricane season was an inactive season , featuring only six known tropical cyclones , four of which made landfall . There were three hurricanes , none of which strengthened into major hurricanes , which are Category 3 or higher on the modern Saffir - Simpson hurricane wind scale . The first system was initially observed south of Cape Verde on August 31 , an unusually late date . The storm was the strongest of the season , peaking as a Category 2 hurricane with winds of 100 mph (155 km / h) . While located well north of the Azores , rough seas by the storm sunk a ship , killing all 45 crewmen . A second storm was first spotted in the Straits of Florida on September 10 . It strengthened into a hurricane and tracked northwestward across the Gulf of Mexico , striking Louisiana shortly before dissipating on September 13 . This storm caused 29 deaths and \$ 150 000 (1897 USD) in damage .

The third storm developed in the southeastern Gulf of Mexico on September 20 . It tracked along the East Coast of the United States , causing widespread damage , particularly in Florida . A fourth storm was first observed in the northwestern Caribbean Sea on September 25 . This storm moved in a semicircular path around Cuba and was last noted offshore Florida four days later . Minor wind and flood damage was reported in Cuba . On October 9 , the fifth hurricane of the season was located near the Windward Islands . Moving westward , the storm eventually curved northeastward while crossing the Caribbean Sea , causing it to strike Cuba . Minor damage was reported on the island , though a ship sank with 230 people aboard ; 42 of them were rescued , while the remaining 188 were presumed dead . The final observed system developed in the vicinity of the Bahamas on October 23 . It later struck the Outer Banks of North Carolina ; the storm caused severe flooding in southeastern Virginia , with six deaths reported . It was last noted on October 29 .

The season 's activity was reflected with an accumulated cyclone energy (ACE) rating of 55 . ACE is , broadly speaking , a measure of the power of the hurricane multiplied by the length of time it existed , so storms that last a long time , as well as particularly strong hurricanes , have high ACEs . It is only calculated for full advisories on tropical systems at or exceeding 39 mph (63 km / h) , which is tropical storm strength .

= = Storms = =

= = = Hurricane One = = =

The first hurricane of the season was observed near Cape Verde , beginning at 0600 UTC on August 31 . Initially a tropical storm , it slowly strengthened while heading west - northwestward , reaching hurricane status on September 1 . Curving northwestward , the storm intensified further into a Category 2 hurricane on September 3 . It continued heading northwestward until curving to the northeast late on September 6 . Around 1130 UTC on the following day , the storm attained its peak intensity with maximum sustained winds of 100 mph (155 km / h) and a minimum barometric pressure of 972 mbar (28 . 7 inHg) . Early on September 9 , the system weakened to a Category 1 , before transitioning into an extratropical cyclone well north of the Azores later that day . The extratropical remnants continued weaken , before dissipating west of Ireland on September 10 . The crew of the barkentine St. Peter reported that another ship capsized with 45 men aboard ; all of them drowned .

= = = Hurricane Two = = =

A second hurricane was spotted in the Straits of Florida at tropical storm intensity on September 10 . Several hours later , the system made landfall in Marquesas Keys , Florida . Early on September 11 , it strengthened into a hurricane . Intensifying slightly further , the storm peaked with maximum sustained winds of 85 mph (140 km / h) shortly thereafter . The hurricane maintained this intensity while moving west - northwestward across the Gulf of Mexico and struck extreme southwestern

Cameron Parish , Louisiana early on September 13 . Shortly thereafter , it weakened to a tropical storm over Texas , before dissipating several hours later .

No impact was reported in the Florida Keys . Strong winds in southwestern Louisiana damaged crops and toppled windmills . Offshore , boats and schooners suffered severe damage from wind @-@ driven waves . Severe damage occurred in eastern Texas , with strong winds and storm surge damaging or destroying numerous buildings , houses , and crops in several cities , including Beaumont , New Sabine Pass , Orange , Sabine Pass , and Port Arthur . The storm was considered the worst in Orange since 1875 . Overall , the storm caused at least 29 fatalities in Texas , with six died at Port Arthur , three offshore , four in Sabine Pass , and sixteen others at Beaumont . Damage in the state reached approximately \$ 150 @,@ 000 .

= = = Tropical Storm Three = = =

The third storm of the season was first observed in the southeastern Gulf of Mexico on September 20 . Strengthening while heading northeastward , the system made landfall near Boca Grande , Florida with winds of 70 mph (110 km / h) early on the following day . Heavy rainfall in Tampa caused the streets and sideways to become inundated , leaving portions of the city impassable , especially areas adjacent to the DeSoto Hotel . Two fire stations were severely damaged . On the east coast of Florida , the worst impact occurred in Cocoa , where some buildings were destroyed and others were deroofed . Further north in Fernandina Beach , ships in the harbor broke loose and tossed about , leaving considerable damage .

Although the storm weakened while crossing Florida , it later re @-@ strengthened after emerging into the Atlantic Ocean later on September 21 . The system moved northeastward and made landfall near Hatteras , North Carolina at 1000 UTC on September 23 , with winds of 70 mph (110 km / h) . In eastern North Carolina , strong winds and high tides were observed in New Bern . Shortly thereafter , it re @-@ emerged into the Atlantic Ocean . The system began weakening , while making two landfalls on September 24 , the first on Long Island , New York , and the second near New London , Connecticut . Thereafter , the storm accelerated to the northeast and weakened to a tropical depression over New Brunswick early on September 25 . Several hours later , the system dissipated offshore southeastern Labrador .

= = = Tropical Storm Four = = =

Early on September 25 , a tropical storm was spotted about 100 miles (160 km) west of Grand Cayman . It moved slowly northwestward and passed near Cape San Antonio , Cuba early on September 27 . The storm then entered the Gulf of Mexico and began strengthening while curving northward . On September 28 , the system attained its peak intensity with maximum sustained winds of 45 mph (75 km / h) and a minimum barometric pressure of 1 @,@ 010 mbar (30 inHg) . Early on September 29 , the storm curved eastward and dissipated several hours later offshore Florida . In Cuba , the storm brought strong winds and heavy rainfall as far east as Havana , causing flooding , " but no great damage " .

= = = Hurricane Five = = =

The fifth tropical cyclone of the season was first observed near the Windward Islands on October 9 . It moved west @-@ northwestward across the Caribbean Sea and remained at that intensity for several days . The storm curved in a northwesterly direction by October 14 while located over the northwestern Caribbean Sea , and then northeastward on the following day . Eventually , it began to strengthen and reached hurricane intensity early on October 18 . Several hours later , the hurricane made landfall in modern @-@ day Sancti Spíritus Province , Cuba with winds of 80 mph (130 km / h) . Minimal damage was reported in Cuba . However , the ship Triton sank offshore Pinar del Río Province with 230 men aboard . Forty @-@ two people were rescued by passing ships , while the remaining 188 died , including the captain , who committed suicide .

The system weakened while crossing Cuba and fell to tropical storm intensity early on October 19 . Around that time , the storm emerged into the Atlantic Ocean near the central Bahamas . Crossing through the islands , the system curved north @-@ northeastward and began to accelerate . It did not re @-@ strengthen and made landfall near Cape Hatteras , North Carolina with winds of 65 mph (100 km / h) . Strong winds and rainfall totals ranging from 1 to 7 inches (25 to 178 mm) were observed along the coast of North Carolina . Strong winds were reported in portions of the Northeastern United States , with highest wind speed being 56 mph (90 km / h) , observed in Block Island , Rhode Island . Reemerging into the Atlantic Ocean , this system continued rapidly northeastward , before becoming extratropical offshore New England on October 21 .

= = = Tropical Storm Six = = =

The final tropical cyclone was located over the Bahamas on October 23 . It moved north @-@ northeastward and remained at the same intensity . By October 25 , the storm began executing a cyclonic loop while offshore the East Coast of the United States . Around that time , the system attained its peak intensity with winds of 65 mph (100 km / h) . Moving southwestward , the storm made landfall near Duck , North Carolina at 2300 UTC on October 25 , at the same intensity . Early on October 26 , the system curved southeastward and quickly moved offshore . It then moved eastward and later to the northeast , before becoming extratropical on October 29 .

Along much of the East Coast of the United States , the Weather Bureau warned about gales and rough seas . From Cape Hatteras , North Carolina to Maine , storm surge and tides resulted in considerable damage to boardwalks and beach cottages . In Virginia , storm surge caused a number of small crafts and a few ships to be washed ashore or destroyed . The James River rose to 5 feet (1 @.@ 5 m) above high tide . A few cities experienced coastal flooding , including Chincoteague and Norfolk . The Willoughby Spit was split by the tides , washing away the Old Point Comfort railroad tracks . Cedar Island was " leveled to a mere flat breath of sand " . Six fatalities were reported in Virginia , four of them from drowning in Newport News , while the other two were caused by electrocution .