

= Hurricane Barbara (1953) =

Hurricane Barbara was the second named tropical cyclone of the 1953 Atlantic hurricane season . Forming from a tropical wave on August 11 in the southern Bahamas , Barbara moved northward and attained hurricane status the next day . Ultimately peaking with winds corresponding to Category 2 status on the modern @-@ day Saffir @-@ Simpson Hurricane Scale , Barbara moved ashore in eastern North Carolina and curved back out to sea . The storm passed to the southeast of the New England region and dissipated on August 16 . Damage from the hurricane was fairly minor , totaling around \$ 1 @. @ 3 million (1953 USD , \$ 11 @. @ 5 million 2016 USD) . Most of it occurred in North Carolina and Virginia from crop damage . The hurricane left several injuries , some traffic accidents , as well as seven fatalities in the eastern United States ; at least two were due to electrocution from downed power lines . Offshore Atlantic Canada , a small boat sunk , killing its crew of two .

= = Meteorological history = =

In the days preceding the storm 's formation , a tropical wave moved westward across the Atlantic Ocean . The wave was initially weak as it tracked toward Cuba , but on August 10 , there were indications of a closed circulation center over the eastern portion of the island . The low deepened a bit as it moved northward to a position near Eleuthera Island in the Bahamas on August 11 , at which time the disturbance organized into a tropical storm . The storm intensified throughout the day , and on the morning of August 12 , reconnaissance aircraft found winds of about 75 mph (120 km / h) in the northeastern section of the circulation , although the southwestern portion was still weak and disorganized . It is estimated that Barbara became a hurricane at around 1200 UTC .

Moving north @-@ northwestward , the hurricane continued to mature , and it attained an intensity corresponding to Category 2 status on the modern @-@ day Saffir ? Simpson Hurricane Scale early on August 13 as it approached eastern North Carolina . Shortly thereafter , Barbara reached its peak winds of 110 mph (175 km / h) while located south of Cape Hatteras . The cyclone moved over the Outer Banks of North Carolina overnight , crossing the shore between Morehead City and Ocracoke . It weakened as it progressed northward , and curved eastward out to sea due to a building ridge . It passed just southeast of the Mid @-@ Atlantic states and New England , brushing Cape Cod , Massachusetts as it began to accelerate northeastward .

As Barbara moved toward the Canadian Maritimes , it began to undergo an extratropical transition , completing the transition by late on August 15 just south of Nova Scotia . However , the Canadian Hurricane Centre assessed Barbara as remaining tropical until after it turned northward and struck eastern Nova Scotia on August 16 . At this time , a trough developed to the southeast of the storm , and Barbara later tracked just west of Newfoundland . A new low formed in association with the trough , and as Barbara rapidly headed northward , the developing center moved more slowly . However , the new low quickly gained strength and became the more intense of the two storm systems . Barbara then stalled near Goose Bay and lost its tropical identity , dissipating late on August 16 .

= = Preparations and impact = =

Before the hurricane began affecting land , the U.S. Weather Bureau issued northeast storm warnings from Myrtle Beach , South Carolina to Cape Hatteras , North Carolina . The agency also advised small boats in the region to remain at port during the storm . Evacuations were ordered for a few islands in the Outer Banks , and several thousand tourists voluntarily left the coastline for safer areas . Overall , about 50 @, @ 000 people evacuated due to the hurricane . Further north , the Coast Guard advised people to avoid swimming along the coast of Long Island .

The lowest pressure on land related to the storm was 988 hPa (29 @. @ 19 inHg) at Coinjock , North Carolina . Wind gusts of up to 90 mph (140 km / h) were recorded at Hatteras and Nags Head . Torrential rainfall , unofficially exceeding 9 in (0 @. @ 23 m) at Nags Head , fell across the

state and extending northward into Virginia . The maximum rainfall associated with Barbara was 11 @. @ 1 in (280 mm) near Onley along the Eastern Shore of Virginia . Offshore , a freighter rode out the storm after losing power . As the storm passed southeast of New England , winds reached up to 60 mph (97 km / h) .

Along the coastline , Barbara flooded roads and houses . Strong winds downed trees and power lines , leaving some cities isolated from communication . Some of the downed trees were large and had survived the Great Atlantic Hurricane of 1944 . The combination of winds and rainfall left some damage to crops and structures . The storm 's impact along the coast was light to moderate , with monetary damage estimated around \$ 1 @. @ 3 million (1953 USD , \$ 11 @. @ 5 million 2016 USD) , mostly from the crop damage . Four marines in the Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point were injured , as was a Coast Guard worker . One person died at Wrightsville Beach , North Carolina , after winds blew him off of a pier . A report on the cyclone by the U.S. Weather Bureau indicates that this is the only causality associated with Barbara . However , newspaper articles subsequent to the storm report several more fatalities , with one paper reporting a total of seven deaths ; two of them were from electrocutions . The rainfall from Barbara was blamed for traffic accidents further north in New Jersey and New York City , causing four deaths . There was also an indirect death in New York when a man had a heart attack while securing his boat . In Atlantic City , New Jersey , there was damage to storefronts . Along Nantucket , the hurricane washed several boats ashore , although there was little damage in the region .

In the Grand Banks offshore Atlantic Canada , Barbara sunk a dory , killing two people . Along the Canadian mainland , ships were advised to stay at port during the storm . Barbara produced tropical storm force winds across the region , peaking at 63 mph (102 km / h) when it moved ashore .