

= Hurricane Floyd ( 1987 ) =

Hurricane Floyd was the only hurricane to make landfall in the United States in the 1987 Atlantic hurricane season . The final of seven tropical storms and three hurricanes , Floyd developed on October 9 just off the east coast of Nicaragua . After becoming a tropical storm , it moved northward and crossed western Cuba . An approaching cold front caused Floyd to turn unexpectedly to the northeast , and late on October 12 it attained hurricane status near the Florida Keys . It moved through southern Florida , spawning two tornadoes and leaving minor damage . The hurricane also produced rip tides that killed a person in southern Texas . Floyd maintained hurricane status for only 12 hours before the cold front imparted hostile conditions and caused weakening . It passed through the Bahamas before becoming extratropical and later dissipating on October 14 .

= = Meteorological history = =

The origins of Hurricane Floyd were from a low pressure area in the Gulf of Honduras on October 5 . Over the subsequent few days , it drifted eastward and later southward to a position off the east coast of Nicaragua . On October 9 , a Hurricane Hunters flight confirmed the development of an organized circulation , which indicated that Tropical Depression Thirteen had developed . After continuing a southward drift , the depression turned to the north and later northwest due to a building ridge to its east . With an anticyclone aloft , the depression gradually organized , intensifying into Tropical Storm Floyd on October 10 .

After reaching tropical storm status , Floyd accelerated to the north in the western Caribbean Sea , due to an approaching cold front . Steadily intensifying , the storm moved over extreme western Cuba early on October 12 . Initially it was forecast to make landfall between Naples and Fort Myers , Florida . Unexpectedly the storm turned sharply northeastward into the southeastern Gulf of Mexico . Based on reports from the Hurricane Hunters , Floyd briefly attained hurricane status on October 12 . Around the same time , the nearby cold front spawned a low pressure area that cut off the hurricane 's inflow . While moving through the Florida Keys , Floyd became the only hurricane to affect the United States that year . However , its convection was rapidly decreasing over the center due to the front , and shortly thereafter Floyd weakened to tropical storm status . The circulation became nearly impossible to track on satellite imagery , although surface observations indicated it passed just south of Miami , Florida . The storm underwent extratropical transition as it weakened over the Bahamas , and Floyd was no longer a tropical cyclone by late on October 18 . The circulation dissipated within the cold front early the next day .

= = Preparations and impact = =

Around when Floyd first attained tropical storm status , a tropical storm warning was issued for the Swan Islands as well as Grand Cayman . Shortly thereafter , a tropical storm warning and hurricane watch was issued for the northeast Yucatán Peninsula before the storm dropped heavy rainfall along the coast . A tropical storm warning and hurricane watch were also issued for Cuba west of Havana . In preparation for the storm , Cuban officials in Pinar del Río Province evacuated 100 @, @ 000 people , as well as 40 @, @ 000 head of cattle . In addition , international flights were canceled for a day during Floyd 's passage . Despite passing over western Cuba as a tropical storm , Floyd left no serious damage or fatalities in the country .

When Floyd was a tropical storm located over Cuba , the National Hurricane Center issued a hurricane warning for the Florida Keys as well as the southwest Florida coast to Venice . It was the first warning in the state related to the storm , and was issued due to the anticipated intensification to hurricane status as well as short notice . A tropical storm watch , and later warning , was issued for eastern Florida . After the track became more easterly , a hurricane warning was issued for southeastern Florida , as well as the northwestern Bahamas . Officials in southern Florida closed schools due to the storm , and a few flights were canceled at Miami International Airport . Roughly 100 F @-@ 4 and F16 fighter jets were transported out of Homestead Air Force Base to safer

facilities . The American Red Cross opened 55 shelters in 10 Florida counties , housing about 2 @, @ 000 people at some point , primarily in Lee County . People in the hurricane 's path prepared by purchasing supplies from supermarkets , gassing up their vehicles , and securing loose outside items .

Floyd was the first named storm to strike southern Florida since Hurricane Bob in 1985 . While passing south of Florida , Floyd produced its strongest winds over water away and from land . The strongest wind in the Florida Keys was 59 mph ( 94 km / h ) at Duck Key , although wind gusts were stronger . The Air Force station on Cudjoe Key reported an unofficial gust of 92 mph ( 152 km / h ) . Rainfall directly from Floyd 's rainbands produced minimal rainfall less than 1 in ( 25 mm ) . However , the interaction between the hurricane and the approaching cold front produced much heavier rainfall . Precipitation reached as far north as Daytona , peaking at 10 @. @ 07 in ( 256 mm ) in Fort Pierce . While bypassing the Florida Keys , Floyd spawned a waterspout that moved ashore in Rock Harbor . It damaged a few boats and homes . The hurricane produced rip tides as far west as the Texas coast , killing one person along South Padre Island .

Across southern Florida , the hurricane left minor damage of around \$ 500 @, @ 000 ( 1987 USD ) , largely due to downed trees and power lines , as well as minor crop damage in Dade County . The rainfall flooded roads in southern Florida , which caused several vehicles to fail on the Florida Turnpike . After affecting Florida , Floyd caused minor wind damage in the Bahamas . In the country , the highest reported gust was 48 mph ( 77 km / h ) at Freeport , Grand Bahama . Freeport International Airport reported sustained winds of 40 mph ( 64 km / h ) from the remnants of Floyd .