= Tropical Storm Arlene (1981) =

Tropical Storm Arlene was a rare off @-@ season tropical cyclone that hit Cuba and the Bahamas in May 1981 . Its formation was unusual , originating from a tropical disturbance that crossed from the eastern Pacific Ocean into the Caribbean Sea ; few Atlantic hurricanes develop in this manner . On May 6 , a tropical depression developed , and the next day it became Tropical Storm Arlene near the Cayman Islands , three weeks before the start of the hurricane season . This marked the first Atlantic tropical storm in May since 1970 's Hurricane Alma . Arlene moved northeastward throughout its life , bringing rainfall and locally gusty winds as it crossed Cuba and the southeastern Bahamas . On May 9 , the storm dissipated when a large non @-@ tropical storm absorbed Arlene . There were no reports of deaths or significant damage .

= = Meteorological history = =

The origins of Arlene were from a cloud mass that developed in the eastern Pacific Ocean in early May 1981 . The system crossed Central America , and by the afternoon of May 5 , a low @-@ level circulation was evident near Roatán , off the coast of Honduras . Convection was initially disorganized , preventing classification as a tropical cyclone . It was not until late on May 6 that Dvorak satellite intensity estimates began on the system . Around that time , it is estimated it became a tropical depression , while located near the Cayman Island . It was a rare example of an Atlantic depression forming from a disturbance that originated in the eastern Pacific .

After becoming a tropical depression , the system evolved rapidly as a spiral band formed around the circulation . Based on satellite imagery , the National Hurricane Center upgraded the depression to Tropical Storm Arlene on May 7 . Shortly thereafter , Hurricane Hunters confirmed the intensity , while reporting a pressure of 1 @,@ 000 @.@ 0 hectopascals (29 @.@ 53 inHg) . By then and through much of its lifetime , the circulation was located along the western edge of the deep convection . Arlene strengthened slightly further to winds of 50 mph (85 km / h) , before it moved ashore in eastern Cuba early on May 8 . As it approached land , the convection was weakening , although its center maintained a steady northeast path , due to a high pressure system to its north .

While crossing eastern Cuba , the circulation of Arlene became ill @-@ defined , although re @-@ strengthening over water was considered possible . When it reached open waters , Arlene was already a depression , and there was considered little likelihood of redevelopment , with strong shear pushing the convection far east of the center . Nevertheless , a NOAA reconnaissance mission found that winds briefly increased to 60 mph (95 km / h) , or tropical storm strength , located over the southeastern Bahamas in a large convective band extending of the center . When the thunderstorms dissipated , the winds again dropped , and Arlene returned to tropical depression status . Early on May 9 , the depression was absorbed by an advancing trough . Late the next day , the combined systems reorganized and resembled having some subtropical characteristics , although it weakened further by May 11 .

= = Preparations and impact = =

As Arlene was approaching its first landfall , the National Hurricane Center noted the potential for heavy rainfall in Jamaica , Cuba , and the Bahamas ; small boats in those regions were advised to remain at harbor . Meanwhile , the government of the Bahamas issued storm warnings for the central and southeastern portion of its country . There were no reports of damage or casualties from Cuba or the Bahamas , and therefore storm affects were judged to have been minimal . Early in the duration of Arlene , Cayman Brac reported 46 miles per hour (74 km / h) winds ; later , peak winds in the Bahamas reached around 35 miles per hour (56 km / h) . Arlene was the only May tropical storm on record to affect the Cuban province of Camagüey , although its passage was mostly noticed in its disruption of sugar cane production .