

= Tropical Storm Debbie ( 1965 ) =

Tropical Storm Debbie of the 1965 Atlantic hurricane season broke the daily rainfall record in Mobile , Alabama , despite dissipating offshore . It developed on September 24 in the western Caribbean Sea , and moved northwestward for several days without intensifying . On September 27 , Debbie turned toward the northeast in the Gulf of Mexico , and the next day briefly attained tropical storm status . However , the intrusion of cooler air imparted weakening , and the storm dissipated on September 30 just off the east coast of Louisiana . It initially threatened areas of Louisiana that sustained significant damage from Hurricane Betsy in early September , although Debbie only caused light rainfall and some flooding in the state . In southern Alabama , the storm dropped 17 @. @ 2 in ( 440 mm ) of rainfall , which resulted in significant flooding of roads and cars . Damage totaled \$ 25 million in the Mobile , Alabama area , although there was little damage elsewhere .

= = Meteorological history = =

A low @- @ pressure area developed into a weak tropical depression on September 24 off the north coast of Honduras in the western Caribbean Sea . It was initially disorganized , without a well @- @ developed circulation . On September 25 , while still a tropical depression , the system was named Debbie . Without intensifying further , the depression crossed the northeastern Yucatán Peninsula on September 26 . The next day , the depression turned toward the north in the central Gulf of Mexico before beginning a northeast motion . On September 28 , Debbie intensified into a tropical storm , attaining peak winds of 50 mph ( 85 km / h ) . This occurred after the storm developed two distinct spiral rainbands .

As Debbie approached the northern Gulf Coast , it failed to intensify , despite warm sea surface temperatures , abundant moisture , and an anticyclone aloft . In addition , the storm never developed good outflow , partially due to stable air related to Tropical Storm Hazel in the eastern Pacific Ocean . After maintaining peak winds for about 12 hours , Debbie weakened due to cooler , drier air , deteriorating to a tropical depression on September 29 . That day , it turned to the northwest , passing just east of the Mississippi Delta . On September 30 , the circulation of Debbie dissipated just offshore Mississippi . Its remnants made landfall , accelerated northeastward , and were eventually absorbed by an extratropical cyclone .

= = Impact = =

The precursor to Debbie produced heavy rainfall across the western Caribbean Sea . Swan Island off the north coast of Honduras reported 5 @. @ 43 in ( 138 mm ) in a 24 @- @ hour period . In Belize City , Belize , the storm produced high tides and 1 @. @ 04 in ( 26 mm ) of rainfall . Grand Cayman reported light rains for two days . The government of Cuba advised residents to restrict boating activities around the country . Similarly , the Weather Bureau issued a small craft warning for the Dry Tortugas and for the Florida Keys through Key Largo .

Before Debbie dissipated , local Weather Bureau offices issued a gale warning and a hurricane watch from the mouth of the Mississippi River to Cedar Key , Florida . Small boat owners throughout the region were advised to remain at port . The threat of the storm prompted the evacuation of oil platforms , as well as thousands of residents in low @- @ lying areas of St. Bernard Parish , Louisiana . Along the northern Gulf Coast , no gale force winds were reported inland , although oil rigs and ships off the southeast Louisiana coast reported such winds . Debbie produced above @- @ normal tides that generally ranged upwards to 4 ft ( 1 @. @ 2 m ) above normal ; however , New Orleans reported a storm tide of 6 ft ( 1 @. @ 8 m ) . The tides resulted in flooding along highways in southeastern Louisiana , closing several roads . The storm affected areas that were severely damaged by Hurricane Betsy earlier in September .

Despite being a weak storm , Debbie dropped heavy rainfall along the coast , peaking at 17 @. @ 2 in ( 440 mm ) in Mobile , Alabama . Of the total , 15 in ( 380 mm ) fell in 15 hours , which broke the daily rainfall record in the city . The rains resulted in 6 ft ( 1 @. @ 8 m ) of flooding that closed

several businesses and roads , causing the worst traffic jam on record in the city . Hundreds of cars were flooded , and more than 200 people had to leave their inundated homes . Damage in the city was estimated at \$ 25 million , which was the only significant damage from the storm . Rainfall extended from Louisiana to the east coast of Florida , and as far north as North Carolina . In eastern Georgia near Brunswick , the storm dropped more than 9 in ( 230 mm ) of precipitation , causing flooding in airfields and along canals .