

= Tropical Storm Matthew ( 2004 ) =

Tropical Storm Matthew was a weak tropical storm in the 2004 Atlantic hurricane season that made landfall on Louisiana . Matthew was the thirteenth tropical storm of the season and the ninth storm to affect the United States . Matthew formed over the western Gulf of Mexico on October 8 and struck south @-@ central Louisiana two days later . The combination of this storm and an upper cyclone over the southern Plains brought heavy rains to much of the Gulf Coast , with the highest amounts reported lying over 15 inches ( 381 mm ) in northern Louisiana . Damage was minimal , totaling \$ 305 @, @ 000 ( 2004 USD ) , and no casualties were reported .

= = Meteorological history = =

A tropical wave moved off the coast of Africa on September 19 . The wave moved westward , but was difficult to track due to its proximity to Hurricane Lisa and another large tropical wave . It passed through the Lesser Antilles , and slowly organized as convection increased due to an upper level low . On October 5 , it entered the Gulf of Mexico , and developed an area of low pressure two days later . The system continued to organize , and on October 8 , after developing a circulation , it developed into Tropical Depression Fourteen while located 205 miles ( 330 km ) to the southeast of Brownsville , Texas .

The depression moved to the east @-@ northeast , and quickly strengthened into Tropical Storm Matthew . Operationally , Matthew fluctuated between tropical depression and tropical storm status , but in post @-@ season analysis , the storm remained a tropical storm . The storm turned to the northeast while moving around the periphery of a high pressure system over Texas , and attained a peak intensity of 45 mph ( 70 km / h ) on October 9 . Strong wind shear limited further strengthening , and on October 10 , Matthew struck Cocodrie , Louisiana as a minimal tropical storm . It became an Extratropical cyclone , occluding near the time of landfall .

After it merged with the system , the storm moved inland over Arkansas , Tennessee and the Ohio Valley . While moving inland , Matthew spun off another low pressure system that formed over North Carolina on October 13 . The low moved off the Mid @-@ Atlantic coast before hitting Massachusetts two days later , and later merged with the original low pressure system of Matthew .

= = Preparations = =

Initially , forecasters at the National Hurricane Center predicted that Matthew would take a more eastern track and hit the Florida Panhandle . Because the track shifted westward , the National Hurricane Center issued a Tropical Storm Warning from the Florida / Alabama border to Intracoastal City , Louisiana on the day before landfall .

= = Impact = =

Though damage was minor throughout its path , Matthew dropped moderate to heavy rainfall across much of the Gulf Coast , peaking at over 15 inches ( 381 mm ) in portions of Louisiana .

= = = Louisiana = = =

Upon making landfall , Matthew caused a storm surge of up to 5 @. @ 85 feet ( 1 @. @ 8 m ) in Frenier , Louisiana . The storm surge and waves resulted in significant beach erosion in Grand Isle . Matthew produced heavy rainfall across its path , totaling to 16 @. @ 23 inches ( 410 mm ) in Reserve in the southeastern portion of the state . Portions of northwestern Louisiana experienced significant rainfall , including a peak of 18 inches ( 460 mm ) in Haynesville near the Louisiana / Arkansas border . In addition , Matthew spawned one tornado , causing damage to the roof of a trailer in Golden Meadow . The rainfall also caused rivers to crest higher than normal , including the Killian River which peaked at 5 @. @ 7 feet ( 1 @. @ 7 m ) .

Rainfall and storm surge flooded 20 homes in Terrebonne Parish . In addition , several homes in Lafouche Parish experienced flooding , including two with over two feet of water . Numerous homes in Golden Meadow experienced flooding , as well . The flooding also forced the temporary closing of numerous roads across the state , including portions of U.S. Route 11 and Interstate 10 . Flood waters from the storm cracked a water line in LaPlace , leaving nearly 30 @, @ 000 residents and many businesses without tap water . The problem was expected to take little time to fix , though residents were advise to boil the water before drinking it . Matthew also left 2 @, @ 500 people without power for a short period of time . The storm 's impact also closed several schools , forcing school administrators to reschedule plans for making up school closings caused by Hurricane Ivan one month earlier . In all , Matthew caused no deaths and \$ 255 @, @ 000 in damage ( 2004 USD ) .

= = = Elsewhere = = =

As the storm made landfall , the outer @-@ bands of Matthew brought heavy rains in Florida . The rain was reported as far south as Naples . In Pensacola , 30 mph ( 48 km / h ) gusts were reported , as well rainfall totaling up to 3 to 4 inches ( 75 to 100 mm ) . In Alabama , wind gusts peaked at 47 mph ( 75 km / h ) at Dauphin Island . The storm produced light rainfall across the state , totaling to 2 @. @ 74 inches ( 70 mm ) at Grand Bay . In addition , Matthew produced tides of 1 to 3 feet ( .3 to .9 m ) above normal , causing minor to major beach erosion . The beach erosion , which typically would have been minor for a weak storm , was greater than expected due to the passage of Hurricane Ivan just weeks before . No major damage was reported in Alabama . In Mississippi , winds gusts peaked at 45 mph ( 72 km / h ) with sustained winds of 39 mph ( 63 km / h ) in Waveland . Storm surge ranged from 2 to 4 feet ( .6 to 1 @. @ 2 m ) along much of the coastline , though Waveland reported a peak of 5 @. @ 13 feet ( 1 @. @ 56 m ) . Rainfall totals were mainly between 2 and 4 inches ( 50 to 100 mm ) . Damage in Mississippi totaled to \$ 50 @, @ 000 ( 2004 USD ) .

Matthew produced moderate rainfall on its west side , as well . Portions of Texas and Oklahoma experienced over 5 inches ( 127 mm ) of rain , while southern Arkansas received over 10 inches ( 255 mm ) of rainfall . The rainfall was well @-@ received due to a period of dry weather in the area . Though it slowed harvest activities , it aided pastures .