

= 1917 Atlantic hurricane season =

The 1917 Atlantic hurricane season featured nine known tropical cyclones , four of which made landfall . The first system appeared on July 6 east of the Windward Islands . After crossing the islands and traversing the Caribbean Sea , the storm struck Honduras , Belize , and Mexico , before dissipating on July 14 . After more than three weeks without tropical cyclogenesis , another tropical storm developed west of Bermuda . As the storm brushed eastern New England , four ships sank near Nantucket , causing 41 fatalities . The same cyclone brought damaging winds to Nova Scotia before transitioning into an extratropical cyclone on August 10 .

A hurricane developed over the central Atlantic Ocean on August 30 and ultimately affected Bermuda with heightened tides as it passed to the east . Elsewhere , the hurricane had little impact , becoming extratropical on September 5 . After the third system , a series of four tropical depressions formed , but failed to become severe . The fourth hurricane brought devastation to Jamaica , Cuba , and portions of the Gulf Coast of the United States , especially western parts of the Florida Panhandle . Overall , the storm left six deaths and inflicted at least \$ 170 @, @ 000 (1917 USD) in damage .

The season 's activity can be quantified in an accumulated cyclone energy (ACE) rating of 61 . ACE is , broadly speaking , a measure of the power of the hurricane multiplied by the length of time it existed ; therefore , storms that last a long time , as well as particularly strong hurricanes , have high ACE ratings .

= = Storms = =

= = = Tropical Storm One = = =

Historical weather maps indicated a trough east of the Windward Islands on July 6 . Around 06 : 00 UTC , a tropical depression formed about 80 mi (130 km) southeast of Barbados . Moving west @-@ northwestward , the depression crossed the Windward Islands and entered the Caribbean Sea early on July 7 . Later that day , the system intensified into a tropical storm . After peaking with winds of 50 mph (85 km / h) on July 8 , it began to weaken and fell to tropical depression intensity early on July 10 . Early the next day , the depression struck Honduras , before briefly emerging into the Caribbean Sea . The system struck Belize around 06 : 00 UTC on July 12 and entered the Bay of Campeche about 24 hours later . At midday on July 14 , the storm struck south of Tampico , Tamaulipas . In the city of Veracruz , 4 in (100 mm) of rain fell in a 24 @-@ hour period .

= = = Tropical Storm Two = = =

An area of low pressure developed into a tropical storm to the west of Bermuda at 00 : 00 UTC on August 6 . Initially the storm drifted westward and strengthened minimally . By August 9 , it curved northward and began to accelerate . The storm strengthened further and attained its peak intensity with maximum sustained winds of 70 mph (110 km / h) and a minimum barometric pressure of 994 mbar (29 @. @ 4 inHg) early on August 10 ; both were observations from the Nantucket Shoals Lightship . Offshore the island of Nantucket in Massachusetts , four ships were lost , with an estimated 41 people perishing . The storm continued northeastward and made landfall in Saint John County , New Brunswick while becoming extratropical at 00 : 00 UTC on August 11 . The remnants dissipated over the Labrador Sea later that day . In Nova Scotia , dozens of boats were beached . Wind speeds up to 64 mph (103 km / h) in Yarmouth damaged trees , power lines , windows , and roofs . Crops were impacted throughout the Annapolis Valley . Fifteen barns were damaged or demolished .

= = = Hurricane Three = = =

Weather maps indicated that an area of low pressure existed between the Lesser Antilles and Cape Verde on August 30 . At 12 : 00 UTC that day , a tropical storm developed while located about 900 mi (1 @, @ 400 km) northeast of Cayenne , French Guiana . Moving west @-@ northwestward , the tropical storm reached Category 1 hurricane intensity early on August 31 . By late on September 1 , the storm had intensified into a Category 2 hurricane . Further strengthening occurred brought the hurricane to a Category 3 intensity late on September 3 , while briefly heading northward . Early the next day , the cyclone attained its peak force with winds of 120 mph (195 km / h) ; the lowest barometric pressure reading in association with the storm was 980 mbar (29 inHg) .

While passing east of Bermuda late on September 4 , the storm 's " unprecedented high tides " lashed the island . Portions of Market Square on St. David 's Island were submerged . Additionally , a large section of Higgs ' Island was completely washed away . The storm accelerated to the northeast and weakened to a Category 2 hurricane around 12 : 00 UTC on September 5 . Losing tropical characteristics , the hurricane transitioned into an extratropical cyclone at 00 : 00 UTC the following day , while located about 290 mi (470 km) southeast of Cape Race , Newfoundland . Its remnants tracked northeastward until dissipating near Iceland on September 7 .

= = = Hurricane Four = = =

A tropical storm formed about 160 mi (260 km) east @-@ northeast of Barbados on September 20 . Later that day , the storm crossed the Lesser Antilles between the islands of Saint Lucia and Martinique . Upon entering the Caribbean Sea on September 21 , the system intensified quicker , becoming a Category 1 hurricane several hours later . While passing south of the Tiburon Peninsula on the following day , the storm strengthened into a Category 2 hurricane . Later on September 23 , the hurricane struck the northern coast of Jamaica , before re @-@ emerging into the Caribbean Sea . Around 06 : 00 UTC on September 24 , it intensified into a Category 3 hurricane . Approximately 24 hours later , the hurricane deepened into a Category 4 hurricane .

Ramón Perez of the Instituto de Meteorología de la República de Cuba estimated that this hurricane attained a minimum barometric pressure of 928 mbar (27 @. @ 4 inHg) on September 25 . Using the pressure @-@ wind relationship , HURDAT increased the maximum sustained wind speed to 150 mph (240 km / h) . Within the next six hours , the hurricane made landfall in the eastern Pinar del Río Province of Cuba . The system entered the Gulf of Mexico later on September 25 . While moving northwestward , the storm fell to Category 3 hurricane intensity early on September 27 . It briefly tracked generally northward and approached southeastern Louisiana before re @-@ curving northeastward late the next day . At 02 : 00 UTC on September 29 , the hurricane made landfall near Fort Walton Beach , Florida with winds of 115 mph (185 km / h) . Shortly thereafter , the system rapidly weakened to a Category 1 hurricane and fell to a tropical storm several hours later . Early on September 30 , it became extratropical over Georgia . About six hours later , the remnants of the hurricane dissipated .

Some islands in the Lesser Antilles experienced strong winds and heavy rainfall , including Dominica , Guadeloupe , and Saint Lucia . In Jamaica , the hurricane caused significant damages to banana and coconut plantations . Communications from Holland Bay were disrupted when the station was demolished . The greatest damages were reported from the northern half of the island . In Nueva Gerona , strong winds destroyed well @-@ constructed buildings , devastating the town . Orchards and crops were destroyed on the Pinar del Río Province . In Louisiana and Mississippi , impact was generally limited to damaged crops and timber stands . One death from drowning was reported in Louisiana . Farther east in Mobile , Alabama , portions of roofs , trees , and other debris littered streets . Communications were severed in Pensacola , Florida . Several small watercrafts washed ashore , and numerous wharves , docks , and boat storages suffered impact . Total damages were estimated near \$ 170 @, @ 000 in Pensacola area . Five deaths were reported in Florida , all of them in the city of Crestview .

= = = Tropical depressions = = =

In addition to the four systems reaching tropical storm intensity , there were five other tropical depressions . The first probably developed from a tropical wave offshore western Africa on September 12 , according to historical weather maps and the Comprehensive Ocean @-@ Atmosphere Data Set (COADS) , both of which indicated a closed circulation . This depression was last observed on September 14 . Another depression also developed on September 12 , well to the east of the Lesser Antilles . While approaching the islands , the storm may have briefly strengthened into a tropical storm on September 15 , as suggested by a ship report of winds blowing 40 mph (65 km / h) . The cyclone likely dissipated on September 15 .

The next tropical depression briefly existed off the east coast of Florida on September 14 . It soon became extratropical , though its remnants lasted several days , traveling along the East Coast of the United States . At Nantucket , a wind gust up to 69 mph (111 km / h) was observed . The extratropical remnants probably dissipated near Newfoundland on September 20 . Meanwhile , a trough in the Gulf of Mexico had developed into a tropical depression on September 14 . The following day , the system made landfall in Louisiana and disintegrated into a disorganized area of thunderstorms over Mississippi and Arkansas on September 16 . The last tropical depression and final cyclone of the season developed on October 19 from a trough over the central Atlantic Ocean . Two days later , the depression was absorbed by a cold front .