

= Tropical Storm Alice ( 1953 ) =

Tropical Storm Alice was the first tropical cyclone in the Atlantic Ocean to receive a female name . It was a rare off @-@ season tropical cyclone that hit Central America , Cuba , and Florida in late May to early June 1953 . Alice formed on May 25 in the western Caribbean , and executed a large loop over Central America . It passed over western Cuba , causing heavy rainfall and possibly several casualties from drowning . It then executed another loop in the Gulf of Mexico , reached a peak intensity of 70 mph ( 110 km / h ) , and weakened before hitting the Florida panhandle on June 6 . Although heavy rainfall occurred in Florida , there was little damage .

= = Meteorological history = =

In May and June 1953 , an unusually long @-@ lasting upper @-@ level low persisted across Mexico and Central America . On May 25 , a weak warm @-@ core surface circulation developed east of Nicaragua . It moved around the upper @-@ level low , bringing it to the northwest and later looping to the south through Honduras and Central America . The system weakened over land , but it re @-@ intensified over the western Caribbean Sea , moving over western Cuba as a 50 mph ( 80 km / h ) tropical storm on May 31 . Advisories for Alice did not begin until June 1 , when the storm entered the Gulf of Mexico .

Around the time the cyclone 's naming , reconnaissance aircraft reported winds of around 65 mph ( 105 km / h ) , and subsequently Alice executed another loop off the northwest coast of Cuba . Alice weakened quickly to minimal tropical storm status , due to interaction with a cold front off Florida . It deteriorated so much that advisories were discontinued , with Miami Weather Bureau meteorologist James George remarking that " no danger [ existed there ] whatsoever . " After again passing near the Cuban coast , Alice turned to the northwest and began re @-@ strengthening . On June 5 , reconnaissance aircraft estimated 70 to 75 mph ( 110 to 120 km / h ) winds in brief squalls northeast of the center , along with a pressure of 997 hectopascals ( 29 @. @ 4 inHg ) ; this would be its peak intensity . The storm again weakened as it approached the Florida peninsula , and Alice made landfall just west of Panama City Beach on June 6 as a minimal tropical storm . It dissipated shortly thereafter .

= = Impact and records = =

While the storm was in the vicinity of western Cuba , it produced heavy rainfall , which broke a nine @-@ month drought . The rainfall caused flooding , and there were unconfirmed reports of several deaths due to drowning .

When advisories first began on the storm , the National Hurricane Center issued storm warnings from Key West through Tarpon Springs on the west coast of Florida ; at the same time , the agency posted small craft warnings for the east coast up through Palm Beach . Alice brought heavy rainfall to Florida , peaking at 13 @. @ 48 inches ( 342 mm ) in Lake Placid in the central portion of the state . The rains ended a dry spell in the state . Along the Florida panhandle , workers tied down planes in local Air Force and Naval bases . No evacuations were ordered , and the primary impact was in the form of light rain . There were no reports of damage in the state .

From 1950 to 1952 , Atlantic hurricanes were named using the Joint Army / Navy Phonetic Alphabet . Before the 1953 season , officials changed the system to using female names ; hence , Alice was the first in the new format . Male names would not be used until 1979 . The name " Alice " was later reused twice in 1954 for a hurricane in June and December , as well as for a hurricane in 1973 .