

= Tropical Storm Alpha (2005) =

Tropical Storm Alpha was the twenty @-@ third named storm of the 2005 Atlantic hurricane season . The twenty @-@ one names from the predetermined A ? W list having been used , Alpha was the first tropical storm ever to be given a name from the Greek alphabet . On October 20 , Tropical Depression Twenty @-@ five formed from a tropical wave near the Windward Islands . It became a tropical storm on October 23 , and reached its peak intensity but weakened again before making landfall in the Dominican Republic that afternoon . Crossing the island of Hispaniola it weakened to a tropical depression , and persisted until October 24 , when it dissipated . Its remnant low was absorbed by Hurricane Wilma 's large circulation .

Alpha dumped torrential rain on the island of Hispaniola , making it the eighth wettest storm to impact poverty @-@ stricken Haiti . It caused 26 deaths , 17 of them in Haiti and all of them caused by floods and rain @-@ related landslides . Roads were blocked for weeks and hundreds of houses were destroyed .

= = Meteorological history = =

Alpha 's origins were from a tropical wave that developed near the Windward Islands on October 20 . Satellite images indicated that a low pressure center associated with the tropical wave formed near Barbados and moved west @-@ northwest with increasing convective activity . In an area of light wind shear , the convection increased and Doppler weather radar data from Puerto Rico detected a well @-@ defined cyclonic circulation . On October 22 , the area of low pressure organized into Tropical Depression 25 , southeast of Hispaniola . Shortly thereafter , satellite imagery indicated that a closed circulation had developed , and the associated convection had started banding . Later that same day , the depression had organized enough to be upgraded to Tropical Storm Alpha ; this was the first time the National Hurricane Center had to use a Greek name for an Atlantic hurricane .

When Alpha came within the Doppler weather radar range of Puerto Rico , the radar suggested that an eyewall @-@ like feature had developed . Alpha was tracking along the southwest edge of a subtropical ridge . With nearby Hurricane Wilma 's large circulation , Alpha was experiencing strong southerly flow from Wilma . Alpha , with its small circulation , was then faced with the mountainous terrain of Hispaniola , which led forecasters to believe Alpha was soon to dissipate . Shortly after Alpha reached its peak intensity on October 23 its wind decreased . While convection remained in bands , the low level circulation was disrupted by land . This left the center ill @-@ defined and difficult to locate .

Late on October 23 , Alpha made landfall in Hispaniola , quickly decreasing in intensity as it did so . After making landfall , the storm weakened , leaving it just between tropical storm and tropical depression status . Because of the weakening , and the strong southerly flow from nearby Hurricane Wilma , it was hard to determine whether a low @-@ level circulation was present . However , satellite imagery suggested that a new center had developed over open waters to the north of Hispaniola . It was downgraded to a tropical depression early the next day , now re @-@ emerging over open waters . The storm soon developed an elongated center of circulation which indicated that the system was weakening . On October 24 the low @-@ level center had completely dissolved , and only a small area of convective activity persisted . Thus the system had dissipated , and was a remnant low pressure system when the National Hurricane Center issued their last advisories of Alpha . Shortly thereafter , the remnant low was absorbed into the circulation of Hurricane Wilma on October 25 .

= = Preparations = =

On October 22 , the National Hurricane Center issued a tropical storm warning for the island of Hispaniola and a tropical storm watch for Turks and Caicos Islands and the southeastern Bahamas . The tropical storm watch was quickly upgraded to a tropical storm warning . In the Dominican Republic , authorities ordered the evacuation of at least 30 @-@ 000 people living in areas where

flooding was possible . On October 22 and 23 , the Haitian government ordered level 1 and then level 2 alerts for the country in anticipation of Tropical Storm Alpha 's rainfall . Haiti was already experiencing flooding from Hurricane Wilma 's passage between October 8 and 19 , so the threat of more rainfall was particularly dire . The country 's Centre National de Meteorologie issued weather bulletins through existing media distribution channels with clear instructions on how residences should prepare for floods and landslides . The local government of the Sud @-@ Est Department ordered the evacuation of its capital city , Jacmel . The national government mobilized personnel and resources of the Direction of Civil Protection , the Secrétariat Permanent de Gestion des Risques et des Désastres (SPGRD) , and the National Police to pre @-@ arranged Emergency Operation Centres .

= = Impact = =

Although the storm 's circulation technically made landfall near Barahona in the Dominican Republic , the bulk of its impact occurred in the country 's poorer neighbor , Haiti . When Alpha arrived on Hispaniola it brought between 4 inches (101 mm) and 7 @.@ 9 in (201 mm) of rain which triggered floods and landslides . The road between Port @-@ au @-@ Prince and the Haiti 's Sud Department was closed at Grand @-@ Goâve in the Ouest department . In the coastal city of Léogâne near Port @-@ au @-@ Prince , bridges were closed to cars but not to pedestrians . Surging rivers east of Marigot and west of Jacmel closed roads in that region , and the main road between Jérémie and Les Cayes was also closed . Elsewhere in the country , landslides temporarily blocked several other major roads . Gonâve Island , which had been suffering a brutal drought , was stricken by floods which overwhelmed and washed away pipes of the water draining system in Nan Baré .

Damages in Haiti were mostly confined to the Ouest , Sud @-@ Est , and Grand 'Anse departments . In Haiti , 17 people died . Two drowned when a river overflowed in Grande Anse and two more died after being electrocuted during flooding , one in the Port @-@ au @-@ Prince suburb of Carrefour and the other in the southern town of Jacmel . The rest of the deaths were the results of landslides and flooding in various areas in the country . Across the country , 243 houses were destroyed , and 191 more were damaged .

Nine people were killed in the Dominican Republic : two fishermen went missing at sea during the storm and the others were swept away by flood waters when rivers burst their banks in Guaricanos and Puerto Plata . Otherwise , the damage in the Dominican Republic was minimal .

The Haitian government did not request international assistance , although The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) , the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Haitian Red @-@ Cross , which were already working in Haiti , took on some supporting roles . In response to local flooding , the Jacmel Regional branch of the Red Cross distributed an additional 400 water purification tablets , 11 boxes of high @-@ energy biscuits , and 10 boxes of body soap .

= = Naming and records = =

Since all the twenty one predetermined hurricane names were exhausted after Hurricane Wilma , the Greek alphabet was used and the storm was designated Alpha once it reached tropical storm status . The name Alpha had been used before in the Atlantic for a subtropical storm , but 2005 was the first season to have a tropical storm Alpha .

At the time it was thought that Alpha was the twenty @-@ second storm of the season , and so was the storm which broke the 1933 season 's record for most storms in a single season . However post @-@ season analysis revealed that there was also a previously unnoticed subtropical storm on October 4 , which made Alpha the twenty @-@ third storm of the season . Alpha was the first tropical storm to be assigned a Greek @-@ alphabet name after the list of hurricane names was exhausted .