

= 1986 Atlantic hurricane season =

The 1986 Atlantic hurricane season officially began on June 1 , 1986 , and lasted until November 30 , 1986 . These dates conventionally delimit the period of each year when most tropical cyclones form in the Atlantic basin . During the 1986 season , the first subtropical depression formed in the first week of June , while the last tropical cyclone dissipated at the end of the third week of November . The 1986 season had lower than average activity because of an ongoing El Niño event , and was the least active season in the North Atlantic since the 1983 Atlantic hurricane season . This was also the first season since 1972 to have no major hurricanes . Earl was the strongest hurricane of the season , reaching Category 2 status . Few storms caused significant damage ; Hurricane Bonnie caused heavy rains and flooding across southeast Texas when it made landfall near Sea Rim State Park . Hurricane Charley caused limited damage in North Carolina and Massachusetts , but crossed the Atlantic as an extratropical cyclone and caused considerable damage in the British Isles .

= = Seasonal forecast and summary = =

Dr. William M. Gray of Colorado State University issued forecasts on May 29 and July 28 indicating within both forecasts the anticipation of a below normal hurricane season . In May , a total of 8 named tropical storms were expected , with four hurricane expected , 15 days with hurricanes , and a total of 35 days with a tropical storm active in the northern Atlantic ocean . In July , the numbers were dropped to a total of 7 named storms , 4 hurricanes , 10 hurricane days , and 25 days with a named tropical storm , which almost perfectly verified .

The season 's activity was reflected with a cumulative accumulated cyclone energy (ACE) rating of 36 , which is classified as " below normal " . ACE is , broadly speaking , a measure of the power of the hurricane multiplied by the length of time it existed , so storms that last a long time , as well as particularly strong hurricanes , have high ACEs . ACE is only calculated for full advisories on tropical systems at or exceeding 34 knots (39 mph , 63 km / h) or tropical storm strength . Subtropical cyclones are excluded from the total .

= = = Timeline of events = = =

= = Storms = =

= = = Tropical Storm Andrew = = =

In early June , a large area of disturbed weather persisted over the Greater Antilles , bringing heavy rains to the islands . The area moved northward , developing a circulation over the Bahamas . Strong upper @-@ level winds caused when satellite imagery showed a circulation developing over the Bahamas . Strong upper @-@ level winds caused the structure to resemble a subtropical cyclone , and as a result , the system was classified as a subtropical depression on June 5 . The depression moved to the northwest and transitioned into a tropical storm on June 6 ; it was named Andrew about 258 mi (415 km) southeast of Charleston , South Carolina . The tropical storm approached the South Carolina coast within 115 mi (185 km) before recurving to the northeast on June 7 . The storm passed within 70 mi (110 km) of Cape Hatteras while recurving , while near its peak intensity of 50 mph (80 km / h) . The storm accelerated to the northeast , briefly crossing into the forecasting territory of Environment Canada , the first of three storms of the season to do so , before ultimately being absorbed by a low pressure system over Canada on June 8 .

While active , Andrew posed a threat to the Carolinas . Gale warnings were posted from an area ranging from Cape Lookout to south of Virginia Beach , Virginia on June 7 . Waves reached heights of 12 @-@ foot (3 @.@ 7 m) off the coast of the Carolinas , which killed a person on Ocracoke

Island . Three companions were also swept out , all of whom made it back to shore . At Wrightsville Beach and Carolina Beach , at least 40 swimmers were caught in the currents , four of whom were hospitalized . The precursor to the storm produced heavy rainfall across Jamaica that caused a deadly flood event .

== Hurricane Bonnie ==

During late June , a frontal trough drifted into the northeastern Gulf of Mexico , and by June 22 a surface circulation formed . Tracking west @-@ northwestward , it developed into Tropical Depression Two on June 23 while located about 330 miles (535 km) south of Pensacola , Florida . The next day , it attained tropical storm status , and with continued favorable conditions attained hurricane status on June 25 to the south of Louisiana . Bonnie turned to the northwest and made landfall near Sea Rim State Park in Texas . The storm quickly weakened over land as it turned to the north and northeast , and on June 28 it was absorbed by an approaching frontal zone in southeastern Missouri .

Prior to moving ashore , 22 @,@ 000 people were evacuated . Upon making landfall , Hurricane Bonnie produced a storm surge peaking at 5 @.@ 2 feet (1 @.@ 5 m) at Sabine Pass . Rainfall from the storm peaked at 13 inches (330 mm) in Ace , Texas , which caused some street flooding and destroyed a small dam in Liberty County , Texas . The hurricane also spawned eleven tornadoes , which , in combination with moderate winds , destroyed about 25 residencies in southwestern Louisiana . Three storm deaths occurred in the Port Arthur , Texas area ; two deaths occurred from separate car accidents , and another occurred after a partially paralyzed woman died in a house fire . Hurricane Bonnie caused minor damage totaling \$ 2 million (1986 USD , \$ 3 @.@ 5 million 2006 USD) .

== Tropical Depression Three ==

The third tropical depression of the season was detected early on July 27 in the open waters of the Atlantic , north of Bermuda . While about 180 miles (290 km) north of the island , the storm was moving northward at 15 mph (24 km / h) while its maximum sustained winds were about 30 mph (48 km / h) . Later that afternoon , aircraft reconnaissance found no well @-@ defined circulation and the storm 's status was reduced from a depression . The depression never threatened any land areas .

== Unnumbered Tropical Depression ==

A tropical disturbance was detected on August 4 in the northwestern Gulf of Mexico along the lower Texas coast . The low @-@ pressure system moved slowly toward land , limiting the system 's development . On August 5 , the system became organized enough to be considered a tropical depression . The storm moved inland overnight , dumping several inches of rain over South Texas and causing street flooding in Brownsville and nearby South Padre Island . The system caused rainfall up to 4 @.@ 45 inches (113 mm) in some areas but had no major problems attributed to it . This storm was not carried as a depression operationally , and thus has no assigned number .

== Hurricane Charley ==

Hurricane Charley was the costliest tropical cyclone of the season , and the first hurricane to threaten the east @-@ central United States since Hurricane Gloria in the previous year . The third tropical storm and second hurricane of the season , Charley formed as a subtropical low on August 13 along the Florida panhandle . A few days later intensified it into a tropical storm off the coast of South Carolina , and Charley attained hurricane status before moving across eastern North Carolina . It gradually weakened over the north Atlantic Ocean before transitioning into an extratropical cyclone , though its remnants remained identifiable for over a week until after crossing the British

Isles and dissipating on August 30 .

The storm brought light to moderate precipitation along its path through the southeastern United States . In Georgia and South Carolina , the rainfall alleviated drought conditions . In North Carolina , where the hurricane made landfall , tidal flooding and downed trees were the primary impact . The storm brought high winds to southeastern Virginia , where 110 @, @ 000 people were left without power . Minor damage extended along the Atlantic coastline northward through Massachusetts . One traffic fatality was reported each in North Carolina and Virginia . Three people in Maryland died due to a plane crash related to the storm . Throughout the United States , Hurricane Charley caused an estimated \$ 15 million in damage (1986 US \$, \$ 29 million 2008 USD) .

As an extratropical cyclone , Charley brought heavy rainfall and strong winds to Ireland and the United Kingdom , causing at least 11 deaths . In Ireland , the rainfall set records for 24 ? hour totals , including an accumulation of more than 7 @. @ 8 in (200 mm) which set the record for the greatest daily rainfall total in the country . In the country , the rainfall caused widespread flooding , resulting in two rivers overflowing their banks . In the Dublin area , 451 buildings were flooded , some up to a depth of 8 ft (2 @. @ 4 m) . In the United Kingdom , the storm caused downed trees and power lines , as well as flooded rivers .

= = = Tropical Depression Five = = =

This tropical depression formed in the eastern tropical Atlantic Ocean on August 31 . The depression moved west @-@ northwest , then northwest away from the Caribbean Sea without further development before dissipating east @-@ southeast of Bermuda on September 4 .

= = = Tropical Depression Six = = =

A tropical wave crossed the Caribbean sea , moving into a favorable upper environment in the western Caribbean sea on August 31 . The system formed into a weak tropical depression before crossing the Yucatán peninsula , becoming better organized as it moved into the south @-@ central and western Gulf of Mexico between September 1 and 3 . The system moved ashore east @-@ central Mexico before quickly dissipating as a tropical cyclone on September 4 . Satellite imagery revealed that its residual cloud pattern persisted over Mexico for an additional couple of days before degenerating . Heavy rainfall fell primarily north of its track , with the maximum across northeast Mexico falling at El Barranco / Altamira , where a total of 9 @. @ 33 inches (237 mm) was measured .

= = = Tropical Storm Danielle = = =

On September 1 , a tropical wave moved off the coast of Africa and headed westward . The disturbance was below the 10 degree latitude as it organized into a tropical depression on September 7 and then a tropical storm later that day . Danielle peaked as a 60 mph (97 km / h) storm on September 8 , while Reconnaissance Aircraft reported gusts of up to hurricane force . After passing through the Lesser Antilles , Danielle encountered vertical wind shear , and on September 10 it dissipated in the central Caribbean Sea . The remnants continued westward and ultimately regenerated into Tropical Storm Lester .

The islands of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines experienced wind gusts up to hurricane force , causing severe power outages and causing roof damage . In the Grenadines , the storm drove a coast guard ship aground , while five people were injured and hundreds of homes were destroyed . Torrential rainfall produced several mudslides , which , in turn , damaged roads , bridges , electricity , and water services . Danielle also destroyed twelve homes on the island of Barbados . In Trinidad and Tobago , strong flooding of up to four feet caused 27 landslides , destroying four bridges . The storm caused \$ 8 million in damage in Tobago . Total damage from the storm amounted to \$ 9 @. @ 2 million (1986 USD) , mostly to crops , though no deaths were reported .

== Hurricane Earl ==

The strongest storm of the season began as a tropical wave off Africa on September 4 . After moving across the tropical Atlantic Ocean it strengthened as Tropical Depression Five on September 10 while about 1240 miles (2000 km) east of Puerto Rico . The depression quickly strengthened and reached hurricane strength on September 11 , peaked as a Category 2 hurricane on September 12 as it made a half circle , weakened to a Category 1 on September 16 and bounced back the way it came . Earl then turned north and became extratropical southeast of Newfoundland on September 19 . At its peak , Earl had sustained winds of 105 mph (170 km / h) and a minimum central pressure of 979 mbar .

== Hurricane Frances ==

First spotted as a tropical disturbance near the Lesser Antilles on November 15 , the system moved generally northward while slowly developing . The system organized into a tropical depression on November 18 and quickly strengthened into a tropical storm . The storm curved northeast and strengthened further , reaching hurricane strength on November 20 . However , a surface high @-@ pressure system to the north caused the storm to weaken as the vertical wind shear increased over its center . Frances was later absorbed by an extratropical cyclone on November 21 .

== Storm names ==

The following names were used for named storms that formed in the north Atlantic in 1986 . No names were retired , so it was used again in the 1992 season . This is the same list used for the 1980 season except for Andrew , which replaced Allen . A storm was named Andrew for the first time in 1986 . Names that were not assigned are marked in gray .

== Retirement ==

The World Meteorological Organization retired no names used in the 1986 season .