

= Hurricane Isaac ( 2000 ) =

Hurricane Isaac was a strong and large Cape Verde @-@ type hurricane that lasted through late September and early October 2000 . The thirteenth tropical cyclone , ninth named storm , and the fifth hurricane of 2000 Atlantic hurricane season , Isaac developed from a tropical wave south of Cape Verde on September 21 . The depression intensified , and on the following day , it was upgraded to Tropical Storm Isaac . Due to conductive atmospheric conditions , Isaac continued to strengthen , and attained hurricane intensity on September 23 . Isaac managed to become a Category 3 hurricane on September 24 , before steadily weakening shortly thereafter . By September 26 , the storm had deteriorated to a Category 1 hurricane . However , it again encountered favorable conditions , which caused Isaac to re @-@ intensify .

As Isaac tracked northwestward , it re @-@ strengthened into a major hurricane on September 28 . Later that day , Isaac peaked as a moderate @-@ Category 4 hurricane . However , Isaac began to track northward over an area of colder sea surface temperatures ( SSTs ) , which gradually weakened the storm over the next three days . Eventually , the storm curved northeastward , and weakened to a tropical storm early on October 1 . Later that day , Isaac transitioned into an extratropical cyclone . While extratropical , it brushed the British Isles , producing below gale @-@ force winds . The storm had no interaction with land while tropical ; however , one fatality occurred on Long Island when large swells generated by Isaac overturned a boat . In addition , rough seas also affected the coastlines of Bermuda and The Carolinas .

= = Meteorological history = =

A tropical wave emerged into the Atlantic from the west coast of Africa on September 20 . The wave was associated with some curvature of deep convection . Later on September 20 , the initial Dvorak classification was issued , whilst convection associated with the system began to consolidate . It is estimated that the wave became Tropical Depression Thirteen at 1200 UTC on September 21 , while located south of Cape Verde . Although the QuikScat satellite recorded winds of up to 60 mph ( 90 km / h ) , the National Hurricane Center set the initial intensity 35 mph ( 55 km / h ) , mostly due to a lack of deep convection and an elongated and poorly defined center . Because upper @-@ level winds were conductive , the depression strengthened and banding features significantly improved . As a result , the depression was upgraded to Tropical Storm Isaac early on September 22 . A ridge was present over parts of the eastern Atlantic Ocean which provided strong steering currents .

Later on September 22 , the National Hurricane Center began noting the possibility of increasing wind shear due to a large upper trough . Despite this , the intensity predictions did not forecast weakening within the next three days . Isaac continued to strengthen and reached hurricane status at 1200 UTC on September 23 . However , the National Hurricane Center did not operationally upgrade Isaac until 2100 UTC on September 23 , at which time the storm was a Category 2 hurricane . Thereafter , Isaac significantly intensified , and on the following day , it reached an initial peak intensity with winds of 120 mph ( 200 km / h ) . The National Hurricane Center then predicted Isaac would become a Category 4 hurricane on September 25 , though this did not materialize .

After reaching winds of 120 mph ( 200 km / h ) , Isaac slowly began weakening , due to both increasing vertical wind shear and internal fluctuations . By September 26 , Isaac weakened to a moderate Category 1 hurricane , though the National Hurricane Center noted that re @-@ strengthening was likely , citing the possibility of warming SST 's . Wind shear began to decrease , which caused deep convection to re @-@ organize into a more symmetrical pattern around the center of the storm . As a result , Isaac began re @-@ intensifying , starting on September 27 . Although Isaac re @-@ developed a well @-@ defined eye and a cold convective eyewall , only a portion of the storm had decent outflow . By 1800 UTC on September 28 , Isaac attained its peak intensity with winds of 140 mph ( 220 km / h ) and a minimum barometric pressure of 943 mbar ( 27 @.@ 8 inHg ) . Three hours later , the National Hurricane Center noted that the storm had likely reached peak intensity , though further strengthening could not be ruled out . After tracking steadily

west @-@ northwestward or northwestward since it developed on September 21 , the storm briefly curved northward western periphery of a mid @-@ tropospheric anticyclone later on September 28 . While a Category 3 hurricane on September 29 , Isaac passed about 500 miles ( 800 km ) east of Bermuda . Further weakening occurred as Isaac tracked into decreasing SST 's , while undergoing an eyewall replacement cyclone . Late on September 29 , the storm began curving east @-@ northeastward and weakened to a Category 2 hurricane .

After weakening to a Category 1 hurricane on September 30 , the National Hurricane Center noted that very cold cloud tops still existed , though IR imagery indicated that the convection and circulation associated with the storm was becoming asymmetrical . Isaac remained a Category 1 hurricane for almost 24 hours , at which time the storm began to accelerate east @-@ northeastward . Early on October 1 , the National Hurricane Center noted that minimal deep convection persisted near the center and much of it was displaced to the north . Mid @-@ level dry air and low @-@ level cold air began entering the western quadrant of the storm , which caused it to begin its extratropical transition . By 0600 UTC on October 1 , Isaac weakened to a tropical storm . The National Hurricane Center noted that further weakening would be slow , due to the large wind field associated with the storm . At 1500 UTC on October 1 , the National Hurricane Center issued its final advisory on the storm ; Isaac fully transitioned into an extratropical cyclone about three hours later , while located about halfway between Newfoundland and the Azores . The extratropical remnants tracked rapidly east @-@ northeastward and affected the British Isles on October 3 and October 4 , eventually merging with another extratropical low while north of Scotland early on October 4 .

= = Impact = =

Late on September 22 and early on September 23 , the National Hurricane Center noted that due to several computer forecast models indicating a westward track , impact in the Lesser Antilles was possible , though unlikely . However , Isaac continued its west @-@ northwestward path and passed more than 820 miles ( 1 @, @ 320 km ) northeast of the Lesser Antilles . While Isaac made its closest approach to Bermuda on September 29 , it produced high waves offshore the island . Although Isaac had stayed away from the eastern coast of the United States , swells from the storm caused a boat with four passengers to overturn on September 30 . One of the passengers died from drowning . The state of North Carolina issued a heavy surf warning on October 1 , as swells from Isaac were predicted . Along the Grand Strand in South Carolina , rough surf and minor coastal flooding was reported . As an extratropical system , Isaac produced winds near gale @-@ force on the British Isles during the day of October 3 . After Isaac passed the British Isles , a bird called the blue @-@ winged warbler was seen in Europe for the first time .