

= Tropical Depression Fourteen ( 1987 ) =

Tropical Depression Fourteen was the last tropical depression of the 1987 Atlantic hurricane season and was the third most destructive storm of the year . The depression formed on October 31 , 1987 in the Caribbean Sea , heading along a northward path into the southern Gulf of Mexico and into Florida until the system was absorbed on November 4 . The path and damage from the depression followed a similar path to Hurricane Floyd earlier in October . The depression peaked in intensity with wind speeds of 35 mph ( 55 km / h ) on November 1 with a minimal barometric pressure reading of 1004 millibars ( 29 @. @ 65 inHg ) . However , certain barometric readings have considered that the depression may have become a tropical storm .

The depression in the time affected several cities and parishes in Jamaica and Cuba , along with causing significant rainfall in southern Florida . Jamaica was the area hardest hit by the depression , claiming the lives of six people and causing about \$ 1 @. @ 802 million ( 1987 USD , \$ 3 million in 2009 USD ) in damage . The depression caused floods that washed out villages , roads and bridges and caused dozens of landslides on the island . The island also had several rivers overflow including the Rio Minho and Rio Dogna . The damage caused by the tropical depression was comparable to previous flood in June 1986 .

= = Meteorological history = =

Prior to the formation of Tropical Depression Fourteen , the southern Caribbean Sea was under a large area of low pressure . On October 30 , satellite imagery showed that the area of pressure was beginning to form into a tropical disturbance . A reconnaissance aircraft was scheduled for the next morning to investigate the forming system , but by 1400 UTC on October 31 , the National Hurricane Center in Miami , Florida had upgraded the system to a tropical depression based on the imagery and surface data . At this time , the specialists at the Hurricane Center believed that this was its most developed stage of its lifetime .

The depression began a movement to the northwest upon formation and on the night of October 31 , the depression ran into a newly @-@ forming upper @-@ level low near the Yucatan Peninsula . The interaction with the upper @-@ level low caused shearing in the depression , and broke apart the previous low @-@ level circulation that was developing . By the morning of November 1 , the depression was nothing more than a swirl of low @-@ level clouds near the center of circulation . After this , the depression could no longer attain the circulation it had previously developed . During the period of November 2 and 3 , the depression moved to the northeast , crossing over the islands of Jamaica , Cayman and Cuba and then entering the southern parts of the Gulf of Mexico .

On occasion , the convection of the system would flare up , and in the early morning hours of November 3 , the Naval Air Station at Boca Chica , Florida reported winds of 50 mph ( 80 km / h ) , which would mean the depression may have attained tropical storm status . A similar report was filed at the Air Force Station at Cudjoe Key . After another reconnaissance flight was sent out to study the system , and recorded that surface area temperatures had dropped , the flight @-@ level winds had reached 92 mph ( 147 km / h ) and the surface area pressure had reached 998 millibars ( 29 @. @ 47 inHg ) . In the evening and overnight hours of November 3 , the tropical depression continued to the northeast , making landfall in Florida at a location near Tampa Bay . The depression crossed Florida , weakening significantly , and becoming extratropical . After emerging from land in the Atlantic Ocean on November 5 , the depression had become a low pressure area once again and was last spotted that day near the Carolina Capes .

= = Preparations and impact = =

The flash flood warnings released in relation to Tropical Depression Fourteen were centered in the area of Jamaica , who would later received rainfall in excess of 9 inches ( 230 mm ) as the center of the depression moved across the island . In the United States , the National Hurricane Center issued two tropical storm warnings in Florida . The first was from the middle and lower islands of the

Florida Keys to the area of Dry Tortugas on November 1 . The warning lasted only 24 hours , with the warning ending on November 2 . The second issued tropical storm warning was from the area of Fort Myers Beach to Cedar Key on November 3 . This also lasted only 24 hours and was discontinued on November 3 . Forecasters also suggested on November 2 that boaters should avoid the area in or around Key Largo .

Wind gusts from Tropical Depression Fourteen exceeded 70 mph ( 110 km / h ) near the Cudjoe Key Air Force Base on November 3 . The Naval Air Station at Boca Chica reported gusts around 65 mph ( 105 km / h ) and sustained winds of about 50 mph ( 80 km / h ) on November 2 . The highest recorded winds over Cuba reached 25 mph ( 30 km / h ) in the capital city of Havana . There were no gusts reported in Cuba however . In Jamaica , gusts to 58 mph ( 93 km / h ) were reported in the city of Kingston and sustained winds of about 45 mph ( 55 km / h ) . Ships also reported tropical storm force winds , reaching as high as 60 mph ( 100 km / h ) with seas of 32 @. @ 5 feet ( 9 @. @ 9 m ) .

As the depression was moving to the west of the island of Jamaica , it caused significant rainfall on several parts of the island . Over a three @- @ day period from October 31 to November 2 , the rainfall reached as high as 10 @. @ 21 inches ( 259 mm ) at the capital city of Kingston , with a daily high of 6 @. @ 38 inches ( 162 mm ) on November 1 . The significant rainfall caused major damage and issues on the island , with an estimated 1 @, @ 000 + people being displaced from their homes and being placed into government shelters . Several residential communities were totally underwater from the rainfall , with local roads being washed away from landslides and floodwater , but these were restored quickly . The government of Jamaica also reported that three bridges were washed away from the heavy rain and resulting floods . According to the government , the country received \$ 587 @, @ 500 ( 1987 USD ) of damage to the highways and streets , \$ 11 @, @ 000 ( 1987 USD ) to the utilities around the island , \$ 836 @, @ 000 ( 1987 USD ) to the agriculture system and about \$ 372 @, @ 000 to the health system . The total damage reached \$ 1 @. @ 802 million ( 1987 USD , \$ 3 million in 2009 USD ) on the island of Jamaica alone . There were also six recorded fatalities from the system .

In Cuba , the reported rainfall amounts reached about 4 @. @ 75 inches ( 121 mm ) in the community of Bahia Honda , along with 2 @. @ 03 inches ( 52 mm ) in the capital of Havana , and 2 @. @ 75 inches ( 70 mm ) in the community of Saua La Grande . Although by the time the depression had reached the United States was undeveloped , the remains caused significant rainfall in several states in southeastern United States , with a peak of 10 @. @ 23 inches ( 260 mm ) at the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge in Florida . The city of Miami reported rainfall totals of 4 @. @ 42 inches ( 112 mm ) and 5 @. @ 90 inches ( 150 mm ) in the community of Tavarner . Rainfalls above 1 inch ( 25 mm ) were reported in eastern Georgia , southern South Carolina , eastern Mississippi and eastern Alabama . Rainfalls in other areas went unrecorded . Outside the damage in Jamaica , the damage to Cuba and the United States were minimal , with no other reported casualties .