

= 1962 Atlantic hurricane season =

The 1962 Atlantic hurricane season was the least active since 1939 , with only five named storms . Although the season officially began on June 15 , the first storm did not form until August 26 . Hurricane Alma brushed the Outer Banks before becoming extratropical southeast of New England , destroying hundreds of boats and producing beneficial rainfall . In late August , Tropical Storm Becky developed unusually far east in the Atlantic Ocean , becoming the easternmost storm on record to recurve to the northeast . Celia followed in the September , forming east of the Lesser Antilles and executing a loop near Bermuda before dissipating . Hurricane Daisy was the costliest of the season , leaving about \$ 1 @. @ 1 million in damage in New England (1962 USD) . The storm dropped the highest rainfall total on record in Maine , and its precipitation caused 22 traffic fatalities . The final hurricane ? Ella ? was also the strongest , remaining offshore of the eastern United States but causing two deaths .

In addition to the five named storms , there were three non @-@ developing tropical depressions . The first struck Texas in August , causing street flooding and killing three . The second of three formed off the west coast of Florida and flooded widespread areas after 1 in 100 year rainfall . The floods affected 5 @, @ 000 houses and caused millions in damage . The third of three non @-@ developing storms moved across the Caribbean before striking Nicaragua in October . The season officially ended on November 15 .

= = Season activity = =

The hurricane season officially began on June 15 , 1962 . The National Hurricane Center began operations with no new equipment , and the warning agency instead opted to improve with the existing equipment . The agency had access to a system of radars that extended from Brownsville , Texas to Eastport , Maine , which was set up in 1961 . Although satellite imagery technology was available , the system was not fully active to provide daily images of Atlantic hurricanes . The season officially ended on November 15 .

During the season , three hurricanes developed from five named storms . This was below the average of 10 storms per season , and represented the fewest tropical storms since 1939 . Four of the five storms developed from the intertropical convergence zone . The decreased activity is partially due to the westerlies extending further south than usual , as well as a persistent ridge . In addition , temperatures in the eastern United States were cooler than usual . Activity through September 10 was the quietest in 30 years .

The only region of the United States threatened by hurricanes was New England , although no stations recorded hurricane @-@ force winds in the country . This was the first such occurrence during the 20th century that no tropical storms or hurricanes hit the country . Overall damage was the lowest in several years .

= = Storms = =

= = Hurricane Alma = = =

A tropical wave developed into a tropical depression along the southeast Florida coast on August 26 . It moved northward along the coast , located beneath an anticyclone that aided in its intensification . The depression began a motion to the northeast on August 27 , and that day it strengthened into Tropical Storm Alma about 150 mi (240 km) east of the Florida / Georgia border . This marked the latest development of the first storm since 1941 . Alma steadily intensified as it paralleled the coastline of the Carolinas , becoming a hurricane on August 28 a few miles off the coast of Cape Hatteras . Despite its proximity , the storm produced peak wind gusts of only 53 mph (85 km / h) in Nags Head . Wind gusts downed a power pole in Hatteras , which caused an hour long power outage for one @-@ third of the town . There , the storm tide was 3 ft (0 @. @ 91 m)

above normal , which resulted in some erosion . The highest rainfall total from Alma in the United States was a report of 10 @. @ 38 inches (264 mm) in Cape Hatteras . Damage in the state amounted to \$ 35 @, @ 000 .

After passing the Outer Banks , Alma continued to intensify further , reaching peak winds of 100 mph (160 km / h) about 85 mi (135 km) south of Nantucket . Despite its intensity , the hurricane never developed a well @-@ defined eye . Alma quickly weakened to a tropical storm as it made its closest approach to New England , due to cooler water temperatures . In Rhode Island and Massachusetts along the coast , the storm produced northerly winds of 60 mph (97 km / h) , and one house was damaged by a fallen tree . Tides reached 2 ft (0 @. @ 61 m) above normal , which resulted in minor coastal flooding . However , Alma produced strong waves that destroyed over 100 boats . Damage from the storm was estimated at less than \$ 1 million , though its rains were beneficial to drought @-@ stricken areas of New England . Precipitation extended northward through Maine , and storm damage was reported as far north as Portsmouth , New Hampshire . Slick roads resulted in several traffic accidents , although there were no deaths . After moving by the region , Alma turned to the southeast due to a high pressure system to its north . It became extratropical on August 30 .

= = = August tropical depression = = =

On August 26 , a tropical depression formed in the western Gulf of Mexico about 280 mi (450 km) northeast of Tampico , Tamaulipas . It moved slowly to the north @-@ northwest around a ridge without intensifying beyond winds of 30 mph (45 km / h) . The system encountered wind shear throughout its duration , which displaced the convection from the center to its northeast . The depression struck just west of the Texas / Louisiana border on August 29 before dissipating on August 30 . Rainfall in Texas was minimal , estimated around 1 in (25 mm) . However , heavy amounts of precipitation fell across Louisiana , peaking at 23 @. @ 13 in (588 mm) near Hackberry . Rainfall extended northeastward through Arkansas and Missouri . On August 29 as the depression moved ashore , heavy rainfall caused street flooding in Cameron , Louisiana . Two tornadoes were reported in the town , one of which produced winds of 80 mph (130 km / h) . The storms damaged 115 houses or trailers , of which one was destroyed . There were 30 people injured , of whom 18 required hospital attention , and there were three deaths .

= = = Tropical Storm Becky = = =

A tropical disturbance emerged from Africa in late August and developed into a weak tropical depression on August 27 . For about 30 hours , the system affected the Cape Verde islands with rainfall , during which it moved slowly to the west and west @-@ northwest . Late on August 28 , it was estimated that the depression intensified into a tropical storm . The next day , satellite imagery observed a well @-@ developed tropical cyclone in the far eastern Atlantic Ocean . In addition , a ship reported winds of force 9 on the Beaufort scale , suggesting winds of 50 mph (85 km / h) . On that basis , the Weather Bureau initiated advisories on Tropical Storm Becky , despite the agency only issuing advisories for storms west of 35 ° W. Around that time , the storm moved over an area of anomalously warm water temperatures , which allowed for its intensification . On August 30 , Becky turned to the north and northeast due to an approaching trough , becoming the easternmost cyclone since 1886 that a storm began a motion to the north . A Hurricane Hunters flight on August 31 indicated that Becky became extratropical about 70 mi (110 km) south of Santa Maria Island in the Azores . The storm 's remnants continued to the northeast , dissipating on September 1 about 320 mi (520 km) west of Spain .

= = = Tropical Storm Celia = = =

A tropical wave developed into a tropical depression on September 12 , about 1000 mi (1600 km) east of the Lesser Antilles . However , satellite imagery indicated that it could have become a

tropical cyclone a day earlier . Late on September 12 , a ship reported winds of 40 mph (64 km / h) , which provided the basis for the San Juan Weather Bureau to initiate advisories on Tropical Storm Celia . The storm quickly attained peak winds of 70 mph (110 km / h) , and on September 13 a hurricane watch was issued for the northern Leeward Islands . However , Celia passed beneath a mid- to upper @-@ level trough and quickly weakened . By late on September 14 , a hurricane hunters flight indicated that the storm 's structure no longer resembled that of a tropical cyclone . The next day , Celia weakened to a tropical depression , and the Weather Bureau discontinued tropical cyclone advisories . It turned to the north and later to the east , passing well southeast of Bermuda . On September 18 , Celia began executing a loop to the north , during which it re @-@ intensified into a tropical storm , as reported by ships . It attained winds of 45 mph (75 km / h) on September 19 , but again weakened to a tropical depression the next day . Celia became extratropical on September 21 , without having affected land .

= = = September Gulf of Mexico tropical depression = = =

An upper @-@ level low spawned a tropical depression off the west coast of Florida on September 20 . The depression moved very slowly to the north @-@ northwest , which produced heavy rainfall from Naples to Tampa , Florida . The highest total was 16 @.@ 60 in (422 mm) in Sarasota , although precipitation of over 1 in (25 mm) extended into Georgia and extreme southern South Carolina . A developing cyclone off the Carolinas caused the dissipation of the depression on September 23 .

The rains in Sarasota were the highest since 1945 , and some locations experienced 1 in 100 year rainfall totals . The rains resulted in 3 ft (0 @.@ 91 m) of floodwaters across western Florida , and both the Manatee River and the Phillippi Creek experienced record crests . The flooding entered over 5 @,@ 000 houses , which forced the evacuation of more than 100 families . The floods also caused schools to close in three counties . In addition , floodwaters affected thousands of acres of farmlands in six counties , and some did not dry out for several weeks . Wind gusts reached 58 mph (93 km / h) in eastern Florida , and more than 20 @,@ 000 people were left without power . There was one death in the state related to the storm , and damage was estimated at \$ 2 @.@ 78 million .

= = = September Caribbean tropical depression = = =

On September 27 , a tropical depression developed east of the Lesser Antilles . It moved through the islands without intensifying beyond winds of 30 mph (40 km / h) . The depression later crossed the entirety of the Caribbean Sea . On October 3 , it struck northeastern Nicaragua , before becoming a remnant low pressure area the following day over Guatemala .

= = = Hurricane Daisy = = =

On September 29 , reconnaissance aircraft indicated the formation of a tropical depression to the east of the Lesser Antilles . For several days it moved to the west @-@ northwest , passing just north of the islands without intensifying further . This was due to its presence beneath an upper @-@ level trough , although the system began intensifying as the trough dissipated . On October 2 , after turning to the northwest between two high pressure areas , the depression strengthened into Tropical Storm Daisy . Developing an anticyclone aloft , the storm continued to gradually intensify , reaching hurricane strength on October 3 . Two days later , Daisy turned to the north @-@ northeast and attained peak winds of 110 mph (175 km / h) . While passing west of Bermuda , the hurricane weakened slightly , although it re @-@ intensified to its peak strength late on October 6 . Cool air imparted weakening as Daisy turned northwestward , and on October 8 , the hurricane slowed as it turned eastward , striking Yarmouth , Nova Scotia with winds of 75 mph (120 km / h) . It became extratropical later that day , and Daisy dissipated on October 9 south of Newfoundland .

In New England , Hurricane Daisy 's outer rainbands combined with an approaching nor 'easter to drop torrential rainfall over the region for 65 hours , producing upwards of 12 in (300 mm) in

portions of Massachusetts . The highest total from Daisy alone was 9 @. @ 47 in (241 mm) at Portland International Jetport in Maine ; this was the state 's highest tropical cyclone rainfall total between 1950 and 2011 . Across the region , the rains caused widespread flood damage . In Maine , wind gusts reaching 70 mph (110 km / h) destroyed hundreds of small boats , along with high waves from the storm . In New England , Daisy left five injuries , one direct death , and about \$ 1 @. @ 1 million in damage . Slick roads , however , resulted in 22 traffic fatalities . In Nova Scotia , winds gusted to 85 mph (137 km / h) , which destroyed three boats and left two towns without power service . Rough seas killed six people in the province .

= = = Hurricane Ella = = =

In the middle of October , an area of disturbed weather persisted across the Turks and Caicos Islands , associated with an upper @- @ level low . On October 14 , a tropical depression developed and moved northward . A day after forming , it intensified into Tropical Storm Ella as it began a track to the northwest , located east of a weakening upper @- @ level trough . On October 17 , Ella strengthened further into a hurricane as an anticyclone was gradually developing . An approaching trough turned the hurricane to the east @- @ northeast on October 19 , and later that day Ella attained its peak intensity of 115 mph (185 km / h) ; that made it the strongest hurricane of the season . It gradually weakened over cooler waters while accelerating to the northeast , and its eye grew to an unusually large diameter of 100 mi (160 km / h) . Ella became extratropical on October 22 over the northern Atlantic as it interacted with an approaching cold front . Shortly thereafter its remnants moved over Newfoundland before dissipating on October 23 .

Ella is historically notable for its role in the Cuban Missile Crisis . The storm greatly complicated naval operations relating to the ' quarantine ' blockade of Cuba and badly damaged several Soviet nuclear @- @ armed submarines en route to the island , contributing to the escalation of the B @- @ 59 Incident . Early in its duration , Hurricane Ella briefly threatened to strike the North Carolina coastline . Although it remained offshore , the hurricane produced significant beach erosion along the coast . There were two associated deaths from a missing motor boat that left Charleston , South Carolina . The crew of two was declared deceased after a Coast Guard , Navy , and Air Force search failed to locate their bodies . There was no damage in Canada from its remnants .

= = Storm names = =

The following names were used for named storms (tropical storms and hurricanes) that formed in the North Atlantic in 1962 . Names that were not assigned are marked in gray . Because of the season 's relatively low impact , no storms were retired during the 1962 season , and none of the storms below were used for the first time .