

= 1941 Atlantic hurricane season =

The 1941 Atlantic hurricane season was the period during 1941 in which tropical cyclones formed in the Atlantic Basin . It was a relatively inactive hurricane season , with only six known storms . It officially began on June 16 , 1941 , and lasted until November 1 , 1941 . These dates delimit the period of each year when most tropical cyclones tend to form in the Atlantic basin . Of the six cyclones , four attained hurricane status , and three became major hurricanes . The active season had an abnormally late start ; the first system formed on September 11 , nearly three months after the official beginning date . The season was also short @-@ lived , as all six storms developed in rapid succession . On September 23 , three hurricanes existed simultaneously in the Atlantic basin .

In total , the season resulted in about 63 fatalities and over \$ 10 million in damages . The first and last storms of the season were largely insignificant , although the second , fourth , and fifth storms had considerable effects . Two hurricanes struck the United States : a major hurricane that struck Texas and Louisiana in late September , disrupting the Louisiana Maneuvers , and Hurricane Five , which made two landfalls in Florida , the first of which was near Miami at Category 2 intensity , inflicting widespread damage . Another major storm ? Hurricane Four ? traversed the Caribbean before striking the Nicaragua ? Honduras border at Category 4 intensity , leaving 47 men dead at sea .

= = Timeline = =

= = Storms = =

= = Tropical Storm One = = =

The first storm of the 1941 season formed on September 11 in the northern Gulf of Mexico . This was an abnormally late start to an Atlantic hurricane season : only on two other occasions between 1887 and 1941 had no storms developed prior to September 11 . The storm moved slowly in a generally westward direction for the next few days , peaking as a moderate tropical storm with winds of 45 mph (75 km / h) . It then weakened until it made landfall along the northern Texas coast between Galveston and Port Arthur as a tropical depression , where it caused only minor damage . Near 0600 UTC on September 16 , the storm deteriorated into a depression , and dissipated a few hours later .

= = Hurricane Two = = =

Little more than a day after the first storm of the season dissipated , a tropical depression formed on September 17 in the central Gulf of Mexico about 120 mi (190 km) north of the Yucatán Peninsula . Upon forming , the system began moving generally northward . Early on September 18 , the system developed into a tropical storm more than 300 mi (480 km) to the south @-@ southeast of New Orleans , Louisiana . Over the next three days , the intensifying storm executed a gradual clockwise loop , moving to the south @-@ southeast before turning back to the west . After intensifying to a Category 1 hurricane on September 21 , the storm began assuming a more northwestward course , toward the Texas Gulf Coast . It continued to strengthen into a major hurricane , peaking at 125 mph (201 km / h) late on September 23 . About four hours later , at about 22 UTC , the storm went ashore east of Bay City , Texas , on September 23 . The estimated minimum central pressure fell to as low as 942 millibars (27 @. @ 8 inHg) . It curved towards the northeast , passing just east of Houston , and accelerated as it continued to move inland . The cyclone transitioned into an extratropical storm on September 25 , and was last recorded at 00 UTC on September 27 over northeastern Quebec , near the Torngat Mountains National Park .

Warnings and advisories declared in response to the storm were widely distributed , and

approximately 25 @, @ 000 people in the area evacuated their homes . Officials completed various precautionary measures . Wind gusts along the coast reached up to 100 mph (160 km / h) , and high storm tides were recorded . The hurricane inflicted severe damage ; destruction to property was worth an estimated \$ 2 million , with an additional \$ 5 million in damage to crops , notably rice and cotton . Overall , the cyclone killed four people . The hurricane affected the southern Louisiana region one week before the Louisiana Maneuvers , a prelude to World War II . Heavy rainfall triggered flooding and swelled rivers , and army vehicles became stuck in the mud as a result . The inclement weather forced hundreds of military aircraft to move inland for shelter .

= = = Hurricane Three = = =

Early on September 18 , squally weather was reported throughout the Atlantic coast of Florida , with indications that a circulation center was present 150 mi (240 km) offshore . It is estimated that a tropical storm had formed at around this time . The cyclone began to intensify as it briefly moved northeastward , before abruptly executing an eastward turn . It attained Category 1 hurricane status on September 19 , and completed a clockwise loop the next day . It then tracked northwestward toward North Carolina , but began to recurve away from land late on September 22 . It weakened into a tropical storm shortly afterward . The system dissipated on September 25 to the south of Nova Scotia . The storm had little or no effect on land , but caused significant delays for North Atlantic shipping . One vessel en route from Curaçao to New York encountered the storm on two separate occasions , recording Force 8 winds on the Beaufort scale both times .

= = = Hurricane Four = = =

On September 23 , a minor area of disturbed weather was observed about 75 mi (121 km) to the northwest of Barbados . It is estimated that it developed into a tropical storm shortly thereafter . Tracking westward , it passed just south of St. Lucia and emerged into the Caribbean Sea . By September 25 , the storm had reached hurricane strength . Still intensifying , the storm continued generally westward and reached its peak at Category 4 on the Saffir @-@ Simpson Hurricane Scale . By late September 27 , the hurricane was situated near Cape Gracias a Dios , Honduras , and accelerated as it moved across the northernmost stretch of the country . It maintained hurricane intensity despite moving over mountainous terrain . After briefly entering the Gulf of Honduras , it moved ashore again in Belize , with winds of up to 85 mph (137 km / h) . Gradually weakening , the storm continued inland and weakened to a tropical storm by September 29 . The storm emerged over the Bay of Campeche as a tropical depression and dissipated on September 30 while over water .

Approximately 47 lives were lost at sea due to the hurricane . The SS Ethel Sakel displayed a " sinking " message on September 25 , about 125 mi (201 km) north of Aruba ; she later went down with 20 of her 33 crew members . Two other ships sent out distress signals , one of which capsized , all hands lost . Damage on land was also extensive , and three people drowned at Cape Gracias , which was largely destroyed by the storm . Coastal flooding in the town was severe . Inland , a ship encountered the calm eye of the cyclone , and the barometric pressure aboard fell to 957 mb (28 @. @ 3 inHg) ; the actual pressure at the coast was believed to have been far lower . In Belize , forests sustained major damage . For example , in the Melinda region , high winds brought down about 10 % of the large pines .

= = = Hurricane Five = = =

Tropical Storm Five was first observed to the north of the Virgin Islands on October 3 . The storm tracked generally westward on October 4 , strengthening to its peak intensity of 120 miles per hour (190 km / h) at 12 UTC the next day . Now a Category 3 hurricane on the modern @-@ day Saffir @-@ Simpson Hurricane Scale , the storm struck Cat Island , causing major damage . However , the rapidly moving storm soon weakened as its track bent more to the northwest . At 00 UTC on

October 6 , the eye of the storm passed south of Nassau . Ten hours later , the small hurricane struck the north end of Elliott Key , Florida , and then made a second landfall within the hour on the mainland at Goulds , near Homestead . Winds at landfall reached 100 miles per hour (160 km / h) , and the calm eye was reported over Goulds . After moving across southern Florida , the storm had weakened to a strong tropical storm , but then restrengthened as it curved northwestward over the Gulf of Mexico . At about 09 UTC on October 7 , the storm made another landfall along the Florida Panhandle near Carrabelle with winds of 90 mph (140 km / h) . Turning toward the north and northeast , it crossed Georgia and South Carolina , and entered the Atlantic Ocean on October 8 . The storm fully dissipated several days later .

Preparations for the storm were extensive ; residents boarded up homes and businesses , while evacuations were recommended in some coastal areas . In the Bahamas , where winds reached 104 miles per hour (167 km / h) , the storm killed three people . The city of Nassau was struck particularly hard , though damage elsewhere in the islands was also severe , with many homes reported destroyed . In Florida , damage was relatively severe , and included the deaths of several people . High winds brought down trees and power lines , and wind @-@ driven salt water damaged vegetation well inland across Dade County , though the storm was characterized by unusually light rainfall . Storm surge in the Everglades region flooded local streets , particularly at Everglades City . As the storm progressed northward , the city of Tallahassee suffered widespread power outages and damage to numerous vehicles . Throughout the state , the hurricane inflicted \$ 675 @,@ 000 (1941 USD) in damages . The cyclone later killed one person in Georgia .

= = = Tropical Storm Six = = =

A tropical storm formed on October 15 , and passed through the southern Bahamas . It crossed the Florida Straits , and reached its peak intensity with winds of 50 mph (85 km / h) on October 20 , after entering the eastern Gulf of Mexico and turning towards the north . It curved northeastward and made landfall at Cedar Key , Florida . After pushing inland , the storm stalled and weakened to a tropical depression on October 21 before dissipating fully the next day .

The storm 's slow forward motion over the state of Florida led to heavy widespread precipitation , locally amounting to 35 in (890 mm) in Trenton , Florida between October 17 and October 22 . Gale @-@ force winds were also reported . Some flood damage occurred throughout the affected locations . An infant was killed following the destruction of a house , possibly related to a tornado spawned by the tropical storm ; the baby 's parents also sustained injuries .