

= 1932 Florida ? Alabama hurricane =

The 1932 Florida ? Alabama hurricane was a tropical cyclone that made two separate landfalls on the United States , causing devastation in affected areas . The third named storm and hurricane of the 1932 Atlantic hurricane season , it developed from a tropical disturbance north of Hispaniola on August 26 . Slowly moving towards the west @-@ northwest , the system intensified to tropical storm strength before making landfall on South Florida early on August 30 . After crossing the Florida peninsula and entering the Gulf of Mexico , the system reached peak intensity as a Category 1 hurricane , before subsequently making its final landfall near the Mississippi ? Alabama border on September 1 . Over land , the hurricane weakened , and after becoming an extratropical cyclone on September 2 , merged with another extratropical system over Quebec on September 4 .

At the storm 's initial landfall in southern Florida , heavy rains and strong winds caused extensive damage to crops , particularly to avocado and citrus . As the strengthening hurricane moved to the northwest through the Gulf of Mexico , it generated strong surf that caused severe damage to coastal areas across western Florida . At its second landfall , hurricane force winds were produced across a wide swath of the coast . Agricultural lands in coastal regions of Mississippi and Alabama were damaged by strong winds and heavy rain . The hurricane caused one indirect death and \$ 228 @, @ 500 in total damages across its path .

= = Meteorological history = =

A tropical disturbance was first noted southeast of Puerto Rico on September 24 . Moving to the northwest at 10 mph (15 km / h) , the area of disturbed weather eventually crossed the island . The Atlantic HURDAT database first lists the system as a tropical depression at 1800 UTC on September 26 while located north of Haiti , with maximum sustained winds of 35 mph (55 km / h) . Steadily intensifying , the depression intensified to tropical storm strength at 1800 UTC on August 27 . The strengthening tropical storm passed to the south of Andros Island during the evening of August 29 , before making its first landfall 35 mi (55 km) south of Miami , Florida on Key Largo at 0400 UTC the next day as a strong , compact tropical storm with winds of 65 mph (100 km / h) . A weather station located at the Fowey Rocks Light recorded a peak wind gust of 89 mph (143 km / h) . In the Atlantic hurricane reanalysis project , it was evidenced that the storm may have been a hurricane upon landfall on Florida . After slightly weakening over land , the tropical storm entered the Gulf of Mexico in the early morning hours of August 30 , while located 30 mi (48 km) south of Fort Myers .

After entering the gulf , the tropical storm proceeded to organize , strengthening into hurricane intensity early on August 31 . As it curved more towards the north , the hurricane eventually made landfall near the Mississippi ? Alabama border , west of Fort Morgan , Alabama , with maximum sustained winds of 85 mph (137 km / h) , a Category 1 hurricane on the Saffir ? Simpson hurricane scale . A ship located offshore of Mobile , Alabama recorded a minimum barometric pressure of 979 mbar (28 @. @ 9 inHg) . After making landfall , the hurricane gradually weakened over land as it curved towards the northeast , weakening to tropical storm strength at 1200 UTC on September 1 . The weakening system transitioned into an extratropical cyclone over northern Mississippi the following day , after subsequently developing frontal boundaries . The extratropical system strengthened slightly as it accelerated towards the northeast , but was later absorbed by a larger extratropical system over Quebec by 1800 UTC on September 4 .

= = Preparations , impact , and aftermath = =

= = = Florida = = =

Prior to the storm 's first landfall in southern Florida , the Weather Bureau issued hurricane warnings beginning on August 29 for areas of Florida 's east coast from Palm Beach south to Key

West , while storm warnings were issued from Key West to Boca Grande on the peninsula 's western coast . Electrical power was purposely stopped in Miami as a precautionary measure prior to the storm 's landfall . Two Red Cross officials were sent to Miami to monitor the area during the storm 's passage . Other relief agencies were also preparing supplies in the event of an emergency . In Pahokee and Belle Glade , an estimated 2 @, @ 000 people evacuated to Okeechobee , fearing a repeat of the 1928 Okeechobee hurricane .

Most of the damage associated with the tropical storm 's first landfall in Florida was confined south of 27 ° N. Recently planted seed beds were washed away by heavy rains associated with the storm . A Miami weather station reported 10 @. @ 24 in (260 mm) of rain in a 24 @- @ hour period ending on August 30 , setting a record for that station . A portion of the MacArthur Causeway , which connects Miami to Miami Beach , was washed out due to the winds , but did not affect traffic . Rainfall in St. Petersburg measured 3 @. @ 79 in (96 mm) , while Fort Myers measured 6 @. @ 52 in (166 mm) of rain . The heavy rains also flooded streets in parts of Sarasota , Florida , and strong winds caused minor power outages . Communication lines between Fort Myers and Everglades , Florida also went down during the storm . Strong winds were responsible for destroying 2 ? 25 % of avocado and citrus trees along the path of the tropical storm . Grapefruit crops also suffered loses due to strong winds . Firefighters in Hollywood were forced to stop extinguishing a fire after winds damaged their equipment . The fire would eventually cause \$ 20 @, @ 000 in damages . Offshore , a 60 ft (18 m) long boat that was towed out of Biscayne Bay for dredging operations partially sank due to the rough seas .

Before the hurricane 's second landfall , another hurricane warning was issued for portions of the state , for areas of the coast from Panama City westward . Boats from Naval Air Station Pensacola were taken to nearby bayous ahead of the storm . Other ships were also sheltered as a precautionary measure . As the hurricane moved towards the Gulf Coast region , the hurricane caused strong storm surge and generated rough seas , disrupting coastal and marine activities . In Madeira Beach , the passing hurricane caused above @- @ average tides that moved 15 ? 20 ft (4 @. @ 6 ? 6 @. @ 1 m) further inland than normal . Offshore , two fishing boats attempting to cross Tampa Bay had to be rescued after they became stranded in the rough seas generated by the tropical storm . In Dog Island , nine people were rescued from the Cuban schooner Asturias after it washed up on the island shore . Off of Apalachicola , nine fishing boats sunk due to the waves . The tide height offshore Apalachicola at the time was 4 @. @ 5 ft (1 @. @ 4 m) above average , causing damage to small craft moored at the wharves . The strong surf alone was responsible for about \$ 1 @, @ 000 in damages . Strong storm surge off of Pensacola caused water levels that were the highest in the area in several years . Sections of a pier at Pensacola Beach were washed away by the strong waves . Five fishermen were initially reported drowned after their fishing boat struck a reef and was swamped by the storm surge in Pensacola Bay . However , the men were later reported safe at a coast guard life saving station . The misreport was likely due a lack of communication with the station . Another three men went missing after they departed in a small boat in aid of another boat offshore Pensacola .

Inland effects of the hurricane 's second landfall in Florida were mostly confined to areas of the Florida Panhandle west of Apalachicola . Cotton crops in Okaloosa and Escambia counties were damaged due to the wind and rain effects of the hurricane . Numerous pears were also blown off of trees by the strong winds . The highest rainfall totals in the panhandle region were concentrated around the Panama City area , where rain totals were estimated to be in excess of 5 in (130 mm) . Property damage in Pensacola was relatively minor , and was limited to awnings , windows , and signboards . In Pensacola Beach , communications were disrupted due to the storm . A 12 ? year old boy in Pensacola died after touching an active electric wire that had fallen during the storm . Total damages in the Pensacola area were estimated to amount to around \$ 100 @, @ 000 .

= = = Mississippi and Alabama = = =

Hurricane warnings were posted by the Weather Bureau for the entire Alabama coast , and portions of the Mississippi coast from Biloxi eastward prior to the storm . Merchants in potentially affected

areas prepared their stores ahead of the hurricane . The potential storm surge threat forced boats in Biloxi to be taken to shelter in a nearby landlocked harbor .

Hurricane force winds were felt in both states when the storm made landfall . Pear and pecan trees were severely damaged by the strong winds caused by the hurricane , while orange trees were defoliated along coastal regions . Winds also extensively damaged cotton and corn crops . Heavy rains also helped to damage crops . Rainfall peaked at 9 @. @ 1 in (230 mm) in Mobile , Alabama . Other reports of at least 3 in (76 mm) of rain were common along the Mississippi ? Alabama border . Sections of the Mobile waterfront were submerged by the hurricane 's storm surge . The high surf also flooded Bayou LaBatre and Bayou Coden in Mobile . Total property damage in the city amounted to \$ 105 @, @ 000 in damages . In Gulfport , Mississippi , damage was confined primarily to trees , communication lines , and small craft . Further inland , the hurricane spawned an F2 tornado 3 mi (4 @. @ 8 km) southwest of Troy , Alabama on September 1 . The tornado destroyed two homes and several barns and injured four people in its 6 mi (9 @. @ 7 km) path , causing \$ 2 @, @ 500 in damages .