

= 1920 Atlantic hurricane season =

The 1920 Atlantic hurricane season featured tropical storms and hurricanes only in the month of September . Although no " hurricane season " was defined at the time , the present @-@ day delineation of such is June 1 to November 30 . The first system , a hurricane , developed on September 7 while the last , a tropical depression , transitioned into an extratropical cyclone on October 27 . Of note , four of the six cyclones co @-@ existed with another tropical cyclone during the season .

Of the season 's six tropical cyclones , five became tropical storms and four strengthened into hurricanes . Furthermore , none of these strengthened into a major hurricane ? Category 3 or higher on the modern @-@ day Saffir ? Simpson hurricane wind scale ? marking the seventh such occurrence since 1900 . The strongest hurricane of the season peaked as only as a strong Category 2 with winds of 110 mph (175 km / h) . The second hurricane caused one death and \$ 1 @.@ 45 million (1920 USD) in damage in Louisiana , the third left one fatality in North Carolina , and the fifth storm indirectly killed one person in Florida .

The season 's activity was reflected with an accumulated cyclone energy (ACE) rating of 30 . ACE is , broadly speaking , a measure of the power of the hurricane multiplied by the length of time it existed , so storms that last a long time , as well as particularly strong hurricanes , have high ACEs . It is only calculated for full advisories on tropical systems at or exceeding 39 mph (63 km / h) , which is tropical storm strength .

= = Storms = =

= = = Hurricane One = = =

The first known storm of the season was initially identified on September 7 as a 40 mph (65 km / h) tropical storm over Atlantic Ocean . Traveling towards the northwest , the storm gradually intensified , attaining hurricane @-@ status late on September 9 . The following day , a ship in the vicinity of the storm recorded a pressure of 985 mbar (hPa) , the lowest pressure recorded in relation to the storm . Around 1200 UTC , the hurricane turned towards the north and intensified into a modern @-@ day Category 2 hurricane on the Saffir @-@ Simpson Hurricane Scale early on September 11 . The storm continued to intensify through September 12 when it reached its peak intensity with winds of 110 mph (175 km / h) . After maintaining this intensity for 18 hours , the hurricane began to weaken as it turned towards the northwest . By 0000 UTC on September 14 , the storm weakened to a Category 1 hurricane . The system began to undergo an extratropical transition , completing the process early the next day . The system tracked nearly due east before dissipating on September 16 to the north of the Azores islands .

= = = Hurricane Two = = =

An area of disturbed weather developed into a tropical depression northwest of Colombia on September 16 . The system remained a weak tropical depression as it made landfall on Nicaragua , but later intensified to tropical storm strength as it moved across the Gulf of Honduras , prior to making a second landfall on the Yucatán Peninsula . Once in the Gulf of Mexico , the storm quickly intensified as it moved towards the north @-@ northwest , reaching its peak intensity as a Category 2 hurricane with winds of 100 mph (160 km / h) prior to making landfall near Houma , Louisiana with no change in intensity . Afterwards , it quickly weakened over land , before dissipating on September 23 over eastern Kansas .

As it approached the United States Gulf Coast , the hurricane forced an estimated 4 @,@ 500 people to evacuate off of Galveston Island , and numerous other evacuations and precautionary measures to occur . At landfall , the hurricane generated strong winds along a wide swath of the coast , uprooting trees and causing damage to homes and other infrastructure . Heavy rainfall

associated with the storm peaked at 11 @. @ 9 in (300 mm) in Robertsedale , Alabama . The heavy rains also washed out railroads , leading to several rail accidents . Across the Gulf Coast , one death was associated with the hurricane and damage from the storm totaled to \$ 1 @. @ 45 million (1920 USD) .

== Hurricane Three ==

A low pressure area developed into a tropical depression on September 19 , while located about 245 mi (395 km) southeast of Awendaw , South Carolina . The system , which had an " extremely small diameter " , moved in a slow cyclonic loop . Around 1200 UTC on September 20 , the depression strengthened into a tropical storm . By midday on September 22 , it continued the cyclonic loop while moving northwestward . The storm intensified into a Category 1 hurricane around that time . Maximum sustained winds peaked at 85 mph (140 km / h) late on September 22 . However , the hurricane then began to weakened and fell to a strong tropical storm early the following day , at which time it made landfall near Cape Fear , North Carolina . The cyclone quickly weakened after moving inland and dissipated over western Virginia early on September 24 .

Offshore Bald Head Island , North Carolina , a lightship was carried several miles from its original location and observed winds of 72 mph (116 km / h) . Inland , a house in Wilmington was blown off its foundation and destroyed in , potentially a small tornado spawned by the cyclone . Many small severe windstorms were reported in Pitt County , where one person was killed , a number of people were injured , and several buildings were demolished .

== Tropical Storm Four ==

A tropical depression developed from a weak low pressure area along a decaying stationary front about 450 mi (720 km) east of Bermuda around 1200 UTC on September 23 . Based on ship observations , the system is estimated to have become a tropical storm early on September 24 . The drifted slowly eastward for a few days and peaked with maximum sustained winds of 45 mph (75 km / h) later that day . Eventually , the system curved east @- @ southeastward , but later continued its generally eastward motion at a faster forward speed . Around 1200 UTC on September 27 , the storm weakened to a tropical depression , hours before being absorbed by a cold front . This storm was not operationally tracked in real time , but was later added to HURDAT based on weather maps and ship reports .

== Hurricane Five ==

A low pressure area centered the Gulf of Mexico on September 25 and was designated as a tropical depression hours later . Turning west @- @ southwestward , the storm gradually intensified , attaining tropical storm @- @ status on September 27 . The next day , the system nearly stalled close to the center of the Gulf of Mexico . On September 28 , further development of the storm took place and ships in the vicinity of the storm reported a strong gale . The next day , the storm strengthened into a hurricane . Several hours later , nearby ship reported a pressure of 987 mbar (29 @. @ 1 inHg) , the lowest pressure associated with the hurricane . Around this time , the storm reached its peak intensity with winds of 85 mph (140 km / h) ; the storm also began to turn northeastward at this time . The hurricane then accelerated and began weakening . Early on September 30 , the storm made landfall near Cedar Key , Florida , with winds up to 65 mph (100 km / h) before transitioning into an extratropical cyclone over Florida . Later that day , the remnants dissipated over the eastern Atlantic Ocean .

Although the storm weakened significantly before landfall , it caused severe damage along the immediate coastlines of western Florida . Low lands along the coast were inundated by storm surge and heavy rains , peaking at 8 in (203 @. @ 2 mm) . Crop lands were flooded , causing substantial damage to the fruit industry . One person was killed after being electrocuted by a downed wire in St. Petersburg . Several ships were also destroyed by the storm while docked along the coast .

== Tropical Depression ==

On October 20 , a westward moving tropical wave developed into a tropical depression about 165 mi (265 km) north @-@ northeast of Barbuda . Trekking northwestward over the next three days , before curving northward in advance of an approaching frontal boundary . The depression peaked with maximum sustained winds of 35 mph (55 km / h) and a minimum barometric pressure of 1 @, @ 010 mbar (30 inHg) . By October 25 , it began merging with a cold front , finally being absorbed on October 27 about 590 mi (950 km) east @-@ northeast of Bermuda .