

= Hurricane lone =

Hurricane lone / a????n / was a strong , Category 4 hurricane that affected North Carolina in September 1955 , bringing high winds and significant rainfall . It came on the heels of Hurricanes Connie and Diane , and compounded problems already caused by the two earlier hurricanes . Spawned by a tropical wave which left the African coast on September 6 , the system became a tropical depression in the tropical North Atlantic , before turning northwest and developing into a hurricane . After turning back to the west east of the Bahamas , lone turned northwest and northward , moving across eastern North Carolina before moving east @-@ northeastward out to sea . lone caused \$ 600 million (2005 USD) in damage , much of it to crops across North Carolina . As a result of lone 's impacts seven people lost their lives .

= Meteorological history =

A tropical wave moved through Cape Verde on September 6 and on September 11 lone developed into a tropical depression . lone remained weak for the next few days , and then began to steadily intensify as it moved north of the Lesser Antilles , reaching hurricane strength on September 15 . Conditions were favorable for additional development , and lone peaked with winds of 140 miles per hour (230 km / h) on September 18 while north of the Bahamas .

Drier and cooler air gradually became entrained in lone 's circulation , and the storm weakened into a Category 2 hurricane at the time of its Wilmington , North Carolina , landfall on September 19 , which made lone the third hurricane to hit the state in six weeks and fourth in 11 months . lone was the first tropical cyclone to be observed on the Cape Hatteras radar during landfall and was one of the first observed to make small @-@ scale oscillations within its track . The storm weakened to a tropical storm over land but restrengthened to a Category 2 hurricane over the northwestern Atlantic . lone continued northeastward and became an extratropical cyclone on September 21 . The extratropical storm crossed over Newfoundland and was last seen on September 24 moving across the North Atlantic .

= Preparations =

Hurricane warnings were in effect from the Virginia Capes to Morehead , North Carolina and a Hurricane alert was issued northward to Atlantic City , New Jersey . Dump trucks loaded with dirt were ready to make earthen dikes around the Riegel paper mill , due to the severe damage caused to it by hurricanes earlier that year which caused the 1955 Delaware River flood . Recent flooding , from Hurricane Diane , along the Delaware River kept residents along its banks alert should the storm strike , business owners were also ready to move their merchandise if the need arose . New York City officials prepared for the worst , with police officers filling gas tanks of their patrol cars and extra patrol men being called to duty in advance of the hurricane . Flights were canceled in New York , firemen stood at the ready in Staten Island , and the Coast Guard warned shipping companies of the impending storm . A boxing match between Rocky Marciano and Archie Moore was delayed , which allowed the promoters to sell an additional \$ 150 @,@ 000 (1955) in tickets , which is \$ 1 @.@ 33 million in present @-@ day figures .

= Impact =

September 18 was a gloomy day in Swan Quarter , North Carolina and winds did not significantly increase until between 2 and 3 p.m. By 9 : 30 p.m. , strong winds buffeted the area from the east @-@ northeast and the electricity went out at around 10 : 50 p.m. Area homes flooded for the first time since Barbara of the 1953 Atlantic hurricane season and the tides increased until 8 : 45 a.m. on September 19 before rapidly rising between 2 : 00 and 2 : 30 p.m. The Lake Causeway was partially washed out towards New Holland . The Diamond Shoals lightship was reported to have broken loose during the hurricane . Tides did not fully recede at Swan Quarter until 3 a.m. on September 20

, with winds finally dying down after 7 a.m. the same day . Cherry Point recorded a maximum sustained wind of 75 miles per hour (121 km / h) , with gusts to 107 miles per hour (172 km / h) . Prolonged easterly winds forced the tide to increase to levels 3 feet (0 @. @ 91 m) to 10 feet (3 @. @ 0 m) above normal , which resulted in one of the largest inundations in North Carolina history . The storm surge from lone was recorded at 3 @. @ 6 feet (1 @. @ 1 m) at Morehead City , North Carolina , while a storm tide of 5 @. @ 3 feet (1 @. @ 6 m) was measured at Wrightsville Beach , North Carolina . It was reported that the storm lasted for nearly two days in North Carolina . HMTS Monarch , which had departed from Newfoundland , was laying telephone cable across the Atlantic ocean when lone crossed its path . The ship weathered the storm , and managed to reach Scotland to complete its mission by September 26 .

lone caused \$ 600 million (2005 USD) in damage , much of it to crops across North Carolina . The rest came from flooding in an area already devastated by Hurricanes Connie and Diane six weeks earlier . Along the Trent River near Trent and the New River near Gum Branch , North Carolina , the river stage reached heights not seen again until Hurricane Floyd of the 1999 Atlantic hurricane season . lone caused seven deaths in North Carolina , a low number attributed to well @-@ executed warnings and effectiveness of relief groups such as the Red Cross .

lone made landfall in Newfoundland , Canada during the evening of September 21 as a tropical storm and as a result cause wind and rain damage . That day the storm became extratropical , yet still had negative effects on Canada . In Carbonear a boy broke his leg after being blown into a car and thousands of dollars in damage , as well as broken polls , uprooted trees , interrupted telephone service , damaged chimneys and power outages were reported in St. John 's , Canada . There were also reports of roof damage and a trailer being torn for its foundation . Three flights were cancelled , schools were closed and the ferry service between Bell Island and Portugal Cove was disrupted . On September 23 there were reports of boats that had been lost and in Harbour Grace and Harbour Main . There was also a report of a garage being flipped with a car still in it . There were also reports of a street and two mines being flooded in Corner Brook and it was reported that there was \$ 2 million damage to the province . There was extensive damage to waterfront property on the southern coast of Newfoundland . On September 24 there were reports of fishermen losing gear , a house being blown off its foundation in Foxtrap , damage to the phone company , a washed out road in Swift Current and damage to the power company . On September 27 it was reported that buoys were destroyed in Harbour Grace , Fortune and Stag Harbour . There was also damage done to a freighter in Conception Bay .

= = Legacy = =

Due to the damage , the name lone was retired and will never be used for an Atlantic hurricane again . This was before the formal lists were created , as a result it was not replaced with any particular name . As a result of this , this is the only time the name lone was used for the Atlantic Basin since hurricane naming began in 1950 . When one of the first tropical cyclone forecast models was developed , lone was chosen as one of the candidates to test out its reliability . The errors associated with lone were significant , as the model did not forecast lone to make landfall in North Carolina , forcing the storm eastward to the south of the state .