

= 1948 Miami hurricane =

The 1948 Miami hurricane (Air Weather Service designation : Fox) caused no fatalities in Florida , despite moving across the Miami area as a hurricane . The ninth tropical storm and fifth hurricane of the 1948 season , the storm developed from a large low pressure area over the northwestern Caribbean Sea on October 3 . The storm intensified into a tropical storm early the next day and a hurricane several hours later . Fox then significantly deepened , peaking with winds of 125 mph (205 km / h) early on October 5 . Around that time , Fox made landfall in eastern Pinar del Río Province of Cuba . Fox crossed the island and emerged into the Straits of Florida . Late on October 5 , the hurricane struck Bahia Honda Key , Florida , with winds of 105 mph (165 km / h) and two hours later , hit Flamingo . Fox emerged into the Atlantic Ocean near Fort Lauderdale early on October 6 . The storm moved northeastward and later curved to the east @-@ northeast . Late on October 7 , Fox made landfall on Bermuda with winds of 105 mph (165 km / h) . Fox weakened over the next several days and later executed a large cyclonic loop . By October 16 , it became extratropical while well east @-@ southeast of Newfoundland .

In Cuba , homes and cattle were swept away by flash flooding . Eleven deaths and about 300 injuries were attributed to the tropical cyclone . Damage in the country reached about \$ 6 million . The storm brought strong winds to Florida , with a sustained wind speed of 122 mph (196 km / h) at Naval Air Station Key West . Heavy rainfall exceeding 9 @.@ 5 in (240 mm) in Miami and three tornadoes also contributed to the damage in South Florida . Throughout the state , 674 homes were severely damaged or destroyed , while 45 other buildings were demolished . Overall , damage in Florida reached \$ 5 @.@ 5 million and there were no deaths , but 36 injuries , none of which were serious . In Bermuda , buildings were unroofed and the sides of some structures were knocked down . Electrical light wires and telephone lines were toppled across the island . Damage totaled over \$ 1 million .

= = Meteorological history = =

A very large but weak and elongated low pressure area first noted over the Intertropical Convergence Zone on October 1 developed into a tropical depression around 12 : 00 UTC on October 3 , while situated about 55 mi (90 km) southeast of the Swan Islands . The storm intensified into a tropical storm early on October 4 and was designated as Tropical Storm Fox by the Air Weather Service in real time , although the name Fox is not included in HURDAT . Several hours later , the storm intensified into a Category 1 hurricane on the Saffir ? Simpson hurricane wind scale . A reconnaissance flight into the hurricane late on October 4 indicated winds near the center estimated at 90 mph (140 km / h) . Early the following day , Fox became a Category 2 hurricane . At 06 : 00 UTC the system peaked as a Category 3 hurricane with maximum sustained winds of 125 mph (205 km / h) . About an hour later , Fox made landfall at the same intensity in eastern Pinar del Río Province of Cuba . Shortly before 12 : 00 UTC on October 5 , the storm emerged into the Straits of Florida . Prior to reanalysis in 2014 , it was thought that Fox briefly strengthened into a Category 4 hurricane with winds of 130 mph (215 km / h) , but reanalysis instead revealed that the storm weakened to 125 mph (205 km / h) because the aforementioned wind speed was a gust rather than a sustained wind .

Fox weakened while moving northeastward and fell to Category 2 hurricane intensity by 18 : 00 UTC , at which time it made landfall on Bahia Honda Key , Florida , with winds of 105 mph (165 km / h) . Continuing northeastward , the hurricane struck near Flamingo about two hours later at the same intensity . While passing near Miami early on October 6 , Fox briefly weakened to a Category 1 hurricane . Shortly thereafter , it emerged into the Atlantic Ocean near Fort Lauderdale and quickly re @-@ strengthened to a Category 2 hurricane . After brushing Grand Bahama island , the storm continued on its northeasterly trajectory into the open sea , until curving east @-@ northward on October 7 . Around 12 : 00 UTC , a ship observed a barometric pressure of 971 mbar (28 @.@ 7 inHg) , the lowest in relation to the cyclone . Ten hours later , Fox made landfall on Bermuda with winds of 105 mph (165 km / h) . The storm fell to Category 1 early on October 8 and to tropical

storm status after about 24 hours . Fox then meandered out in the central Atlantic for several days and executed a large cyclonic loop between October 11 and October 14 . Fox turned northward on October 14 and began to accelerate . After curving northeastward , the storm transitioned into an extratropical cyclone early on October 16 while located about 535 mi (861 km) east @-@ southeast of Cape Race , Newfoundland . The remnants were absorbed by a cold front several hours later .

= = Impact = =

The storm brought strong winds to Cuba , with a wind gust of 132 mph (212 km / h) in Havana . The city suffered considerable damage , forcing police to patrol for looters . Nearly all of the city was left without electricity . In some portions of the neighborhood of Miramar , flooding was reported . Trees were felled onto Paseo del Prado , a famous street in Havana . In other parts of the city , falling trees and rubble also disrupted transportation . There were heavy crop losses in Havana and Pinar Del Rio provinces , where several rivers overflowed their banks . Homes and cattle were swept away by flash flooding . Overall , the hurricane left eleven fatalities , three of them due to houses collapsing on their occupants . Additionally , there were about 300 injuries and an estimated \$ 6 million in damage . After the storm , Cuban President Ramón Grau , President @-@ elect Carlos Prío Socarrás , and Major General Genovevo Pérez Dámera ? Chief of Staff of the Army ? assessed damage in the Havana area and developed plans for recovery .

The Hurricane Warning Service , operated by the United States Weather Bureau and the predecessor to the National Hurricane Center , issued hurricane warnings from Fort Myers to Miami , including the Florida Keys on October 4 . Miami Weather Bureau chief Grady Norton urged residents to take precautions and concentrate on further advisories . On October 5 , the hurricane warning was revised to include Naples to Jupiter . Additionally , other warnings were issued for areas surrounding Lake Okeechobee due to flooding concerns . Four U.S. Navy wartime housing project areas in Key West were evacuated . About 100 Seminoles fled the Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation , with 95 % of the property still inundated from the September hurricane . Two 25 @-@ car trains evacuated about 5 @,@ 000 people in the Lake Okeechobee area in Lake Harbor and transported them to Sebring . Many residents throughout South Florida boarded @-@ up their windows and sandbagged their properties . The American Red Cross opened 143 shelters , which 21 @,@ 663 people sought refuge in .

The hurricane , reminiscent of Hurricane Floyd in 1987 , produced minimal damage in the Florida Keys . Strong winds were reported at some islands , with winds well over 100 mph (160 km / h) observed on Bahia Honda Key . At the Naval Air Station Key West on Boca Chica Key , several buildings were deroofed . The cyclone produced a storm surge of 4 @.@ 5 ft (1 @.@ 4 m) on Biscayne Bay . Rainfall exceeded 9 @.@ 5 in (241 @.@ 30 mm) at the Miami airport station , inundating many streets in the city and in Hialeah , Homestead , Miami Beach , Miami Springs . In Hialeah , the city mayor reported water depths of 3 @.@ 5 ft (1 @.@ 1 m) in the streets . A Miami bridge , located near the Miami River , was damaged by a loose barge during the hurricane . Planes were overturned and damaged by strong winds at the Tamiami Airport . Electrical outages occurred in Miami as power lines snapped due to the wind . In Miami Beach , a fire that broke out during the storm severely damaged a meat market and destroyed a photo shop . Prior to landfall , the hurricane produced three tornadoes , all of which attained the equivalence of F2 intensity on the modern Fujita scale . A tornado destroyed three homes in the city of Opa @-@ locka , where damage reached \$ 15 @,@ 000 . The tornado flipped cars and inflicted extensive damage at the Royal Palm dairy farm .

Another tornado touched down just south of Pompano Beach demolished 25 homes and left \$ 100 @,@ 000 in damage and seven injuries . Forty @-@ four minutes later , a third tornado struck homes west of Fort Lauderdale . One building , containing two stories , lost its roof , while five homes incurred damage . Barns were damaged or destroyed . Losses reached \$ 15 @,@ 000 . West Palm Beach observed wind gusts up to 62 mph (100 km / h) . The hurricane caused no fatalities across the state , which the Weather Bureau considered unusual due to the storm 's path

over the densely populated Miami metropolitan area . The passage of hurricane in September , which had resulted in pre @-@ existing damage , mitigated the destruction from the October hurricane . Overall , 36 homes were destroyed and 638 others suffered serious impact , while 45 buildings were demolished and 50 others experienced damage . Total losses in Florida reached \$ 5 @.@ 5 million , which included \$ 3 @.@ 5 million to property , \$ 1 @.@ 5 million to crops , \$ 400 @,@ 000 to electricity and communications , and \$ 100 @,@ 000 to roads .

In the Bahamas , wind gusts reached 110 mph (170 km / h) on Grand Bahama . Bermuda was also impacted by the hurricane , with strong winds blowing roofs off buildings , including a portion of the roof on the House of Assembly of Bermuda , and the sides of some structures were knocked down . Electrical light wires and telephone lines were down across the island . Kindley Air Force Base and the U.S. Naval Base received minimal damage . Damages exceeded \$ 1 million .