

= 1920 Louisiana hurricane =

The 1920 Louisiana hurricane was a strong tropical cyclone that caused significant damage in parts of Louisiana in September 1920 . The second tropical storm and hurricane of the annual hurricane season , it formed from an area of disturbed weather on September 16 , 1920 , northwest of Colombia . 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 , damage from the storm totaled to \$ 1 @. @ 45 million , and one death was associated with the hurricane .

= = Meteorological history = =

In mid @-@ September , a trough moved across the central Caribbean Sea and into the vicinity of the Colombian islands . Becoming more organized , it developed a closed circulation on September 16 , and as such was classified as a tropical depression at 0600 UTC that day . For much of its early existence the depression remained weak , with winds remaining at 35 mph (55 km / h) and a minimum barometric pressure below 1 @, @ 005 mbar (29 @. @ 7 inHg) . The weak disturbance later made landfall at that intensity on the Mosquito Coast near the border of Honduras and Nicaragua by 0600 UTC on September 18 . The small system gained intensity as it moved over Honduras , attaining tropical storm strength on September 19 prior to entering the Gulf of Honduras near Trujillo , Colón . In the Gulf of Honduras , the tropical storm slightly intensified to maximum sustained winds of 50 mph (80 km / h) on September 20 , and later made landfall on the Yucatán Peninsula as it accelerated towards the north @-@ northwest . Despite initially being reported to have maintained intensity across the peninsula , a reanalysis of the storm determined that it had weakened to minimal tropical storm strength , before entering the Gulf of Mexico late on September 20 .

The weakened tropical storm began to intensify once in the Gulf of Mexico . On September 20 at 0600 UTC , the storm reached hurricane intensity as a modern day Category 1 hurricane . Continuing to intensify in the Gulf , the hurricane attained Category 2 hurricane intensity at 0000 UTC on September 22 , and subsequently reached its peak intensity with winds of 100 mph (160 km / h) and an estimated minimum pressure of 975 mbar (28 @. @ 8 inHg) . The hurricane later made landfall at peak intensity near Houma , Louisiana at 0100 UTC later that day . Maximum winds spanned 32 mi (51 km) from the center at landfall . Ships offshore the Louisiana coast also reported an eye associated with the hurricane . Once over land , the system began to quickly weaken , degenerating to tropical storm strength by 0600 UTC the same day , while located near Iberville Parish . Continuing to accelerate towards the north @-@ northwest , it is estimated that the tropical cyclone dissipated on September 23 over Kansas , based on observations from nearby weather stations .

= = Preparations and impact = =

Hurricane warnings were initially issued for areas of the Gulf Coast between Morgan City , Louisiana and Corpus Christi , Texas , but were later moved eastward to coastal regions between

Pensacola , Florida and New Orleans as the hurricane progressed closer to the coast . Additional marine warnings were also issued for offshore regions that could be potentially affected by the hurricane , and boats were evacuated into Gulf Coast ports . Onshore , freight trains on Galveston Island were moved to the mainland in preparation for the storm . Interurban railways also evacuated people out of the island , with an estimated 4 @, @ 500 people being evacuated . The United States Coast Guard were ordered to be ready for immediate service in the event of an emergency , while the US National Guard on strike duty in Galveston 's Camp Hutchings were transferred to a barracks in Fort Crockett . Oil companies abandoned operations in coastal oil fields in advance of the hurricane . People along Lake Ponchartrain evacuated into New Orleans , causing hotels to overflow and forcing refugees to take shelter in other public buildings including post offices .

Strong winds and gusts were reported across the Gulf Coast and in the Gulf of Mexico . A ship reported a minimum central barometric pressure of 999 mbar (29 @. @ 5 inHg) just prior to the storm 's intensification into a hurricane . Grand Isle , Louisiana reported sustained winds of 90 mph (145 km / h) , and winds of at least 60 mph (95 km / h) were reported as far east as Bay St. Louis , Mississippi . As a result , numerous trees were uprooted and power lines were downed . One death occurred New Orleans after being electrocuted by an electric wire that had been downed by the hurricane 's strong winds . The downed power lines also caused a lack of communication from areas affected , hampering relief efforts . In New Orleans , at least 2 @, @ 500 telephones were without service , and homes were unroofed by the strong winds . Along the coast and further inland , rainfall was concentrated primarily on the eastern half of the cyclone , with most rain occurring from September 21 to the 23rd . In Robertsedale , Alabama , 11 @. @ 9 in (300 mm) of rain was recorded , the most associated with the hurricane . A 24 ? hour September rainfall record was set when 1 @. @ 60 in (41 mm) of rain was measured in Kelly , Louisiana . However , due to the system 's rapid dissipation over land , rainfall amounts remained generally less than 2 in (51 mm) in interior regions of Louisiana . In Texas , rainfall peaked at 1 @. @ 20 in (30 mm) in Beaumont . The heavy rains caused washouts and damage to railroads across Louisiana . A train running from Louisville , Kentucky to Nashville , Tennessee was left stranded after being washed out near Chef Menteur Pass , and other rail operations were stopped between New Orleans and Mobile , Alabama . Tides of 5 ? 6 ft (1 @. @ 5 ? 1 @. @ 8 m) above average were reported in Lake Borgne and Mississippi Sound as the hurricane moved over the coast , while tides of 5 @. @ 4 ft (1 @. @ 6 m) above average were reported in Biloxi , Mississippi . The strong storm surge caused considerable damage to Grand Isle and Manilla Village , Louisiana . Due to the hurricane 's landfall near low tide , however , major storm surge impacts were mitigated . Overall infrastructural damage caused by the hurricane totaled to \$ 750 @, @ 000 , while crop related damage , particularly to rice and sugar cane , totaled to \$ 700 @, @ 000 .