

= Hurricane Bob (1985) =

Hurricane Bob was a hurricane that affected the southeast United States in July 1985 . The second tropical storm and first hurricane of the 1985 Atlantic hurricane season , the system developed from a tropical wave on July 21 in the eastern Gulf of Mexico . Bob began moving east , striking southwestern Florida as a weak tropical storm . The storm then turned to the north and quickly intensified to hurricane status on July 24 . The next day , it made landfall near Beaufort , South Carolina , becoming one of a record @-@ tying six hurricanes to hit the United States during a single season . Bob quickly weakened over land , and was absorbed by a frontal trough over eastern West Virginia on July 26 .

Bob caused \$ 20 million in damage as well as five indirect deaths . In Florida , the storm produced heavy rainfall , peaking at over 20 inches (508 mm) in Everglades City . In most areas , the rainfall was beneficial due to dry conditions that had persisted throughout the year . Damage was minimal in South Carolina , where the hurricane made its final landfall . In Virginia , the storm spawned three tornadoes , one of which destroyed two houses .

= = Meteorological history = =

The remnants of a tropical wave entered the eastern Gulf of Mexico on July 20 . An area of low pressure formed and developed into a tropical depression on July 21 . Under weak steering currents , the tropical depression drifted southeast , then turned northeast and later east . Based on reports from Hurricane Hunters , the system intensified into Tropical Storm Bob late on July 22 . Bob failed to organize significantly as it tracked east through the Gulf , and made landfall between Naples and Fort Myers , Florida on July 23 as a 45 mph (70 km / h) tropical storm . At the time , most of the convection was concentrated south and east of the center .

While moving across Florida , Bob turned to the northeast , then to the north . It subsequently left the peninsula , entering the Atlantic Ocean near Vero Beach early on July 24 . As it moved over the warm waters of the Gulf Stream , it quickly organized and intensified into a Category 1 hurricane while 70 mi (115 km) east of Jacksonville , Florida . Because it was embedded within the western extension of the subtropical ridge , Bob retained higher @-@ than @-@ average atmospheric pressures throughout its lifespan . The hurricane continued north , and made landfall near Beaufort , South Carolina early on July 25 while maintaining winds of 75 mph (120 km / h) . Bob quickly weakened over land , decaying into a tropical storm three hours after landfall . About 12 hours later , it degenerated into a tropical depression near the North Carolina ? Virginia border . Bob 's remnants turned north @-@ northeast , and were absorbed by a frontal trough over eastern West Virginia on July 26 . An associated area of disturbed weather remained separate from the trough , and continued northeast through the Mid @-@ Atlantic and New England .

= = Preparations = =

When Bob was designated a tropical storm , the National Hurricane Center issued gale warnings for the Florida Keys west of Craig Key , and from Flamingo to Venice . Gale warnings were later posted for the Atlantic coast of Florida northward through St. Augustine . Small craft south of St. Augustine were advised to remain in port . While the storm was situated off the east @-@ central coast of Florida , the National Hurricane Center issued a gale warning and a hurricane watch from Savannah , Georgia to Little River , South Carolina . The hurricane watch was upgraded to a hurricane warning after Bob 's intensification to Category 1 status .

Thousands of residents evacuated coastal areas of South Carolina , many of whom stayed at inland hotels ; 850 people sought protection in shelters , including 500 at an elementary school in Horry County and 240 in a shelter in the Grand Strand . In Beaufort County , city and county offices were closed early and businesses were advised to send their workers home prematurely . Officials in Chatham County , Georgia evacuated nursing homes on Tybee Island , and encouraged others to leave due to the potential for high tides to isolate the island by cutting off U.S. Route 80 .

= = Impact = =

Hurricane Bob inflicted \$ 20 million in damages and caused five indirect deaths . Damage from the storm was not severe enough to justify retirement of the name " Bob " , and as such it was re @-@ used during the 1991 season .

= = = Florida = = =

In southern Florida , the heaviest rainfall remained to the south and east of the storm 's center ; 21 @.@ 5 inches (546 mm) of precipitation was recorded in Everglades City . Northern parts of the state reported trace amounts to several inches of precipitation . At Naples , sustained winds reached 40 mph (65 km / h) , with a peak gust of 58 mph (93 km / h) . Rough surf and above @-@ average tides caused moderate to severe beach erosion in portions of coastal Manatee , Sarasota , and Charlotte counties . Before landfall , Tropical Storm Bob spawned an F0 tornado in Brevard County that caused \$ 2 @,@ 500 in damage (1985 USD , \$ 4 @,@ 700 2006 USD) along its 1 @-@ mile (1 @.@ 6 km) path .

Tropical Storm Bob flooded roads and downed trees in Florida . Rough seas broke over sea walls in southwestern parts of the state , and the combination of high tides and heavy rain caused forced the closure of causeways to Sanibel Island and Marco Island , leaving the islands temporarily isolated . They were re @-@ opened when the waters receded , though the causeway to Sanibel Island sustained some damage . Florida Power & Light Co. reported that 1 @,@ 200 to 1 @,@ 500 residences were without power on July 23 . In Palm Beach County , rainfall from the storm caused agricultural damage .

Overall damage was minimal and primarily confined to minor property near the coast . The storm 's rainfall was beneficial in areas that had suffered dry conditions . In northeastern Florida and Georgia , beach erosion occurred along the coast . Bob was one of four July tropical cyclones to affect Palm Beach County since 1878 .

= = = Carolinas = = =

The strongest winds from Hurricane Bob were confined to areas east of its center when it came ashore around 1 am Eastern Standard Time (EST) . Along the barrier islands off the coast of Charleston , windows were broken and power lines knocked down . Further inland , the lack of damage in spite of high winds was described as " almost unbelievable " . Georgetown , South Carolina , 105 miles (170 km) northeast of where the storm made landfall , recorded sustained winds of 58 mph (93 km / h) , and a spiral rainband produced a peak wind gust of 83 mph (134 km / h) in Holden Beach . Upon moving ashore , the hurricane produced an estimated storm tide of 2 @.@ 6 feet (0 @.@ 79 m) in Edisto Beach . Rainfall in the Carolinas was moderate ; portions of coastal South Carolina received over 5 inches (127 mm) of precipitation . Myrtle Beach reported a statewide peak of 7 @.@ 79 inches (198 mm) . Hurricane @-@ force wind gusts downed trees and power lines , leaving over 32 @,@ 000 people without power , including more than 25 @,@ 000 in the Charleston area . Near the coast , high winds shattered windows .

Strong waves broke over sea walls in Charleston , spilling floodwaters onto coastal streets and homes . Damage in the state was relatively light , and no serious injuries were reported . However , a gas station in Folly Beach was torn apart by the winds , and some structures along the coast sustained roof damage . In the Charleston Harbor , an empty tanker was forced aground on a sandbar by the winds . Throughout most areas , the storm was insignificant ; a police sergeant in Summerville commented , " All we 've had were some trees blown over , hardly enough to make it worth staying up so late . "

Much of North Carolina received over 1 inch (25 @.@ 4 mm) of rain ; as much as 7 inches (178 mm) fell in Beaufort County . The storm caused one traffic @-@ related fatality in the state .

= = = Mid @-@ Atlantic and New England = = =

In Virginia , a large band of thunderstorms associated with the hurricane brought strong winds and spawned three tornadoes . A funnel cloud formed in Albemarle County evolved into an F3 tornado after crossing into Greene County . It destroyed two houses and uprooted several trees , inflicting \$ 250 @,@ 000 in damage (1985 USD , \$ 470 @,@ 000 2006 USD) . F0 tornadoes were also generated in Goochland County and Hanover County ; the two tornadoes damaged a total of ten houses . Funnel clouds were sighted throughout the Baltimore @-@ Washington Metropolitan Area .

Heavy precipitation and high winds disrupted the 1985 Boy Scouts of America National Scout Jamboree at Fort A. P. Hill near Fredericksburg , Virginia , knocking over hundreds of tents and fifty portable toilets . One scout was struck by a falling gateway and several others sustained minor cuts and bruises . The storm produced winds of 48 mph (77 km / h) at the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport , and about 30 @,@ 000 people near Washington , D.C. and 125 @,@ 000 in Baltimore were left without power . Moderate winds downed a sea plane near Hains Point in the Washington Channel . Rough seas capsized a few boats along the Potomac River , and rainfall from Bob 's remnants forced the cancellation of a Richmond Braves game. and collapsed a house under construction in Great Falls , Maryland . A dam in Northeastern Virginia sustained storm @-@ related damage . Slick roads led to several traffic accidents ; one person in Washington , D.C. and three in Maryland were killed . High winds in the Washington , DC area also flipped over a pontoon @-@ equipped Cessna 210 airplane near Hains Point , holding a five @-@ man television crew . The crew , who worked for the television series Lime Street had been preparing to film a chase scene for the television drama . All five escaped the plane safely with the aid of the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia harbor patrol .

Rainfall in the Mid @-@ Atlantic and New England states was around 1 inch (25 @.@ 4 mm) , with isolated reports of over 3 inches (76 mm) . About 0 @.@ 5 inches (13 mm) of precipitation fell in Atlantic City , New Jersey within a period of 10 minutes . In Maryland , the rainfall helped to relieve persistent dry conditions .