

= 1951 Atlantic hurricane season =

The 1951 Atlantic hurricane season was the first hurricane season in which tropical cyclones were officially named by the United States Weather Bureau . The season officially started on June 15 , when the United States Weather Bureau began its daily monitoring for tropical cyclone activity ; the season officially ended on November 15 . It was the first year since 1937 in which no hurricanes made landfall on the United States ; as Hurricane How was the only tropical storm to hit the nation , the season had the least tropical cyclone damage in the United States since the 1939 season . As in the 1950 season , names from the Joint Army / Navy Phonetic Alphabet were used to name storms this season .

The first hurricane of the season , Able , formed prior to the official start of the season ; before reanalysis in 2015 , it was once listed as the earliest major hurricane on record in the Atlantic basin . It formed on May 16 and executed a counterclockwise loop over the Bahamas ; later it brushed the North Carolina coastline . Hurricane Charlie was a powerful Category 4 hurricane that struck Jamaica as a major hurricane , killing hundreds and becoming the worst disaster in over 50 years . The hurricane later struck Mexico twice as a major hurricane , producing deadly flooding outside of Tampico , Tamaulipas . The strongest hurricane , Easy , spent its duration over the open Atlantic Ocean , briefly threatening Bermuda , and was formerly listed as one of a relatively few Category 5 hurricanes on record over the Atlantic Ocean . It briefly neared Category 5 status and interacted with Hurricane Fox , marking the first known instance of a hurricane affecting another 's path .

= = Storms = =

= = = Tropical Storm One = = =

As the calendar entered the new year , cyclogenesis occurred with a non @-@ tropical frontal wave over the western North Atlantic Ocean due to a closed low forming in a mid @-@ level trough , which eventually produced a low @-@ pressure center at the surface by January 2 . Ships recorded moderate gales up to 60 miles per hour (97 km / h) in connection with the new surface low , which formed several hundred miles east @-@ southeast of Bermuda . While initially lacking tropical attributes , the cyclone headed southeast for two days before curving southwestward . As it did so , the temperature of the system warmed in its lower levels , causing the cyclone to evolve into a more barotropic system . Late on January 4 , the system shrunk in size and began developing an inner core ; reanalysis determined that the system became a tropical storm at this time , though it would have likely been considered subtropical beginning in the early 1970s .

= = = Hurricane Able = = =

The origins of the first hurricane of the season were from a trough that exited the East Coast of the United States on May 12 . A low @-@ pressure area developed on May 14 , and two days later it developed into a tropical cyclone about 300 miles (480 km) south of Bermuda . It formed beneath an upper @-@ level low , and initially was not fully tropical . The depression followed the low , initially toward the northwest and later the southwest . Moving over the Gulf Stream , the depression intensified into Tropical Storm Able on May 16 . The storm turned to the south , and Hurricane Hunters reported that Able strengthened to hurricane status on May 17 off the coast of Florida .

The outer rainbands of Able produced light rainfall and high seas along the Florida coastline . It later moved through the northern Bahamas early on May 18 , where it produced hurricane @-@ force winds of 85 mph (137 km / h) . The hurricane later turned to the north , gradually strengthening through May 21 . Shortly thereafter , Able passed about 70 miles (110 km) east of Cape Hatteras before turning east and reaching its peak of 90 mph (145 km / h) early on May 22 . Along the coast , the hurricane produced high tides but little damage . Able maintained hurricane intensity for two more days before weakening to a tropical storm early on May 24 . Able rapidly

dissipated that same day , though originally it was assessed as having transitioned into an extratropical cyclone on May 23 .

Until 2015 , Able was listed as having peak winds of 115 mph (185 km / h) and was analyzed to have been the earliest major hurricane on record . Such a storm would be a Category 3 or greater on the Saffir @-@ Simpson Hurricane Scale , a system developed and introduced in the 1970s . Able was also the strongest hurricane outside of the current hurricane season (June 1 through November 30) . However , reanalysis by scientists in 2015 determined that Able was in fact far weaker than originally listed in HURDAT , the official database containing information on storm tracks and intensities in the Atlantic and Eastern North Pacific regions . It also lost its distinction as the strongest preseason cyclone on record , the record being held by a Category 2 hurricane in March 1908 . The hurricane was one of four North Atlantic hurricanes on record to exist during the month of May , the others occurring in 1889 , 1908 , and 1970 .

= = = Tropical Storm Baker = = =

On August 2 , an easterly wave spawned a tropical depression about 680 miles (1095 km) northeast of Barbuda in the Lesser Antilles . It moved northwestward , quickly strengthening into Tropical Storm Baker . Early on August 3 , the storm attained peak winds of 60 mph (97 km / h) , and the next day passed about 275 mi (443 km) east of Bermuda . At its peak intensity , the gale force winds extended 100 miles (160 km) to the north of the center . After attaining its peak , Baker quickly weakened on August 4 and turned to the northeast . Early the next day , it regained some of its former strength , peaking again at 50 mph (80 km / h) before losing its identity . It never affected land .

= = = Hurricane Charlie = = =

The third tropical cyclone of the season developed on August 12 from a tropical wave , 930 miles (1 @, @ 495 km) east @-@ southeast of Barbados . After a few days without further development , the system intensified into Tropical Storm Charlie on August 14 , and subsequently crossed through the Lesser Antilles a day later with winds of 70 mph (113 km / h) . Shortly after entering the Caribbean Sea , the storm intensified to hurricane status early on August 16 . Passing south of Puerto Rico and Hispaniola , Charlie then underwent rapid deepening beginning late that day , its winds increasing 35 mph (56 km / h) in 24 hours . As it neared the island of Jamaica early on August 18 , Charlie became a major hurricane and shortly afterward struck just south of Kingston with winds of 125 mph (201 km / h) ? equivalent to a strong Category 3 hurricane on the Saffir @-@ Simpson hurricane wind scale , making Charlie , along with Hurricane Gilbert in 1988 , the strongest ever to hit the island . On the island , the hurricane dropped heavy rainfall up to 17 in (430 mm) . The combination of strong winds and the rains left around \$ 50 million (1951 USD , \$ 380 million 2005 USD) in crop and property damage . Across the country there were 152 deaths , 2 @, @ 000 injuries , and 25 @, @ 000 people left homeless ; as a result , it was considered the worst disaster in the country in the 20th century until Hurricane Gilbert produced even costlier damage , though with fewer reported fatalities .

After making landfall , Charlie weakened in its passage over the mountainous center of Jamaica , and by the time it left the island , its winds had diminished to 85 mph (137 km / h) . Charlie later passed south of the Cayman Islands , with Grand Cayman reporting peak wind gusts of 92 mph (148 km / h) . As it did so , the storm began to undergo yet another period of rapid intensification beginning on August 19 . It re @-@ attained major hurricane status late that day , and early on August 20 Charlie peaked at 130 mph (209 km / h) , equivalent to low @-@ end Category 4 status . Maintaining its strength , the hurricane then made landfall on the southern tip of Cozumel and hit the Mexican mainland near Akumal on the Yucatán Peninsula . The strong winds destroyed 70 % of the crops along its path , although no deaths were reported in the Yucatán Peninsula . Several homes were wrecked in the region . As it moved inland , Charlie weakened rapidly over land , reaching the Bay of Campeche as a minimal hurricane early on August 21 . Once over water , it

failed to re-intensify for a full day , but began doing so early on August 22 . As it did so , it rapidly re-intensified for a third and final time , reaching peak winds of 115 mph (185 km / h) before striking near the city of Miramar , just north of Tampico .. It dissipated on August 23 . The hurricane dropped heavy rainfall in the region , flooding rivers and causing dams to burst . Hundreds of people were killed in the Mexican mainland , and across Charlie 's entire path , damage was estimated at over \$ 75 million (1951 USD , \$ 684 million 2016 USD) . The outer fringes of the storm increased surf along the Texas coast .

== Hurricane Dog ==

A tropical wave spawned a tropical depression on August 27 southwest of Cape Verde . It moved westward , eventually intensifying into a tropical storm early on August 31 . The next day , the storm was first observed by Hurricane Hunters , several hundred miles east of Barbados , and it was named " Dog " . By that time , its winds were around 60 mph (97 km / h) , and the storm continued intensifying as it approached the Lesser Antilles . On September 2 , Dog attained hurricane status , reaching its peak of 90 mph (145 km / h) as it passed between the islands of Saint Lucia and Martinique . The storm , then quite small in diameter , produced strong wind gusts of up to 115 mph (185 km / h) at the airport in Fort-de-France on Martinique . However , this peak was short-lived , for upon entering the eastern Caribbean Sea Dog began a slow but steady weakening trend . On September 4 , Dog weakened to tropical storm status to the south of Hispaniola , and the next day dissipated in the western Caribbean .

In northern Saint Lucia , the combination of flooding and high winds destroyed 70 % of the banana crop . Two sailing vessels were destroyed , and another one damaged . Across the island , Hurricane Dog killed two people from drownings . Damage was heavier on Martinique , located on the north side of the storm . The hurricane 's winds destroyed 1 ,000 homes and the roofs of several others . Downed trees blocked roads and disrupted power lines . The winds also destroyed 90 % of the banana crop and 30 % of the sugar cane . Throughout Martinique , Dog left \$ 3 million in damage (1951 USD , \$ 27 .4 million 2016 USD) and killed five people from drownings . It was considered the " most violent storm " in Martinique in 20 years . Initially the hurricane was expected to strike Jamaica , prompting hurricane warnings for the country , as well as along the southern coast of Hispaniola . Jamaica was earlier struck by Hurricane Charlie a few weeks prior , and the threat from Dog prompted coastal evacuations and the closure of an airport . Ultimately , Dog dissipated and produced only light rainfall on the island .

== Hurricane Easy ==

Hurricane Easy , the strongest tropical cyclone of the season , was a powerful and long-lived Cape Verde-type hurricane that originated as a tropical depression on September 1 between the Lesser Antilles and Cape Verde . Moving generally west-northwestward , the depression deepened into a tropical storm late that day , and further to hurricane status by September 3 . On September 5 , the cyclone reached its first peak of 110 mph (177 km / h) , but failed to continue strengthening . Its winds fluctuated through the early morning on September 6 , but then resumed strengthening , reaching major hurricane status by that evening . During this period , Hurricane Hunters flew into the hurricane to monitor its progress , recording a minimum pressure of 957 millibars (28 .26 inHg) on September 6 to the north of the Lesser Antilles . The next day , as the storm continued strengthening , an aircraft was unable to penetrate the center , estimating winds of 160 mph (257 km / h) south of the eye . On this basis , Easy was once classified as a Category 5 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale ; early estimates of the winds by reconnaissance aircraft were often based on visual cues , such as the state of the sea surface , and were thus subjective and often unreliable . Subsequent reanalysis in 2015 lowered its peak winds to 150 mph (240 km / h) on September 8 . This was based on the Hurricane Hunters reporting a pressure of 937 mb (27 .67 inHg) on the previous day , and a ship reporting winds of 140 mph (220 km / h) . By the time Easy attained peak intensity , it had turned to the north and northeast while beginning a

steady weakening trend . It interacted with the small Hurricane Fox to the east ; this was the first observed instance of a hurricane affecting another 's path . Easy then turned to the northeast , passing a short distance southeast of Bermuda on September 9 with winds of 110 mph (177 km / h) . Easy transitioned into an extratropical cyclone late on September 11 , while still maintaining hurricane @-@ force winds . The remnants lost their hurricane @-@ force winds on September 12 , only to briefly regain them two days later . On September 14 , Easy lost its identity over the northern Atlantic Ocean after it was absorbed by another extratropical storm to the north .

The Weather Bureau advised the island to take precautionary measures in advance of the storm ; tourists and residents " worked feverishly " to complete preparations , and the United States Air Force issued " a formal warning at noon . " Numerous hotels and homes were shuttered . Heavy traffic snarled evacuations , and 100 tourists were stranded on the island without " roundtrip reservations . " Air Force aircraft returned to the United States , and personnel secured various facilities at the island 's base . On Bermuda , the hurricane produced winds of only 50 mph (80 km / h) , which downed a few banana trees . In addition to affecting Bermuda , the strong winds of the hurricane damaged a few ships along its path .

= = = Hurricane Fox = = =

Around the same time as Easy was forming , a new tropical depression developed in the far eastern Atlantic Ocean . Moving generally westward , it passed south of the Cape Verde islands , quickly strengthening into Tropical Storm Fox early on September 3 ; by that time , its motion turned to the west @-@ northwest . On September 5 , Fox attained hurricane status , around the same time as it was first observed by ships . Two days later , Hurricane Hunters reported peak winds of 115 mph (185 km / h) , making it a major hurricane , albeit one of very small extent . Around that time , Fox interacted with Hurricane Easy to its northwest . After maintaining peak winds for 12 hours , Fox began a steady weakening trend , accelerating to the north and northeast ahead of Easy and passing to the east of Bermuda . On September 10 , Fox , while still of hurricane force , became extratropical between the Azores and Greenland in the far north Atlantic . It turned toward the north and dissipated on September 11 off the southwest coast of Iceland . Although a few ships were affected by the hurricane 's winds , there were no reports of any damage .

= = = Tropical Storm George = = =

Tropical Storm George developed in the Bay of Campeche on September 19 . Moving west @-@ northwestward , it quickly attained peak winds of 60 mph (97 km / h) late on the next day , as reported by the Hurricane Hunters . George later made landfall on September 21 in Mexico about 55 mi (90 km) south of Tampico as a moderate tropical storm . Before it moved ashore , the storm spread rainfall along the coast and increased waves , causing one drowning death . George quickly dissipated upon making landfall , and there were no reports of damage .

= = = Hurricane How = = =

An easterly wave spawned a tropical depression in the western Caribbean Sea on September 29 . It moved north @-@ northwestward for a few days before turning eastward in the central Gulf of Mexico . Based on Hurricane Hunter reports , the depression intensified into Tropical Storm How late on September 30 , and it continued to strengthen as it approached Southwest Florida . On October 2 , How attained its first peak of 65 mph (105 km / h) just before making landfall near Boca Grande , and within the day it crossed southern Florida . At the time , the storm was not well organized , and its strongest winds were confined to squalls in the Florida Keys and the southeast coast . Wind damage was minor , although heavy rainfall was reported , peaking at 15 @.@ 7 inches (40 cm) near where it moved ashore . The precipitation caused significant street flooding , while about 7 @,@ 000 acres (28 km²) of tomato and bean fields were deluged .

The storm emerged into the Atlantic Ocean between Fort Pierce and Vero Beach , quickly

intensifying to hurricane strength by October 3 . Turning northeastward , How reached its second and strongest peak of 100 mph (161 km / h) on October 4 as it passed near the Outer Banks of North Carolina . Along the coast , the hurricane produced high tides and minor damage . Subsequently the hurricane briefly weakened , only to recover its peak of 100 mph (161 km / h) on October 5 . It passed southeast of Cape Cod before turning more to the east @-@ northeast , causing road closures due to high tides . Offshore , the hurricane sank a ship , killing 17 people . While still of hurricane force , How became an extratropical storm on October 6 , and a few days later it curved to the northeast . The extratropical cyclone later struck Iceland near Hvalsövellur with winds of 75 mph (121 km / h) on October 9 . A couple of days later , the remnants of How dissipated in the far northern Atlantic . Overall , Hurricane How caused about \$ 2 million (1951 USD , \$ 18 @. @ 2 million 2016 USD) in damage .

== Tropical Storm Item ==

A tropical depression formed southwest of Jamaica on October 12 . A small system , it moved northwestward and intensified into Tropical Storm Item on October 13 . It turned toward the north , and the next day attained peak winds of 65 mph (105 km / h) after moving through the Cayman Islands . Concurrently , the Hurricane Hunters observed peak winds of 80 mph (129 km / h) , and on this basis , Item was operationally upgraded to a minimal hurricane . Although it retained this status in HURDAT for years , subsequent reanalysis in 2015 found the reconnaissance estimates to have been too high . Item maintained its peak for more than a day before weakening . It lost tropical storm status on October 16 as it drifted to the northwest . Continuing a slow weakening trend , it passed just east of the Isla de la Juventud before striking western Cuba as a tropical depression on October 17 . Later that day it dissipated in the southeastern Gulf of Mexico .

The threat of the hurricane prompted precautions to be made in portions of Cuba . Additionally , storm warnings were posted in the Florida Keys , southern mainland Florida , as well as the Bahamas . However , no damage was reported .

== Hurricane Jig ==

One of the last tropical cyclones of the season formed on October 15 just northeast of the Bahamas . Although listed as a tropical storm , it would have likely been classified as a subtropical cyclone beginning in the 1970s , but was unable to be classified as such given the lack of satellite imagery to prove its status . Given the name " Jig " , it moved northeastward , quickly attaining hurricane status with winds of 75 mph (121 km / h) , which it maintained for a full day . On October 16 , Jig began a slow weakening trend , weakening below hurricane force and turning sharply northeastward . During this time , the storm made its closest approach to the southeastern United States while passing well southeast of Cape Hatteras . While offshore , the storm increased surf along the North Carolina and Virginia coastlines , prompting storm warnings . Early October 18 , Jig became extratropical with winds of 70 mph (113 km / h) and began a counterclockwise loop over the western Atlantic . The next day it turned to the southeast before dissipating about 230 mi (370 km) south of Bermuda on October 20 .

== Hurricane Twelve ==

In early December , a cold front passed north of Bermuda . A disturbance along the front began rotating on December 2 , developing into a small but powerful extratropical storm on the next day . By late on December 3 , the storm attained hurricane @-@ force winds , and it increasingly became the dominant system within the broad frontal region . A ridge to the east turned this storm to the southwest . The winds diminished below hurricane @-@ intensity on December 5 , and concurrently the inner structure became more tropical as the frontal features dissipated . During this time , ships in the region reported strong winds , mostly to the north . Increasing water temperatures fueled atmospheric instability , likely causing an increase in convection , and the system was potentially a

subtropical cyclone on December 6 , while located about 1 @, @ 015 mi (1 @, @ 635 km) east @- @ northeast of Bermuda . A nearby ship recorded a minimum pressure of 987 mbar (29 @. @ 1 inHg) around that time . After the storm turned to the southeast , a ship in the region reported winds of 75 mph (120 km / h) near the center and a pressure of 995 mbar (29 @. @ 4 inHg) , while a weather station indicated that the system had a warm core . The data suggested that the system became a fully tropical hurricane by 12 : 00 UTC on December 7 , and that it likely had transitioned into a tropical storm six hours earlier . By 18 : 00 UTC that night , the hurricane attained peak winds of 80 mph (130 km / h) .

On December 8 , the hurricane turned to the east and weakened into a tropical storm , steered by an approaching trough . Over the next day , the storm accelerated to the east @- @ northeast toward the Azores . Late on December 10 , the storm moved through the Azores as a tropical storm , although it was transitioning back into an extratropical storm at the time . By 06 : 00 UTC on December 11 , the system was extratropical again after it rejoined with a nearby cold front . It likely merged with another nontropical storm to its east on December 12 , although it is possible the former hurricane remained a distinct system . A building ridge near Spain forced the extratropical system to the southeast , eventually dissipating after moving ashore Morocco on December 15 .

= = Storm names = =

These names were used to name storms during the 1951 Atlantic hurricane season . As this season had the same names and was less active than 1950 , none of these names were used for the first time . Names that were not assigned are marked in gray .