

= 1906 Florida Keys hurricane =

The 1906 Florida Keys hurricane was a powerful and deadly hurricane that caused major impacts in Cuba and southern Florida . The fifth hurricane and third major hurricane of the season , the storm formed from a system near Barbados on October 4 . By October 8 , it had intensified into a tropical storm , and made landfall as a hurricane in Central America . The hurricane traveled towards Cuba , making landfall and wreaking havoc on the island . The storm then made a third landfall in the Florida Keys during the evening of October 18 . At least 240 people were killed as a result of the hurricane , and damages totaled at least \$ 4 @, @ 135 @, @ 000 .

Of the 240 people killed during the storm , 135 were workers on the Florida East Coast Railway . The hurricane eventually led to the end of pineapple production in the Florida Keys for commercial purposes in 1915 , although this was amplified by two further hurricanes in the following years . In 1947 , Project Cirrus , a collaboration of the United States Air Force , attempted to seed a hurricane ; however , the storm made a sudden re @-@ curvature and came ashore near Charleston , South Carolina . As a result , several lawsuits were filed , although they were denied after the path of this storm was revealed to have been similar to the 1947 hurricane .

= = Meteorological history = =

The hurricane originated from a " cyclonic perturbation " near Barbados on October 4 , as reported by local newspapers . On October 5 , no closed circulation was evident in the system . In Colón , Panama , a report was sent to the Weather Bureau , reporting sinking barometric pressures on October 6 . It was recognized as a tropical storm early on October 8 , with winds of 40 mph (65 km / h) , while located in the southwestern Caribbean Sea .

As the system continued to move west on October 9 , it strengthened into a hurricane , and while it began to curve toward the west @-@ northwest , further strengthening occurred , as it intensified into a Category 2 hurricane . The hurricane made landfall in Nicaragua on October 10 as a Category 3 hurricane . The system quickly weakened to a tropical storm as it traveled west @-@ northwestward on October 11 , later passing over the Gulf of Honduras . It later struck Belize on October 13 as a strong Category 1 hurricane on October 13 , tracking north @-@ northwestward .

The system weakened into a tropical storm by October 14 but restrengthened into a Category 1 hurricane by October 16 . As the hurricane began to turn northeastward , it continued to intensify , attaining Category 3 status by October 17 . The hurricane continued to approach Havana during the day , and the hurricane 's center passed east of Havana during the evening . The following morning , the hurricane was located over southern Florida moving northeastward , and passed east of the coast of South Carolina . The hurricane began to weaken as it was forced to curve south @-@ southwestward , striking Florida again as the result of a high @-@ pressure area . The system eventually weakened to a tropical depression over Florida , and traced southwestward into the Gulf of Mexico . On October 23 , the remnants of the hurricane struck Central America and dissipated on October 23 .

= = Preparations and impact = =

= = = Central America = = =

The town of Bluefields suffered moderate damage during the hurricane , including downed trees and damage to roofs . In western Nicaragua , widespread flooding damaged roads and disrupted the construction of a port in Corinto . In Matagalpa , many plantations were severely damaged , in addition to the destruction of bridges and roads in the city . Several landslides occurred , leading to the destruction of many hills . In addition , local crops suffered much damage , including much of the local banana and rubber crops . A large wave measuring 15 feet (4 @. @ 6 m) caused by the storm was described off Nicaragua , and caused brief disappearances of the Seal Cays . Along the

Mosquito Coast , the town of Prinzapolka was nearly wiped out by the hurricane . Damage to fruit plantations in Costa Rica totaled \$ 1 @, @ 000 @, @ 000 .

= = = Cuba = = =

Havana sustained major damage from the hurricane , with 50 houses destroyed , and cable operators in Miami , Santiago , and Jamaica were unable to reach telegraph services in the city . The wall of a legation of the United States was blown down . Vedado 's sea baths were severely damaged . Havana 's streetcar service was temporarily disrupted by the storm . Trees were blown down in the parks of Havana . Twenty people were killed in the city , while in Batabanó , nine people were killed , with many others missing . In Matanzas , the location of the United States ' 28th Infantry , tents were destroyed and there was widespread damage . However , nobody was killed or injured in the city . In San Luis , tobacco crops were ruined , and 150 tobacco barns in the Alquizar municipality were destroyed . The sugar crop in Pinar del Río Province survived well during the hurricane . In the La Guria section of Cuba , the banana crops were completely destroyed . Rivers topped their banks throughout the country .

= = = Florida = = =

In Miami , over 100 houses were destroyed , and the Episcopal and Methodist churches were completely destroyed . The jail in Miami was nearly completely dismantled , and the prisoners were evacuated . In Fort Pierce , the Peninsula and Occidental railcar sheds collapsed , with the roofs blown away . A two @-@ story brick saloon was destroyed during the hurricane . The Miami telegraph office reported street flooding in the city , and that the telegraph office was flooded . Damage in Miami amounted to \$ 160 @, @ 000 . In Key West , houses and trees were knocked down . In St. Augustine , the tide was described as the " highest in ten years , " where streets were flooded throughout the city . At least 70 passengers on the steamers St. Lucia and Peerless drowned during the storm near Elliott Key . The steamers Campbell and the Sara were destroyed near the Isle of Pines , and the Elmora sank . Telegraph lines were also down south of Jupiter .

The effects of the hurricane were most severe on the Florida East Coast Railway , where at least 135 people died , 104 of them on Houseboat No. 4 , one of the railway 's boats . Many of the workers were swept to sea on barges and flatboats ; however , the steamer Jenny rescued 42 workers , who were dropped off at Key West , while another 24 were sent to Savannah , Georgia . The railway 's losses totaled about \$ 200 @, @ 000 . Construction was disrupted for a whole year by the storm , as equipment was reassembled and repaired . Many farmers on the Florida Keys suffered large losses ; orange groves and fields of pineapples were devastated by the storm . Six lives were lost on plantations in the Keys . At the government wharf , the Fessenden was damaged during the hurricane .

= = Aftermath = =

Following the hurricane , all workers of the Florida East Coast Railway were provided with wooden barracks on land , and several additional safety measures were enforced . The hurricane eventually led to the end of the commercial production of pineapples in the Florida Keys . In 1947 , Project Cirrus attempted to use the method of cloud seeding in a hurricane . Approximately 180 pounds (82 kg) of crushed dry ice were seeded into the 1947 hurricane . The system was successfully seeded ; however , soon after the seeding , the hurricane changed course and traced toward Charleston , South Carolina . Following the seeding , the project was cancelled and numerous lawsuits were filed as the result of the sudden change of the path in the storm . However , the similar path of this hurricane prevented the success of the lawsuits .