

= Hurricane Dog (1950) =

Hurricane Dog was the most intense hurricane in the 1950 Atlantic hurricane season . Prior to reanalysis by the Hurricane Research Division in 2014 , it was considered one of the strongest Atlantic hurricanes on record , equivalent to Category 5 status on the modern Saffir @-@ Simpson scale , with winds of 185 miles per hour (298 km / h) . The fourth named storm of the season , Dog developed on August 30 to the east of Antigua ; after passing through the northern Lesser Antilles , it turned to the north and intensified into a Category 4 hurricane . Dog reached its peak intensity with winds of 145 mph (230 km / h) over the open Atlantic , and after weakening it passed within 200 miles (320 km) of Cape Cod , Massachusetts . The storm became extratropical on September 12 .

Hurricane Dog caused extensive damage to the Leeward Islands , and was considered the most severe hurricane on record in Antigua . Many buildings were destroyed or severely damaged on the island , with thousands left homeless just weeks after Hurricane Baker caused serious damage there . In the United States , the hurricane caused moderate coastal damage , including damage to several boats , and resulted in 11 offshore drownings . Strong winds caused widespread power outages across southeastern New England . There were twelve people missing and assumed dead offshore Nova Scotia . Damage across its path totaled about \$ 3 million (1950 USD , \$ 26 @.@ 8 million 2009 USD) .

= = Meteorological history = =

The exact origins of Hurricane Dog are obscure , due to sparse ship and land observations over the eastern Atlantic Ocean ; the storm may have originated from an easterly wave on August 24 near the Cape Verde islands , but there are no observations to support such development . Ships first encountered the storm on August 30 , when the SS Sibrodin reported gale @-@ force winds and an area of low pressure about 320 miles (510 km) east @-@ southeast of Antigua . The storm is first documented as a hurricane with winds of 90 mph (145 km / h) late on August 30 . With high pressures to its northeast , the storm tracked west @-@ northwestward and rapidly intensified : on August 31 it attained major hurricane status , reaching winds of 130 mph (209 km / h) ? the first peak intensity in its life ? before entering the Leeward Islands . Early on September 1 , Hurricane Dog passed just north of Antigua as the equivalent of a Category 4 hurricane on the Saffir @-@ Simpson hurricane wind scale . A weather station on Antigua reported a pressure of 28 @.@ 73 inches of mercury (973 mb) , though the eye of the hurricane missed the station . After bypassing Antigua , Hurricane Dog weakened slightly , based on reports by reconnaissance aircraft ; the cyclone made its first and only landfall over Anguilla with winds of 120 to 125 mph (193 to 201 km / h) . The cyclone produced hurricane @-@ force winds over Antigua and the nearby island of Saint Martin , which reported a pressure of 978 @.@ 7 mb (28 @.@ 90 inHg) .

Early on September 2 , Hurricane Dog came under weak steering currents , causing it to drift northward . The cyclone weakened even further : aircraft recorded a central pressure of 962 mb (28 @.@ 4 inHg) , and maximum sustained winds diminished to 115 mph (185 km / h) . The storm mostly maintained its intensity for two more days , but on September 4 it began to re @-@ intensify as it turned northwestward . On September 5 Hurricane Dog regained Category 4 intensity about 335 miles (540 km) north of the eastern tip of the Dominican Republic . The hurricane strengthened further after turning to the north , and Hurricane Dog reached its second and strongest peak intensity of 145 mph (233 km / h) . On September 6 Hurricane Hunters visually estimated peak winds of 185 mph (300 km / h) about 450 miles (720 km) south @-@ southwest of Bermuda ; however , being early in the period of hurricane reconnaissance , such wind speeds ? derived from observations of the sea surface ? were subjective and sometimes unreliable . In 2014 , a reanalysis of HURDAT by the Hurricane Research Division found that the peak winds in Hurricane Dog were more likely 145 mph (230 km / h) , marking a reduction in the intensity of Hurricane Dog from Category 5 to Category 4 . Nevertheless , while now estimated to have been less intense than assessed operationally in 1950 , Dog was a formidable hurricane while over the western Atlantic , producing wave heights of over 100 feet (30 m) .

Hurricane Dog maintained its peak intensity for about 12 hours . On September 7 , the cyclone attained a central pressure of 948 mbar (27 @. @ 99 inHg) , which was the lowest pressure in association with the hurricane . A building ridge of high pressure to its north caused it to decelerate and weaken steadily for unknown reasons as it turned to the west ; by September 9 , the intensity had decreased to 75 mph (121 km / h) . On September 10 , Hurricane Dog began turning to the northwest , and a day later it headed north and then northeast . Late that day , it briefly re @-@ intensified slightly to 100 mph (161 km / h) before transitioning into an extratropical cyclone with hurricane @-@ force winds . The former hurricane passed within 200 miles (320 km) of Cape Cod on September 12 . Shortly afterwards , the extratropical remnant turned to the east , losing hurricane winds for several days beginning on September 13 . The system eventually turned to the northeast on September 15 , and a day later it regained hurricane @-@ force winds as a vigorous extratropical cyclone . Early on September 17 , the cyclone struck Scotland with winds of 75 mph (121 km / h) , but the system persisted until finally losing its identity north of Scotland on September 18 .

= = Preparations = =

In the United States , the threat of the hurricane prompted the National Weather Bureau to issue warnings of gale force winds , high tides , and rough surf from the Outer Banks of North Carolina to Maine . At least 17 naval ships were moved in preparation for the hurricane . Rhode Island state police officers warned homeowners near the coast to be ready to evacuate , if necessary . There , officials also closed several beaches and canceled ferry travel along the state 's southern waterways . On the day of the hurricane 's closest approach to the United States , the National Weather Bureau issued storm warnings from Cape May , New Jersey , to Eastport , Maine .

= = Impact = =

Passing through the Lesser Antilles , Hurricane Dog produced a storm surge of 8 feet (2 @. @ 4 m) in Antigua . Winds on Antigua and Barbuda were estimated at 130 mph (210 km / h) , with a gust of 144 mph (232 km / h) recorded at St. John 's , Antigua and Barbuda . On Antigua , where hurricane @-@ force winds were reported for six hours , residents considered it the most severe hurricane in history . Hurricane Dog left thousands homeless on Antigua , just weeks after Hurricane Baker caused severe damage on the island . Damage throughout the Lesser Antilles totaled \$ 1 million (1950 USD , \$ 8 @. @ 92 million 2009 USD) , primarily on Antigua and Barbuda , and included many damaged or destroyed homes , ruined crops , blocked roads from washouts or fallen trees , and power outages across the islands . The hurricane resulted in several shipwrecks ; two people drowned when their small boat capsized . The hurricane sank a boat on the island of Saint @-@ Barthélemy , where damage amounted to \$ 70 @, @ 000 (1950 USD , \$ 624 thousand 2009 USD) .

Heavy rain fell in the Mid @-@ Atlantic States , leading to flash floods in some locations . In Bel Air , Maryland , a car drove into the swollen Little Gunpowder Falls ; three people in the car drowned and a fourth was injured . A further two people drowned in Lexington , Virginia . Though newspaper sources attributed the heavy rainfall to Hurricane Dog , this was not confirmed . The hurricane deposited light to moderate rainfall across southeastern Massachusetts , ranging from around 1 inch (25 mm) to about 4 to 5 inches (100 to 125 mm) near Nantucket . In Provincetown , a car hit a woman ? neither the driver nor the victim was able to see due to the rains . A man in Falmouth was paralyzed from the waist downwards after coming into contact with a wet tree limb next to a downed power line .

The hurricane produced high tides and rough surf along the East Coast of the United States , with coastal flooding reported along some beaches in Rhode Island . The hurricane capsized or damaged several boats along the coastline , including two large vessels in Nantucket . In Marblehead , Massachusetts , the surf grounded at least 15 vessels from the harbor onto a coastal causeway . Near Cape Cod , damage to fishermen 's assets totaled \$ 150 @, @ 000 (1950 USD , \$

1 @. @ 34 million 2009 USD) . Tides along Nantucket were reported at the highest levels since the 1944 Great Atlantic Hurricane . Hurricane Dog produced powerful wind gusts along coastal areas of New England , which caused widespread power outages , including a loss of power to 15 towns on Cape Cod , to hundreds of residences on Nantucket , and to several other locations in the area . Additionally , winds from the hurricane destroyed two small barns and uprooted a few trees , some of which blocked roads . Overall damage was fairly light , totaling about \$ 2 million (1950 USD , \$ 17 @. @ 8 million 2009 USD) ? a much lower total than would have been expected if the hurricane had made landfall . In all , 12 people died in New England as a result of the hurricane . Two ships went missing during the storm along the coast of Nova Scotia , with a crew of six people each ; their status is unknown , and they are considered storm fatalities .

= = Records , naming , and aftermath = =

Before scientific reexamination reduced its winds , Hurricane Dog was listed as the second @-@ strongest Atlantic hurricane on record , tied with Hurricanes Gilbert in 1988 and Wilma in 2005 ; following reanalysis in 2012 , the 1935 Labor Day hurricane also met this distinction . Only Hurricanes Camille in 1969 and Allen in 1980 were stronger , peaking at 190 mph (306 km / h) . (However , Camille was later found to have been somewhat weaker than originally estimated , with top winds of 175 mph (282 km / h) .) During the 1950 , 1951 , and 1952 seasons , Atlantic hurricanes were named using the Joint Army / Navy Phonetic Alphabet . However , Hurricane Dog was referred to as " the great hurricane in the central Atlantic " in newspaper reports , and its name was seldom used . Operationally , hurricanes were not referred to by name until 1952 .

A relief fund was organized in the aftermath of the hurricane by The Daily Gleaner , a newspaper from Kingston , Jamaica . The newspaper invited its readers to help assist " their suffering fellow @-@ West Indians in the island of Antigua . " Four days after the hurricane , the fund totaled £ 171 @, @ 000 (1950 GBP , \$ 4 @. @ 27 million 2009 USD) . One Antigua official stated the country " would appreciate voluntary assistance from outside , especially food and clothing " . Relief aid was also sent from the United States to the affected islands .