

= 1933 Cuba ? Bahamas hurricane =

The 1933 Cuba ? Bahamas hurricane was last of six major hurricanes , or at least a Category 3 on the Saffir @-@ Simpson hurricane wind scale , in the active 1933 Atlantic hurricane season . It formed on October 1 in the Caribbean Sea as the seventeenth tropical storm , and initially moved slowly to the north . While passing west of Jamaica , the storm damaged banana plantations and killed one person . On October 3 , the storm became a hurricane , and the next day crossed western Cuba . Advance warning in the country prevented any storm @-@ related fatalities , although four people suspected of looting were shot and killed during a curfew in Havana . The German travel writer Richard Katz witnessed the hurricane while in Havana , and described the experience in his book " Loafing Around the Globe " (" Ein Bummel um Die Welt ") .

After entering the Florida Straits , the hurricane turned to the northeast , producing tropical storm winds along the Florida Keys . High rainfall caused flooding , while three tornadoes spawned by the storm damaged houses in the Miami area . The hurricane reached peak winds of 125 mph (205 km / h) on October 6 while moving through the Bahamas . It subsequently weakened and became extratropical on October 8 . The former hurricane lashed the coast of Nova Scotia with high winds and rain , leaving about \$ 1 million (1933 CAD) in damage . Rough seas sank several ships and killed nine people in the region . The remnants of the hurricane eventually dissipated on October 9 to the south of Newfoundland .

= = Meteorological history = =

Toward the end of September 1933 , there was a large area of disturbed weather across the southern Caribbean Sea . By September 30 , a low pressure area developed south of San Andrés island . The next day , observations from a station at Cabo Gracias a Dios and a ship indicated a tropical storm had developed off the eastern coast of Honduras . Low atmospheric pressure suggested the system had winds of tropical storm force despite lack of direct observations . Moving northward , the storm gained size as it slowly intensified . Based on observations and interpolation of data , it is estimated the storm became a hurricane early on October 3 while passing west of Jamaica . That day , a station at South Negril Point that day reported a force 8 on the Beaufort scale , well to the east of the center . While approaching the southern coast of Cuba , the hurricane reached estimated winds of 105 mph (165 km / h) . At 0900 UTC on October 4 , the hurricane made landfall on the Zapata Peninsula of Cuba , followed by a second landfall on the Cuban mainland three hours later . Beginning at 1600 UTC that day , the capital , Havana , observed the passage of the eye , where a pressure of 976 mbar (28 @.@ 8 inHg) was reported .

The hurricane weakened slightly over land before emerging into the Straits of Florida and re @-@ intensifying . On October 5 , it turned to the northeast while remaining southeast of the Florida mainland , although the strongest winds remained over water . Early on October 6 while the hurricane was moving through the Bahamas , a ship reported a pressure of 958 mbar (28 @.@ 3 inHg) , although it was unknown if it was in the center or the periphery of the storm . Based on the data , the maximum sustained winds were estimated at 125 mph (205 km / h) , although the ship estimated winds of 150 mph (240 km / h) . The storm maintained peak winds for about 18 hours , after which it weakened while accelerating to the northeast . After passing to the west of Bermuda on October 7 , the hurricane became extratropical the next day while still maintaining hurricane force winds . The storm brushed the coast of Nova Scotia before it was last noted approaching another extratropical storm on October 9 to the south of Atlantic Canada .

= = Preparations and impact = =

Early in its duration , the developing storm brushed the coast of Honduras with light winds . In Jamaica , gusts approached hurricane force , while heavy rainfall damaged transportation in Kingston . The storm wrecked small houses and damaged the local banana industry . There was one death in Jamaica . The hurricane crossed western Cuba with winds estimated at 105 mph (165

km / h) . This prompted officials to declare a curfew for the capital in the midst of political upheaval following a coup . A newspaper described the curfew before the storm as " the most peaceful night in a week . " However , the government ordered soldiers in Havana to shoot anyone suspected of looting , and four looters were killed during the storm 's passage . Heavy associated rainfall caused rivers to overflow in three provinces , flooding low @-@ lying areas . In Cienfuegos , the storm destroyed several houses . Offshore northern Cuba , two United States ships took shelter at the port in Matanzas due to rough seas . High tides flooded the Havana waterfront up to 3 ft (0 @.@ 91 m) deep , and several boats sank at the city 's harbor . Due to advance warning and evacuations , there were no direct deaths in the country , and 20 people were injured .

Storm warnings were issued on the west coast of Florida to Boca Grande and on the east coast to Titusville , with hurricane warnings for the Florida Keys . Although the hurricane passed just southeast of the Florida Keys , the highest winds reported in Florida were 44 mph (70 km / h) in Key West . The storm passed closest to Long Key , where winds were estimated at 63 mph (102 km / h) , due to being on the weak side of the storm . Farther north , Miami reported winds of 35 mph (56 km / h) . Rainfall reached over 11 in (280 mm) in 24 hours in Key West . There , the storm knocked over several trees and caused some power outages . Portions of the city were flooded while boats were washed ashore . Elsewhere in Florida , three tornadoes were reported during the hurricane 's passage . In Fort Lauderdale , a tornado injured one person , and another one in Miami knocked down four homes and injured two . The third tornado was in Hollywood , where several houses were damaged .

Later as the hurricane moved through the Bahamas , it produced winds of 100 mph (161 km / h) at Hope Town and 91 mph (146 km / h) at Millville , both on Abaco . The outer periphery of the storm brushed Nantucket to the west with winds of 39 mph (63 km / h) and Bermuda to the east with 46 mph (75 km / h) .

While moving offshore Atlantic Canada , the former hurricane produced gale force winds , peaking at 52 mph (83 km / h) in Halifax , Nova Scotia . There , the storm also dropped heavy rainfall reaching 9 @.@ 84 in (250 mm) over two days , including 3 @.@ 6 in (90 mm) in 24 hours . Flooding covered streets in the province , causing traffic jams , and farmlands . In Annapolis Valley , the rainfall washed out a bridge while the winds damaged about one @-@ third of the apple crop . The dam at Chocolate Lake overflowed due to the rainfall , and a dam broke in Great Village , destroying a nearby bridge . Many trees fell during the storm , resulting in power outages after some fell onto lines . Outside Nova Scotia , the storm produced winds of 51 mph (81 km / h) in Shediac , New Brunswick , where high waves left coastal damage . In Newfoundland , the storm washed out three bridges , as well as portions of roads and rails , and flooded one house . Throughout Atlantic Canada , high waves washed ashore , sank , or broke at least ten boats from their moorings , killing nine people including seven from an overturned boat sailing from Boston to Yarmouth . Overall damage in Canada was estimated at around \$ 1 million (1933 CAD) , including \$ 250 @,@ 000 in lost apple crop .