

= 1932 Freeport hurricane =

The 1932 Freeport hurricane was an intense tropical cyclone that primarily affected areas of the Texas coast in August of the 1932 Atlantic hurricane season . It was the second storm and first hurricane of the season , developing just off the Yucatán Peninsula on August 12 . While moving to the northwest , the storm began to quickly intensify the next day . It rapidly intensified from a Category 1 hurricane to a Category 4 with winds estimated at 150 mph ( 240 km / h ) and an estimated central pressure of 935 mbar ( 27 @. @ 6 inHg ) shortly before making landfall near Freeport , Texas , early on August 14 . After landfall , the hurricane began to quickly weaken before dissipating over the Texas Panhandle .

The storm caused heavy rainfall inland , peaking at 9 @. @ 93 in ( 252 mm ) in Angleton . Record rainfall rates were also reported in some areas . Power outages were reported in Galveston and San Antonio . The storm caused \$ 7 @. @ 5 million in damages , mostly to crops , and 40 deaths .

= = Meteorological history = =

The Freeport hurricane was first noted by ships on August 12 as a tropical disturbance in the Gulf of Mexico . However , it was suggested in later research that the disturbance may have originated from a low @-@ pressure area between Belize and Honduras on August 11 . Steadily moving to the northwest , the storm began to intensify , reaching hurricane strength on August 13 , and soon after reaching major hurricane strength later that day . A report remarked that the storm was " phenomenal " due to the fact that previously the storm had " seemed to be of only moderate intensity " while near land before rapidly intensifying .

The storm eventually reached winds of 145 mph ( 233 km / h ) , making it a Category 4 hurricane on the Saffir @-@ Simpson Hurricane Scale . The hurricane proceeded to make landfall early on August 14 just east of Freeport with winds of 150 mph ( 240 km / h ) . A ship just offshore of the coast reported a minimum pressure of 942 mbar ( 27 @. @ 8 inHg ) , but the official estimate for the hurricane 's landfall intensity was set to 935 mbar ( 27 @. @ 6 inHg ) given the fact that the system was still rapidly intensifying at the time . Due to the storm 's small size , it quickly weakened to tropical storm strength later that day . The storm finally weakened into a tropical depression before dissipating the next day over the Texas Panhandle .

= = Preparations , impact , and aftermath = =

In preparation for the storm , 150 vehicles evacuated out of Freeport , while water craft were taken up the Brazos River as far inland as possible . 100 families in Caplen and Gilchrist were also evacuated . The 38th division of the Texas National Guard , stationed in Palacios , was alerted due to the oncoming storm .

Heavy rainfall occurred across the coast and further inland due to the storm . Four locations set 24 @-@ hour rainfall records for the month of August , the highest of which was set near Angleton , recording 9 @. @ 93 in ( 252 mm ) of rain on August 13 . Angleton also faced a water shortage after its pumping station was destroyed . The remnants of the storm produced as much as 12 in ( 300 mm ) of rain in Oklahoma . Occupants in four vehicles were rescued by the United States Coast Guard near San Luis Pass . In Wharton , 800 birds went missing in the heavy rain . Galveston suffered primarily wind damage in the form of unroofed structures and broken windows . The Galveston Causeway was flooded by the heavy rain , preventing access from Galveston Island to the mainland . Several other roads were blocked by fallen trees . The city was also affected by a power outage after the storm caused loss of power and damaged communication lines . In addition , communication lines in San Antonio were damaged .

At William P. Hobby Airport in Houston , 11 planes were damaged when a hangar collapsed , resulting in losses of \$ 250 @, @ 000 . Hermann Park was also affected by the storm , where nine goats began to roam within the park due to a broken fence caused by a fallen limb . 35 convicts were freed from the Ramsey Unit state prison during the storm due to the chance of the prison

collapsing . However , after the storm , only eight returned to the prison , leaving 27 others missing . After the storm , the American Red Cross brought supplies to areas affected by the hurricane , requesting as much as \$ 10 @, @ 000 in relief work . Several other local relief committees also brought supplies to affected areas . An estimated \$ 2 million in damages from the storm were attributed to crop damage alone , especially rice and cotton . The storm was estimated to have killed 40 people and caused \$ 7 @. @ 5 million in damage .