Hurricane Bonnie (1986)

Hurricane Bonnie caused moderate damage along the Gulf Coast of the United States in late June 1986 . The second named storm and first hurricane of the 1986 Atlantic hurricane season , Bonnie developed out of an area of low pressure over the central Gulf of Mexico on June 23 . The system gradually intensified and was declared Tropical Storm Bonnie the next day as it moved generally towards the west @-@ northwest . On June 25 , Bonnie was upgraded to a hurricane . Bonnie strengthened further and on the following day , the storm attained its peak intensity with maximum sustained winds of 85 mph (140 km / h) . Shortly thereafter , Bonnie made Landfall near High Island , Texas . Following landfall , Bonnie quickly weakened below tropical storm status and dissipated over Missouri on June 28 .

Prior to Bonnie moving ashore , 22 @,@ 000 people were evacuated in Texas and Louisiana . Upon making landfall , Hurricane Bonnie produced a storm surge peaking at 5 @.@ 2 feet (1 @.@ 5 m) at Sabine Pass . Rainfall from the storm peaked at 13 inches (330 mm) in Ace , Texas , which caused some street flooding and destroyed a small dam in Liberty County , Texas . Three fatalities were reported in the Port Arthur , Texas area ; two deaths were from separate car accidents and another occurred after a partially paralyzed woman died in a house fire . Flooding also impacted northwestern Louisiana . In the Shreveport area alone , 381 homes , 20 businesses , and 80 major highway intersections were flooded . The hurricane also spawned 11 tornadoes , destroying about 25 houses in southwestern Louisiana . Overall , Hurricane Bonnie caused $ 42 million (1986 USD) in damage and five fatalities .

Meteorological history

In mid @-@ June , a mid @-@ level center of circulation formed in association with a quasi @-@ stationary cold front that stretched across northern Florida and the extreme northeast Gulf of Mexico . On June 20 , a weak and disorganized area of low pressure developed in conjunction with the front and it passed by Tampa Bay , Florida the following day . Upon moving into the eastern Gulf of Mexico , there was little convection on observed on satellite imagery , although a distinguishable wind @-@ shift was noted by an offshore buoy . However , by June 23 , the presence of deep convection atop a circulation had become well @-@ defined enough for the National Hurricane Center to classify the disturbance as a tropical depression , while centered 330 mi (535 km) southwest of Cape Coral , Florida . Moving generally west to west @-@ northwestward across the central Gulf of Mexico , the National Hurricane Center sent a reconnaissance plane into the tropical depression at 1500 UTC on June 24 , at which time winds of 60 mph (95 km / h) were found . About three hours later , the depression strengthened into Tropical Storm Bonnie .

In the 24 hours after becoming a tropical storm , satellite imagery showed a substantial increase in upper @-@ level outflow as Tropical Storm Bonnie gradually intensified . A reconnaissance plane into the system shortly before 1200 UTC on June 25 revealed hurricane force winds 1 @,@ 500 ft (460 m) above the surface . This evidence was the basis of Bonnie 's upgrade to a Category 1 on the Saffir ? Simpson hurricane wind scale at 1800 UTC on June 25 . During the afternoon hours of June 26 , Bonnie reached its peak intensity with maximum sustained winds of 85 mph (140 km / h) and a minimum barometric pressure of 992 mbar (hPa ; 29 @.@ 23 inHg) . While accelerating towards the northwest , the hurricane retained this intensity until landfall near High Island , Texas at 1000 UTC on June 26 . Eight hours later , Bonnie weakened to a tropical storm and was downgraded to tropical depression status at 0000 UTC on June 27 . The depression persisted until 1200 UTC on June 28 , at which time it was absorbed by a frontal zone while located over the U.S. state of Missouri .

Preparations

Upon the system being classified as a tropical depression , a high risk of landfall near Port Arthur , Texas was noted , giving federal officials sufficient lead time to warn local residents about a possible

approaching hurricane . As the system neared landfall , tropical cyclone watches and warnings were issued for the Gulf Coast of the United States . At 1200 UTC on June 25 , the National Hurricane Center issued a gale warning and a hurricane watch , stretching from Port O 'Connor , Texas to the mouth of the Mississippi River . A few hours later , a hurricane warning was issued for area west of Morgan City , Louisiana to Freeport , Texas . In advance of the approaching storm , roughly 22 @,@ 000 residents were evacuated , with 10 @,@ 000 from Galveston County , Texas alone .

= = Impact = =

Due to the small size of Hurricane Bonnie , damage was relatively light , totaling to $ 42 million . The storm was also attributed to five deaths , four in Texas and one in Louisiana .

= = = Texas = = =

In some areas of eastern Texas , the storm dropped 10 to 13 in (250 to 330 mm) of rain , with a peak total of 13 inches (330 mm) in Ace . Heavy rains caused by Bonnie also lead a small dam collapse in northeastern Liberty County , Texas , resulting in severe flooding . In Hardin County , the Pine Island Bayou overflowed , causing water to enter hundreds of homes and businesses . Several major roadways were flooded due to flooding , including Highway 59 between Livingston and Shepherd , U.S. Route 79 in Panola County , and Interstate 20 and several farm @-@ to @-@ market roads in Harrison County . The Bear Foot Lake dam overflowed , damaging some homes and forcing 200 families to evacuate . Overall , approximately 1 @,@ 300 people in southeastern Texas fled their homes due to flooding . Severe flooding left behind by the heavy rains caused $ 5 million in damage .
In addition to rain and flooding , winds damaged more homes and businesses , and a tornado was spawned a few miles southwest of Port Arthur . More than 19 @,@ 000 power outages were reported in the area near where Bonnie made landfall . Texas State Highway 87 was closed in Jefferson County due to debris and electrical poles fallen on the roadway . The storm left broken windows , scattered tree limbs , and debris filled streets in Port Arthur and Beaumont . At the latter , strong winds toppled a radio tower at the Texas Department of Public Safety building , while several schools suffered damage to the roof and windows . Marinas and boats at Lake Sam Rayburn were damaged . Hank Creek Marina , located across the lake , broke free from its moorings and floated away , while portions of were submerged . Four indirect fatalities were confirmed in Texas , two from traffic accidents , one from a house fire ignited by a candle , and another from drowning . Several injuries were also reported , including four after a truck flipped over due to strong winds .

= = = Louisiana = = =

Most of the damage in Louisiana occurred in Cameron Parish . Twenty @-@ five homes , trailers , and cabins in southwestern Louisiana were destroyed , resulting in about $ 400 @,@ 000 in damages . Two tornadoes were spawned in Webster Parish . The first caused about $ 15 @,@ 000 in damage to the roofs of three homes . The other tornado destroyed three mobile homes and severely damaged an additional two as well as three permanent homes . Damage from this tornado totaled $ 200 @,@ 000 . Just south of Blanchard , 10 @.@ 2 in (260 mm) of rain fell within a 12 @-@ hour period . Interstate 20 was closed from Shreveport to the Louisiana @-@ Texas state line due to flooding , with as much as 5 ft (1 @.@ 5 m) of standing water near Greenwood .
Torrential rains caused water inundation up to 10 ft (3 @.@ 0 m) in some areas of Shreveport . Firefighters used boats to rescue some stranded Shreveport residents in their homes by sudden high water . Rescuers also had to bind themselves together to rescue some people stranded in a flooded trailer park . Flooding in the city forced police to barricade 50 major highway intersections . Along the shore of Cross Lake , about 80 homes were damaged by water intrusion . About 381 homes and 20 businesses in Shreveport were damaged by flooding . A tornado spawned in the city overturned an airplane at Shreveport Downtown Airport , damaged a roof from a house , and

shattered a number of windows . No injuries were reported from the tornado . Damage in Louisiana from flooding alone totaled $ 11 ? 13 million , with $ 4 million to highways and bridges , $ 1 ? 2 million to vehicles , $ 5 million to property , and $ 1 ? 2 million to boats . Three fishermen were tossed into a lake after a boat was capsized due to high winds . Two were rescued , but one perished .

= = = Elsewhere = = =

Heavy rains from the remnant low @-@ pressure area of Bonnie led to heavy rains in several states in the Southeastern United States . Rainfall was generally minor in most areas , however in Arkansas , rains totaled up to 11 @.@ 75 in (254 mm) at the South Arkansas Regional Airport . Several roads were washed out in Ouachita County near Elliott . A number of roads and bridges were also washed out in Union County , with damage totaling $ 200 @,@ 000 . U.S. Route 79 was closed between Magnolia and Stephens because of standing water . Three or four families evacuated near the Ouachita @-@ Union County line after the Smackover Creek overflowed its banks and flooded 20 homes . There was also a small area of heavy rains totaling up to 5 in (127 mm) along the border of Tennessee and Georgia .