

= Hurricane Abby (1960) =

Hurricane Abby was the only tropical cyclone in the Caribbean Sea during the 1960 Atlantic hurricane season . The second tropical cyclone and first named storm season , Abby developed on July 10 from a tropical wave in the vicinity of the Lesser Antilles . Abby rapidly intensified into a hurricane after being a tropical storm for less than six hours . It briefly peaked as a category 2 hurricane before weakening back . Abby rapidly weakened to a minimal tropical storm a few days thereafter . The storm re @-@ strengthened into a hurricane as it began to parallel the coast of Honduras . Hurricane Abby made landfall in British Honduras (present @-@ day Belize) on July 15 . Abby dissipated over Mexico later the next day . The remnants of Abby ultimately became Hurricane Celeste in the Pacific Ocean . Despite passing through or near several countries , Hurricane Abby had a relatively light impact on land , resulting in just \$ 640 @,@ 500 (1960 USD , \$ 5 @.@ 16 million 2016 USD) in damage and six fatalities .

= = Meteorological history = =

The origins of Hurricane Abby were possibly from a tropical wave that moved in the vicinity of the Lesser Antilles in early July 1960 . Ships and a few weather stations on July 9 reported the existence of a tropical cyclone . On July 9 , it had operationally been classified as a tropical storm upon formation , though a later analysis revealed that it was only a tropical depression . The depression passed near Barbados early on July 10 before rapidly intensifying into a hurricane . Hurricane Abby accelerated toward the west and made landfall in St. Lucia as a minimal category 1 hurricane . Abby emerged into the Caribbean Sea a few hours later . As it headed generally westward , it also gradually strengthened . By July 11 , Hurricane Abby had attained peak intensity as a 100 mph (155 km / h) category 2 hurricane .

The intensity of Abby began to gradually level off , though it re @-@ intensified slightly in the Caribbean , before eventually weakening further . Abby was downgraded to a tropical storm on the morning of July 13 ; it was center roughly 222 mi (357 km) south of Kingston , Jamaica at the time . Just six hours thereafter , Abby had maximum sustained winds of only 45 mph (75 km / h) . Abby re @-@ intensified at a relatively quick pace , as it was near hurricane status again when it passed just to the north of Honduras on July 14 .

Late on July 14 , Abby had re @-@ intensified into a hurricane . A few hours later , Abby passed over the island of Roatán at about midnight (EDT) on July 15 . It made a third and final landfall on July 15 when it moved inland over British Honduras (presently known as Belize) as a minimal hurricane . Abby quickly weakened and was downgraded to a tropical storm only a few hours later over land . While Abby approached the border of Guatemala and Mexico , it had weakened further to a tropical depression . Abby dissipated while situated over the Mexican state of Tabasco on July 16 . The remnants crossed over Mexico into the Pacific Ocean and regenerated into Hurricane Celeste on July 20 . Hurricane Celeste lasted for two days in the Pacific before it dissipated on July 22 .

= = Preparations and impact = =

= = = Lesser Antilles = = =

There were many watches and warning issued during the passage of Hurricane Abby throughout the Caribbean . Some gale warnings were issued from the Grenadines to Guadeloupe starting on July 10 . Around 1600 UTC later that day , a hurricane watch was issued for the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico . Several hours later , the watch was extended to include Dominican Republic and Haiti . All warnings were discontinued later , after the storm passed by .

Hurricane Abby bypassed Barbados a tropical depression , which resulted in minimal effects . Maximum sustained winds on Barbados were reported at 23 mph (57 km / h) , while gusts were

recorded up to 37 mph (60 km / h) . There are no other effects known on Barbados . St. Lucia had borne the brunt of the storm when Hurricane Abby made landfall as a category 1 hurricane . Rainfall on the island totaled at 6 @. @ 80 in (172 @. @ 7 mm) . Tropical storm force winds were recorded on the island for the passage of Hurricane Abby on July 10 , though there were no hurricane force winds reported . In addition , a roof collapsed in on a house , killing six of the residents living there . The passage of Hurricane Abby also resulted in \$ 435 @, @ 000 (1960 USD , \$ 3 @. @ 48 million 2016 USD) of damage on St. Lucia . Martinique was near the path of Hurricane Abby , which resulted in some effects . The Martinique Aimé Césaire International Airport in Fort @- @ de @- @ France recorded rainfall at nearly three inches (76 @. @ 2 mm) , while rain in another village was measured at nearly four inches (101 @. @ 2 mm) . Winds on Martinique were also at least tropical storm force during the passage of Hurricane Abby . However , wind gusts on Martinique were around 75 mph (120 km / h) , greater than that which was observed on St. Lucia . There were also damaged roads and bridges , mainly due to landslides . The island nation of Dominica was also affected by Hurricane Abby . Hurricane Abby produced nearly six in (152 @. @ 4 mm) of rain on the island . Winds were also similar to those that were measured on Barbados . Hurricane Abby left about \$ 65 @, @ 000 (1960 USD , \$ 520 thousand 2016 USD) in damage to Dominica .

= = = Greater Antilles and Central America = = =

It was initially believed that Abby would affect Jamaica with gale force winds and heavy rainfall , and the U.S. Weather Bureau noted that " interests " on the island should monitor the progress of the storm . However , Abby remained far south of the island , and the impact it had on the island , if any , is unknown . Citizens of the Cayman Islands , Central America , and the Yucatan Peninsula were also to remain on alert during the passage of Abby . The U.S. Weather Bureau later warned citizens in British Honduras and Honduras to " take all precautions for the protection of life and property against dangerous winds and abnormally high seas " .

Hurricane Abby also produced 1 @. @ 62 in (41 @. @ 14 mm) of rain on Swan Island . On the islands north of Honduras , reports were received until winds reached 52 mph (83 @. @ 7 km / h) , and then communications were lost . In Belize City , which was 75 mi (120 @. @ 7 km) north of where Abby made landfall , wind gusts were reported to 35 mph (55 km / h) . Minor property damage was reported in British Honduras , totaling to BZ \$ 6 @, @ 000 (approximately \$ 3 @, @ 000 1960 USD ; \$ 24 thousand 2016 USD) . In addition , agricultural losses reached BZ \$ 75 @, @ 000 (about \$ 37 @, @ 500 1960 USD ; \$ 300 thousand 2016 USD) . Although Abby nearly made landfall in Honduras and eventually entered Mexico , no effects were reported , but the U.S. Weather Bureau believed that flooding and there were seas of at least 5 ft (1 @. @ 5 m) above normal .

Throughout its path , Abby caused only about \$ 600 @, @ 000 (1960 USD , \$ 4 @. @ 8 million 2016 USD) in damage and six fatalities .