

= 1952 Atlantic hurricane season =

The 1952 Atlantic hurricane season was a near normal Atlantic hurricane season , although it was the least active since 1946 . The season officially started on June 15 ; however , a pre @-@ season unnamed storm formed on Groundhog Day , becoming the only storm on record in the month of February . The other six tropical cyclones were named using the Joint Army / Navy Phonetic Alphabet , the first of which formed on August 18 . The final storm of the season dissipated on October 28 , two and a half weeks before the season officially ended on November 15 .

Four of the tropical cyclones made landfall during the season , the first being the February tropical storm that crossed southern Florida . The first hurricane , named Able , struck South Carolina with winds of 100 mph ( 160 km / h ) , causing heavy damage near the coast and widespread power outages . It moved up most of the East Coast of the United States , leaving 3 deaths and widespread damage . As a developing tropical cyclone , Hurricane Charlie caused damaging flooding and landslides in southwest Puerto Rico . The final and strongest of the season , Hurricane Fox , struck Cuba with winds of 145 mph ( 233 km / h ) ; it killed 40 people and left heavy damage , particularly to the sugar crop , reaching \$ 10 million ( 1952 USD , \$ 89 @. @ 1 million 2016 USD ) .

= = Storms = =

= = = Tropical Storm One = = =

On February 2 , a non @-@ frontal low formed in the western Caribbean Sea two months after the end of the hurricane season . It moved quickly north @-@ northwestward and acquired gale @-@ force winds as it brushed the northern coast of Cuba . Early on February 3 , the storm struck Cape Sable , Florida and quickly crossed the state . The Miami National Weather Service office recorded a wind gust of 68 mph ( 110 km / h ) during its passage . The winds damaged windows and power lines , catching residents and tourists off @-@ guard . The cyclone also dropped 2 ? 4 inches ( 50 ? 100 mm ) of precipitation along its path , causing crop damage in Miami @-@ Dade County .

After leaving Florida , the storm continued rapidly northeastward and transitioned into a tropical storm during the afternoon of February 3 . While off the coast of the Southeastern United States , it attained peak winds of 70 mph ( 110 km / h ) . On February 4 it evolved into an extratropical cyclone off the coast of North Carolina . Later that day , it passed over Cape Cod , and early on February 5 dissipated after crossing into Maine . The storm caused scattered power outages and gusty winds across New England . The cyclone remains the only tropical or subtropical storm on record during the month of February .

= = = Hurricane Able = = =

Over six months after the previous storm dissipated , a tropical depression developed just off the west coast of Africa on August 18 . It moved generally west- to west @-@ northwestward for much of its duration , intensifying into a tropical storm on August 24 east of the Lesser Antilles . The next day , Hurricane Hunters confirmed the presence of Tropical Storm Able . Passing north of the islands , the storm attained hurricane status on August 27 . On August 30 , Able turned to the north @-@ northwest due to an approaching cold front , and the next day made landfall near Beaufort , South Carolina as a Category 2 hurricane with peak winds of 100 mph ( 160 km / h ) . The town was heavily damaged , and was briefly isolated after winds downed power and telephone lines . Across South Carolina , the hurricane caused two indirect deaths , as well as moderate damage totaling \$ 2 @. @ 2 million ( 1952 USD , \$ 19 @. @ 6 million 2016 USD ) .

As Able turned north and northeastward over land , the winds quickly weakened to tropical storm force , although it retained gale force winds through North Carolina , Virginia , and Maryland ; this was due to remaining over the flat terrain east of the Appalachian Mountains , as well as retaining a plume of tropical moisture from its south . It left light damage in North Carolina , some of it due to a

tornado . In Maryland , heavy rainfall caused widespread flooding , which washed out the tracks of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad near Baltimore . In Ellicott City , Maryland , the rains flooded several houses , forcing families to evacuate . Two tornadoes were also reported in the region , and damage in the Washington , D.C. area reached \$ 500 @,@ 000 ( 1952 USD , \$ 4 @.@ 46 million 2016 USD ) . Further northeast , the storm continued to produce heavy rainfall , causing flooding , as well as one indirect death in Pennsylvania . After moving through New England , Able dissipated on September 2 near Portland , Maine .

= = = Tropical Storm Three = = =

A cold front was located north of the Bahamas on August 26 , with a broad area of cyclonic turning located east of northern Florida . Atmospheric pressures were falling in the region , and gale force winds were recorded by 12 : 00 UTC on August 27 . Based on the structure , it is estimated that the frontal low developed into a tropical storm by 18 : 00 UTC that day . Ship reports in the region suggested peak winds of 50 mph ( 85 km / h ) . There was very dry air on the west side of the system , unusual for August , and the radius of maximum winds was around 115 mi ( 185 km ) , suggesting that the structure could have been akin to a subtropical cyclone . The storm continued to the northwest , making landfall very near Myrtle Beach , South Carolina at 02 : 00 UTC on August 28 . It spread rainfall across the Carolinas , later enhanced by Hurricane Able just days later , while cities reported winds of around 35 mph ( 55 km / h ) . The storm weakened over land and dissipated late on August 28 over eastern Kentucky .

= = = Hurricane Baker = = =

The third tropical cyclone of the season developed on August 31 a short distance east of the northern Lesser Antilles . Its presence was reported by a ship the next day that encountered rough seas and gale force winds . As a result , the Weather Bureau sent the Hurricane Hunters to investigate the system , which reported a strengthening hurricane moving northwestward . Given the name Baker , the hurricane passed north of the Lesser Antilles , reaching peak winds of 110 mph ( 175 km / h ) late on September 3 . For several days , the Hurricane Hunters reported similar winds , along with gusts up to 140 mph ( 230 km / h ) .

With a large anticyclone located over the Ohio Valley , Baker turned to the northeast on September 5 , passing about halfway between Bermuda and North Carolina . The hurricane slowly weakened as it moved through the north Atlantic Ocean , just missing Newfoundland while maintaining winds of 80 mph ( 130 km / h ) . Wind gusts on Avalon Peninsula reached 70 mph ( 110 km / h ) , and heavy fishing damage was reported in Lower Island Cove . After affecting the island , Baker transitioned into an extratropical storm , which lasted another day before dissipating south of Greenland .

= = = Tropical Storm Five = = =

A dissipating cold front stalled across the northeastern Atlantic Ocean on September 7 , northeast of the Azores . That day , a closed circulation developed and quickly became independent of the front . Based on a uniform thermal structure , as well as ship reports in the region of gale @-@ force winds near the center , it is estimated that the system became a tropical storm early on September 8 . That day , the system moved west @-@ southwestward , atypical for cyclones in that region during September . On September 9 , the storm turned to the southeast , reaching estimated peak winds of 50 mph ( 85 km / h ) , based on ship observations . Moving slowly through the northern Azores , the storm produced winds of 35 mph ( 55 km / h ) along Terceira Island . It slowly weakened , and by late on September 10 the system degraded into a tropical depression . By the next day , the system was interacting with an approaching cold front , indicating that the depression had transitioned into an extratropical cyclone . Around 20 : 00 UTC , the storm moved ashore the southwestern tip of Portugal with gale @-@ force winds . The storm turned to the northwest through the Iberian Peninsula , dissipating on September 14 over southwestern France .

### === Hurricane Charlie ===

On September 22 , a tropical wave moved into the eastern Caribbean Sea , spawning a tropical depression near Hispaniola early on September 24 . As it tracked west @-@ northwestward , the low dropped heavy rainfall , peaking at 4 @.@ 42 in ( 112 mm ) in Christiansted , United States Virgin Islands , as well as 11 @.@ 9 in ( 300 mm ) in Garzas , Puerto Rico . In Puerto Rico , the rains caused landslides that affected seven towns , notably Ponce , the island 's second @-@ largest city . There , at least 14 buildings were destroyed . The floods left more than 1 @,@ 000 people homeless , 300 of whom took refuge in a Red Cross shelter . Overall , the flooding on the island killed four people and left moderate damage of around \$ 1 million ( 1952 USD , \$ 8 @.@ 91 million 2016 USD ) .

After affecting Puerto Rico , the low continued to organize , and subsequently struck the Dominican Republic on September 23 . The circulation became disrupted while crossing Hispaniola , although it reorganized near the Turks and Caicos Islands and became Tropical Storm Charlie before reaching those islands . On September 25 , Charlie attained hurricane status , , and due to its continued northwest motion , the Weather Bureau advised small craft to remain at port in the southeastern United States coast . However , the hurricane turned to the north and northeast on September 26 , during which the Hurricane Hunters recorded peak winds of 120 mph ( 195 km / h ) . It briefly threatened Bermuda , prompting the United States Air Force to evacuate its fleet of airplanes from Kindley Air Force Base . Charlie ultimately northwest of Bermuda , and later began weakening . On September 29 it turned eastward , and later that day transitioned into an extratropical cyclone . The remnants lasted two more days before dissipating 400 mi ( 640 km ) southeast of Newfoundland .

### === Tropical Storm Dog ===

On September 25 , a tropical wave spawned a tropical storm about 700 mi ( 1 @,@ 100 km ) east of the Lesser Antilles . Given the name Dog , the storm moved northwestward for its entire duration . On September 26 , Hurricane Hunters observed winds of 78 mph ( 126 km / h ) , which indicated that Dog strengthened to just below hurricane intensity . The plane also estimated winds of around 100 mph ( 160 km / h ) , although they were unable to locate a closed center of circulation . After approaching hurricane status , , Dog began a marked weakening trend , with winds of only 50 mph ( 85 km / h ) by September 27 . Continuing to weaken , the storm dissipated on September 29 . The Weather Bureau advised ships to avoid the storm , but overall Dog did not affect land . As the Hurricane Hunters did not report a well @-@ defined circulation , there was a possibility Dog was not a tropical cyclone ; the report of the 1952 season assessed that Dog remained a tropical wave .

### === Tropical Storm Eight ===

On September 24 , a tropical wave moved off the west coast of Africa . It is estimated that a closed circulation developed on the next day , suggesting the formation of a tropical depression . On September 26 , Santiago island within Cape Verde recorded winds of 30 mph ( 45 km / h ) as the system was passing to the southwest . A minimum pressure of 1 @,@ 000 mbar ( 30 inHg ) and ship reports of 35 mph ( 55 km / h ) winds indicate that the system reached peak winds of 45 mph ( 75 km / h ) , or a minimal tropical storm . It turned to the north on September 27 and likely weakened , although observations were sparse . By September 30 , the system lost its circulation and degenerated into an open trough .

### === Hurricane Easy ===

On October 6 , a tropical depression formed about 700 mi ( 1 @,@ 100 km ) east of Antigua , near where the previous hurricane developed . The depression proceeded northward , and was detected by the Hurricane Hunters on October 7 . The next day , a plane flew into Easy and reported peak

winds of 110 mph ( 180 km / h ) , indicating the storm had rapidly intensified . By the time it reached peak intensity , the hurricane had turned sharply to the east , and later began to move toward the south . As quickly as it strengthened , Easy began to weaken , and an aircraft reported winds of only 48 mph ( 77 km / h ) on October 9 . The storm headed southwest , ultimately dissipating on October 11 about 155 mi ( 249 km ) southwest of where it formed . Easy never affected land .

== Hurricane Fox ==

The strongest tropical cyclone of the season formed on October 20 in the Caribbean Sea off the northwest coast of Colombia , believed to have been from the Intertropical Convergence Zone . It moved northwestward , intensifying into a tropical storm on October 21 and a hurricane the following day . Fox subsequently turned to the north , intensifying to a major hurricane as it passed west of the Cayman Islands . Late on October 24 , the cyclone struck the small island of Cayo Guano del Estes in the Archipelago de los Canarreos , south of Cienfuegos , Cuba . It struck the island with peak winds of 145 mph ( 233 km / h ) , and the island reported a minimum pressure of 934 mbar ( 27 @. 59 inHg ) . Shortly thereafter , Fox crossed the mainland coast of Cuba west of Cienfuegos , and it weakened while crossing the island .

Hurricane Fox crossed Cuba in a rural area dominated by sugar plantations , with heavy damage reported to 36 mills . In one town , the hurricane destroyed about 600 homes and damaged over 1 @, @ 000 more . Across the island , the strongest winds downed large trees and washed a large freighter ashore . Heavy rainfall affected all but the extreme eastern and western end of the island , with a peak of 6 @. 84 in ( 174 mm ) near Havana . The rains flooded low @-@ lying areas and caused rivers to exceed their banks . Throughout Cuba , Hurricane Fox injured 70 people , killed 40 , and heavy damage totaling \$ 10 million ( 1952 USD , \$ 89 @. 1 million 2016 USD ) . Fox was among the strongest hurricanes to strike the country .

After crossing Cuba , Fox emerged into the Atlantic Ocean with winds of 100 mph ( 160 km / h ) , crossing central Andros and turning eastward though the Bahamas . On New Providence , the hurricane dropped 13 @. 27 in ( 337 mm ) of rainfall , Strong winds caused severe crop damage , leaving 30 % of the tomato crop destroyed . After briefly restrengthening to a major hurricane , Fox began a steady weakening trend . It turned abruptly to the north @-@ northwest , followed by another turn to the northeast . On October 28 , Fox was absorbed by a cold front west @-@ southwest of Bermuda .

== Tropical Storm Eleven ==

A cold front stalled north of the Virgin Islands on November 23 , spawning an extratropical storm the next day . The system strengthened while moving northward , attaining gale force winds on November 25 . It was a large system , and a ship in the vicinity reported a pressure of 994 mbar ( 29 @. 4 inHg ) . The observation , within a warm environment and in concurrence with gale force winds , suggested that the system became a tropical storm on November 26 , although the system likely was a subtropical cyclone due to the structure . Turning to the west @-@ northwest along a dissipating cold front , the storm reached peak winds of 60 mph ( 95 km / h ) on November 27 . Another front in the region steered the storm to the south and east in a counterclockwise circle . Weakening slightly , the system briefly transitioned into an extratropical storm on November 30 before dissipating later that day within the front .

== Storm names ==

These names were used to name storms during the 1952 season , the third and final time storm names were taken from the Joint Army / Navy Phonetic Alphabet . Names that were not used to designate tropical cyclones are marked in gray .