

= 1958 Atlantic hurricane season =

The 1958 Atlantic hurricane season included every tropical cyclone either affecting or threatening land . There were ten named storms as well as one pre @-@ season tropical depression . Seven of the storms became hurricanes , including five that were major hurricanes , or the equivalent of a Category 3 on the Saffir @-@ Simpson scale . The strongest storm was Hurricane Helene , which became a strong Category 4 hurricane with 150 mph (240 km / h) winds and an barometric pressure of 930 mbar (27 @.@ 46 inHg) while just offshore the southeastern United States .

In May , a subtropical depression formed in the Caribbean and dropped heavy rainfall near Miami , Florida . The first named storm of the season was Alma , which killed three people and caused flooding in Texas . Hurricane Daisy in August was a major hurricane that paralleled the eastern coast of the United States , although due to its small size it did not cause much damage . Hurricane Ella affected much of the northern Caribbean and Texas , most significantly the Dominican Republic where 30 people died . Ella also killed six people in Cuba , where it made landfall as a major hurricane . A few weeks later , Tropical Storm Gerda also struck the Dominican Republic and killed three people . The costliest storm of the season was Helene , which caused \$ 11 @.@ 2 million in damage (1958 USD) , mostly in North Carolina . Although it passed within 10 mi (16 km) of the state , its effects were mostly limited to the coast , and the hurricane killed one person . The last storm of the season , Janice , killed eight people in Jamaica when its precursor dropped 20 in (510 mm) of rainfall , and one person was killed in the Bahamas .

= = Season summary = =

The ten tropical storms during the season is comparable to the 20 year average of ten . In contrast to the previous season when most storms were in the Gulf of Mexico , most storms in 1958 occurred over the western Atlantic Ocean . The first storm , Alma , formed in the middle of June . Subsequently , a trough persisted along the eastern United States , which suppressed tropical cyclone formation . Conditions remained unfavorable in July due to a large ridge suppressing the westerlies . In August , a persistent trough caused three storms ? Becky , Cleo , and Daisy ? to recurve and remain over the ocean . Most storms formed from the middle of August through the middle of October , when polar air reached as far south as Florida due to a shift in the ridge .

Before the season started , the United States Weather Bureau office in Miami began setting up a teleprinter to distribute hourly advisories to newspapers and the American Red Cross . The hurricane season officially began on June 15 , and lasted until November 15 . When the season started , the Lakeland Frost Warning Service sent four employees to assist the Miami Weather Bureau . The Hurricane Hunters flew daily to investigate potential storms in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico . In addition , there was a set of radars from Texas to Maine to track storms . Beginning in 1958 , the Weather Bureau predicted the change in tide due to a storm with the assistance of a tide specialist . During the season , a reporter ? daughter of Weather Bureau director Gordon Dunn ? flew into Hurricane Daisy , becoming the first woman to fly into a hurricane . Utilizing radars along the East Coast of the United States , the Weather Bureau tracked both Hurricanes Daisy and Helene for 575 mi (925 km) , which was the first such occurrence of that feat .

The season 's activity was reflected with a cumulative accumulated cyclone energy (ACE) rating of 121 . ACE , broadly speaking , is a measure of the power of the hurricane multiplied by the length of time it existed , so storms that last a long time , as well as particularly strong hurricanes , have high values . ACE is only calculated for full advisories on tropical systems at or exceeding 34 knots (39 mph , 63 km / h) or tropical storm strength .

= = Storms = =

= = Tropical Storm One = = =

A small circulation crossed Panama from the Pacific Ocean on May 17 , and by the following day it was a developing depression near San Andrés in the western Caribbean . The system gradually organized over warm waters while moving to the northwest , developing a well @-@ defined low pressure area by May 23 as it approached western Cuba . Later that day , the depression crossed the western portion of the island before turning to the northeast . On May 24 , the system passed southeast of Florida , dropping heavy rainfall that peaked at 12 @.@ 07 in (307 mm) in Homestead . May 1958 was the second wettest May since 1911 , of which half of the precipitation fell during the depression . Several other locations in the Miami area reported record or near @-@ record rainfall for the month . The high rainfall disrupted planting of vegetables , and there was some crop damage . Flooding entered homes and businesses , forcing some evacuations . About 2 @,@ 900 people lost telephone service , and there was a brief water outage on Key Biscayne . There were also hundreds of vehicle accidents related to the storm .

After affecting Florida , the depression continued to the northeast , and although it had a warm core , it was not able to develop significantly due to lack of temperature instability , as well as another low developing southwest of the circulation . The depression was briefly forecast to strike North Carolina , but instead an eastward moving ridge kept it offshore . In Hatteras , North Carolina , the depression dropped 3 in (76 mm) of rainfall . The influx of cold air transitioned the depression to an extratropical cyclone on May 28 . An approaching cold front absorbed the depression and produced heavy rainfall in eastern Canada .

= = = Tropical Storm Alma = = =

A tropical wave was first observed in the central Caribbean Sea on June 9 . By the following day , there was evidence of a weak closed circulation off the south coast of Jamaica . Moving generally westward , on June 12 it crossed the Yucatán Peninsula , and the system emerged into the Bay of Campeche the next day . On June 14 , a tropical depression formed about halfway between the Yucatán Peninsula and Tamaulipas . Within six hours , the depression intensified into Tropical Storm Alma about 150 mi (240 km) east of Tampico . Later that day , a ship reported a pressure of 997 mbar (29 @.@ 4 inHg) and high seas , and early on June 15 a United States Coast Guard plane measured winds of 50 mph (85 km / h) near the northeast Mexican coast . That day , Alma made landfall about 70 mi (110 km) south of Brownsville , Texas in northeastern Mexico . The storm moved ashore in northeastern Tamaulipas early on June 15 before crossing into southern Texas . After weakening to a tropical depression , Alma straddled the Rio Grande before dissipating in western Texas late on June 16 .

The United States Coast Guard recommended people to evacuate in beach areas near Brownsville , Texas . As it moved ashore , Alma produced a high tide of 2 @.@ 9 ft (0 @.@ 88 m) along Padre Island , and one person drowned near Galveston due to heavy surf . The highest wind gust was 45 mph (72 km / h) at Port Isabel , causing minor damage . However , Alma dropped heavy rainfall further inland , reaching about 20 in (510 mm) near Medina . The rains caused floods that resulted in heavy damage to property and crops . Some rivers and streams rose above their banks due to floods , creating torrents of up to 15 ft (4 @.@ 6 m) in some arroyos . The floods covered highways and forced about 100 people to evacuate near Sabinal . The rains also knocked out telephone lines in Uvalde County , and temporarily trapped hundreds of scouts . One person drowned along the Concho River , and three people overall died due to the system .

= = = Tropical Storm Becky = = =

Based on reports from the Cape Verde islands offshore Africa , it is estimated a tropical depression developed on August 8 . It moved westward due to the subtropical ridge to its north , a motion the depression would continue for much of its duration . Nearby ship reports indicated gradual strengthening , and the depression became a tropical storm on August 11 . At 0400 UTC on August 12 , the San Juan Weather Bureau office initiated advisories on Tropical Storm Becky about halfway

between the Lesser Antilles and Cape Verde . That day , the Hurricane Hunters flew into the storm , reporting a pressure of 1 @, @ 006 mbar (29 @. @ 7 inHg) and flight level winds of 70 mph (110 km / h) ; its peak surface winds were estimated at 60 mph (95 km / h) . Also on August 12 , a storm warning was issued for the northern Leeward Islands , and a storm watch was issued for the United States Virgin Islands and northern Puerto Rico .

After peaking in intensity , Becky continued quickly to the west @-@ northwest , and its fast motion may have prevented further strengthening . On August 14 , a flight reported hurricane @-@ force wind gusts in rainbands 210 mi (340 km) east @-@ northeast of the center . The next day , the circulation became poorly defined , and by August 16 , Becky had become extratropical after it merged with an approaching cold front . The storm turned to the north and northeast , dissipating later on August 17 . As Becky was transitioning into an extratropical storm , it produced high waves along the southeastern coast of the United States .

= = = Hurricane Cleo = = =

A well @-@ developed tropical wave spawned a tropical storm on August 11 to the south of Cape Verde . It moved westward , and ships in the area indicated that it had a large circulation . The Hurricane Hunters flew into the system and observed a well @-@ developed hurricane with winds of 146 mph (235 km / h) , which were the highest measured winds . As a result , the San Juan Weather Bureau Office initiated advisories on Hurricane Cleo and issued a hurricane watch for the Lesser Antilles . Subsequent analysis determined that Cleo became a hurricane on August 13 . A weak trough near 50 ° W allowed the hurricane to turn to the north , and Cleo continued to intensify , based on improved definition of the eye on radar imagery . A flight into the storm late on August 16 indicated a pressure of 947 mbar (28 @. @ 0 inHg) with winds of 140 mph (230 km / h) early on August 16 .

After maintaining peak winds for about six hours , Cleo began weakening . It turned more to the northwest due to a strengthening ridge to the northeast and the hurricane 's outflow weakening the trough . An approaching cold front turned Cleo to the northeast on August 18 and caused it to accelerate . That day , it passed about 450 mi (720 km) east of Bermuda . On August 20 , the hurricane became extratropical to the southeast of Newfoundland . In St. John 's , the storm dropped about 2 in (51 mm) of rainfall . The remnants of Cleo turned to the east and east @-@ southeast , dissipating on August 22 between the Azores and Portugal .

= = = Hurricane Daisy = = =

A tropical wave moved through the Lesser Antilles on August 20 and gradually spread north . On August 24 , a nearby ship reported a low pressure area and strong winds , indicating the formation of a small tropical cyclone near the Bahamas . After a Hurricane Hunters flight indicated winds of 55 mph (89 km / h) , the Weather Bureau initiated advisories on Tropical Storm Daisy early on August 25 to the north of the Bahamas . That day it became a hurricane , and initially it moved slowly to the northwest due to a ridge to the northeast . On August 26 , a trough turned Daisy to the northeast , and the hurricane continued to intensify due to an anticyclone aloft . By early August 28 , the hurricane reached peak winds of 130 mph (215 km / h) , and a minimum pressure of 948 mbar (28 @. @ 0 inHg) while offshore South Carolina . Daisy accelerated to the north , passing about 75 mi (121 km) east of Hatteras , North Carolina ; there , gusts peaked at 36 mph (58 km / h) due to the storm 's small size .

For much of its duration , Hurricane Daisy was visible from radar along the eastern United States , which assisted in tracking the storm . Passing east of Hatteras , Daisy dropped moderate rainfall , peaking at 5 @. @ 92 in (150 mm) near Morehead City , North Carolina , before turning to the northeast on August 29 . The Weather Bureau issued a hurricane warning from Block Island to Provincetown , Massachusetts due to the projected path near New England . Later on August 29 , Daisy passed about 70 mi (110 km) southeast of Nantucket . Nearby Block Island reported peak gusts of 45 mph (72 km / h) , and a Texas Tower 120 mi (190 km) east of Cape Cod reported

gusts to 87 mph (140 km / h) . The storm also produced high tides and light rainfall , and forced 600 people to evacuate Nantucket . Due to its small size , there was no major damage in the United States . After affecting Nantucket , Daisy weakened and became extratropical by early on August 30 . The remnants turned to the east , passing south of Nova Scotia before dissipating on August 31 . In Canada , the storm damaged a boat in the Bay of Fundy that drifted for two days until reaching Saint John , New Brunswick .

= = = Hurricane Ella = = =

A tropical wave spawned a tropical depression near the Lesser Antilles on August 30 , which quickly became Tropical Storm Ella . It quickly intensified in the eastern Caribbean into a hurricane by August 31 while passing south of Puerto Rico ; there , the outer rainbands caused some flooding that caused minor damage . On September 1 , Ella strengthened to winds of 110 mph (180 km / h) , as measured by the Hurricane Hunters . At that intensity , the hurricane passed just south of the Dominican Republic before making landfall in southwestern Haiti . In the Dominican Republic , heavy rainfall and floods caused \$ 100 @, @ 000 in damage , mostly in the country 's southwestern portion . Heavy rainfall caused widespread flooding in southwestern Haiti , and thousands of people became homeless after their houses were damaged . Near Les Cayes , 30 people were killed due to flash flooding .

After affecting Haiti , Ella weakened to a Category 1 hurricane before moving ashore in southeastern Cuba early on September 2 . While traversing the island , Ella weakened to a tropical storm and was unable to restrengthen . Near Santiago de Cuba , the Bayamo River washed away 25 houses and killed five people . One other person died in the country due to the hurricane . After Ella reached the Gulf of Mexico on September 3 , its structure was disrupted , and it remained a tropical storm as it continued to the west @-@ northwest . Its outer rainbands produced gusts of 75 mph (121 km / h) in Grand Isle , Louisiana . Ella struck Texas on September 6 and dissipated soon thereafter . At its final landfall , the storm produced 13 @. @ 6 in (350 mm) of rainfall in Galveston , Texas , and in the city , one person died after falling overboard a boat .

= = = Hurricane Fifi = = =

A ship on September 4 indicated a tropical depression developed from a tropical wave to the east of the Lesser Antilles . The system initially had two circulations that consolidated into one by September 5 . That day , Hurricane Hunters observed 55 mph (89 km / h) winds , which prompted the Weather Bureau to upgrade it to Tropical Storm Fifi . Due to the storm 's fast track to the northwest , a gale warning and hurricane watch were issued for the Leeward and northern Windward Islands . On September 6 , Fifi intensified into a hurricane and reached peak winds of 85 mph (137 km / h) , around the same time that it passed about 150 mi (240 km) northeast of the Leeward Islands . Later , Fifi began weakening , and by September 8 it was downgraded to tropical storm status . The westerlies turned Fifi to the northeast on September 10 . After passing southeast of Bermuda , the storm dissipated on September 11 .

= = = Tropical Storm Gerda = = =

A tropical wave was first observed on September 11 about 400 mi (640 km) east of the Lesser Antilles . It moved westward , and based on surface reports from the island chain , a tropical depression developed west of Martinique on September 13 . The system moved quickly to the west @-@ northwest , becoming a tropical storm by late on September 13 . The Hurricane Hunters encountered winds of 70 mph (110 km / h) on September 14 just offshore the Dominican Republic ; on that basis the system was designated Tropical Storm Gerda . Shortly thereafter , the storm struck the Barahona peninsula . The high terrain of Hispaniola quickly weakened Gerda , and on September 15 the Hurricane Hunters could not detect a closed circulation . It is estimated that Gerda dissipated offshore southeastern Cuba . The wave continued west , later reaching the Gulf of

Mexico . Aided by an approaching trough , a small low pressure area redeveloped on September 19 , which struck southern Texas and moved to the northeast . This low eventually dissipated over Louisiana on September 22 , having produced gusts of 52 mph (84 km / h) along the Texas coast .

When the precursor to Gerda passed through the Lesser Antilles , it dropped 15 in (380 mm) of rain . Stations in the United States Virgin Islands reported winds up to 46 mph (74 km / h) . The storm 's threat prompted gale warnings along the southern coast of Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic . In the former island , Gerda killed three people . Two people drowned after falling off a boat on Vieques island , and the other died after his house collapsed while he was inside . The storm damaged coffee , banana , and plantain crops in Puerto Rico . Winds reached 54 mph (87 km / h) in the Dominican Republic .

= = = Hurricane Helene = = =

A tropical wave was first observed near Cape Verde on September 16 . On September 21 , the Hurricane Hunters observed a circulation , which indicated a tropical depression had formed east of the northern Leeward Islands . It moved to the west @-@ northwest , becoming Tropical Storm Helene on September 23 . The next day Helene became a hurricane , aided by an anticyclone aloft . It moved around a large ridge , bringing its center toward the southeastern United States . As the hurricane approached the Carolinas , the hurricane rapidly intensified as the eye became visible on radar , and Helene reached peak winds of 150 mph (240 km / h) on the morning of September 27 . An approaching trough turned the hurricane to the northeast , and Helene came within 10 mi (15 km) of the coast of North Carolina . It slowly weakened , and at the same time its size expanded . On September 29 , Helene became extratropical as it was moving over Newfoundland . The remnants continued to the northeast , later turning to the southeast and dissipating on October 4 just west of Great Britain .

While paralleling the southeastern United States , Helene produced a peak storm surge of 6 ft (1 @.@ 8 m) near Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point in North Carolina . A station in Wilmington reported sustained winds of 88 mph (142 km / h) and a peak gust of 135 mph (220 km / h) , exceeding the previous record for measured wind speed there by a wide margin . At Cape Fear , winds were estimated at 125 mph (200 km / h) , with gusts as high as 160 mph (260 km / h) . Rainfall from Helene peaked at 8 @.@ 29 in (211 mm) in Wilmington International Airport , although rainfall spread as far north as New England . Damage in the United States totaled \$ 11 @.@ 2 million , and there was one indirect fatality . In Atlantic Canada , Helene produced high winds and heavy rainfall , causing power outages in Prince Edward Island and Cape Breton Island . A wharf in Caribou , Nova Scotia was destroyed by rough seas generated by Helene , and at least 1 @,@ 000 lobster traps were carried out to sea as a result .

= = = Hurricane Ilsa = = =

On September 24 , ship reports near an area of disturbed weather east of the Lesser Antilles prompted a Hurricane Hunters flight . By the time the aircraft investigated the system , they discovered a tropical storm with winds of 40 mph (64 km / h) , which was named Ilsa by the Weather Bureau . Subsequent analysis estimated that the storm became a tropical depression earlier that day . Ilsa quickly intensified into a hurricane on September 25 , by which time it was located about 1 @,@ 100 mi (1 @,@ 800 km) southeast of Hurricane Helene . Over the subsequent few days , the two hurricanes underwent the Fujiwhara effect , in which Ilsa turned to the north and Helene turned to the northeast . Ilsa quickly intensified on September 26 , developing a well @-@ defined eye and spiral rainbands . Early on September 27 , it reached peak winds of 110 mph (175 km / h) , and subsequently it weakened . On September 29 the hurricane turned to the northeast and accelerated , becoming extratropical and dissipating by the next day .

Early in the duration of Ilsa , the Weather Bureau issued a gale warning and hurricane watch for the Leeward Islands , Virgin Islands , and northern Puerto Rico . However , no damage was reported . The storm caused extensive beach erosion and squally conditions in Bermuda .

=== Hurricane Janice ===

A tropical wave moved through the Lesser Antilles on September 30 . It moved westward through the Caribbean , developing a broad circulation by October 3 as it approached Jamaica . The weak circulation gradually became better organized , developing into a tropical depression near the Cayman Islands on October 4 . The system quickly intensified into Tropical Storm Janice as it moved toward the coast of Cuba . An eastward @-@ moving cold front turned the storm to the north and northeast , and Janice crossed central Cuba early on October 6 . The storm intensified while moving through the Bahamas , becoming a hurricane on October 7 . Janice slowed that day and reached peak winds of 100 mph (155 km / h) . On October 9 , the hurricane turned to the east @-@ northeast , and by that time had weakened slightly ; however , the next day it re @-@ attained its previous peak intensity while passing northwest of Bermuda , reaching a minimum pressure of 968 mbar (28 @. 6 inHg) . On October 12 , Janice became extratropical in the northern Atlantic Ocean , and the next day merged with a stronger non @-@ tropical low offshore Atlantic Canada .

The precursor to Janice dropped heavy rainfall in Jamaica , reaching over 20 in (510 mm) in some locations . Rain @-@ induced flooding destroyed homes , wrecked crops , and damaged coastal wharves and roads . Eight people were killed , and the floods were considered the worst in 25 years . When Janice was still over Cuba , the Weather Bureau issued gale warnings from Vero Beach , Florida to Cape Hatteras , North Carolina . In the Bahamas , Janice produced peak winds of 63 mph (101 km / h) on San Salvador Island . In Nassau , one person was killed while trying to move a boat . A dredger was lost and a yacht was seriously damaged in the Bahamas , and damage in the country reached \$ 200 @, @ 000 .

=== Tropical Storm Twelve ===

== Storm names ==

The following names were used for named storms (tropical storms and hurricanes) that formed in the North Atlantic in 1958 .