

= 1906 Mississippi hurricane =

The 1906 Mississippi hurricane was a deadly and destructive hurricane during the 1906 Atlantic hurricane season . The fourth hurricane of the season , the system was originally observed in the western Caribbean on September 22 ; however , modern research revealed that the system became a tropical depression on September 19 . The system slowly intensified , eventually becoming a major hurricane by September 24 . The system made landfall near Pascagoula , Mississippi , during the evening of September 27 , devastating the cities of Pensacola and Mobile and the state of Mississippi . Damage totaled to at least \$ 19 @, @ 221 @, @ 000 , and more than 134 people were killed .

= = Meteorological history = =

The first documented information on the storm places it in the western Caribbean Sea on September 22 , although modern reanalysis of this storm as a tropical depression on September 19 . The storm drifted north from the Yucatán Channel on September 24 , while it was a weak hurricane with winds of 75 mph ( 120 km / h ) . The hurricane was south @-@ southwest of Havana by morning , and as it drifted north @-@ northwestward during the evening hours of September 24 , the system intensified into a Category 2 hurricane .

The hurricane was documented to have been about 300 miles ( 480 km ) west @-@ northwest of Cuba on September 25 . Near this area , the hurricane had intensified further into a Category 3 hurricane , with maximum sustained winds of 115 mph ( 185 km / h ) . The system finished its passage into the Gulf of Mexico by September 27 . During the afternoon , the hurricane made landfall near Pascagoula , Mississippi , as a Category 2 hurricane . The hurricane moved inland , weakening to a Category 1 hurricane and eventually to a tropical storm . The storm weakened to a tropical depression , and dissipated on September 29 as it transitioned into an extratropical storm .

= = Preparations and impact = =

= = = Florida = = =

The city of Pensacola suffered the most severe damage caused by the storm . Several tugboats , vessels , fishing boats , and other watercraft were tossed along the shore of the city . Large numbers of trees were uprooted and the roofs of houses were torn off . At its highest , the storm surge of the hurricane was 8 @. @ 5 feet ( 2 @. @ 6 m ) above the normal tide , the highest recorded in the city at the time . The city 's waterfront was completely flooded , along with some houses near the waterfront . Muscogee wharf was partially destroyed , broken into two pieces . On either side of the wharf , railroad tracks had been washed away . A total of 39 freight cars carrying coal were also washed away . In addition , the grain elevator of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad was destroyed during the hurricane . A timber boom was demolished during the hurricane , leaving wood and debris on the beach .

Along Intendencia Street , several cottages were flooded ; in some areas , the floodwaters were 10 feet ( 3 @. @ 0 m ) deep . The southern end of West Main Street was completely inundated and was swept away . There was devastation between Barcelona and Perdido streets , with several boats wrecked . Between Palafox Street and Wright Street , many houses ' roofs were torn away . Rail service in and out of Pensacola was severely affected ; one train arrived several hours later than scheduled , and it was said that it had to stop " every few yards " in order to remove trees and debris covering the track . Between Magnolia Bluff and Milton , the track was destroyed and the Escambia Bridge was partially demolished . The fishing industry of Pensacola was estimated to have suffered at least \$ 500 @, @ 000 in damage . Many wharfs had been completely destroyed during the hurricane . Electricity was shut off during the hurricane .

Fort Barrancas , Fort Pickens , and Fort McRee suffered severe damage . At Forts Pickens and

Barrancas , damage was estimated to be around \$ 10 @, @ 000 . In the Bayou Grande area of Pensacola , the tide was estimated to be about 12 feet ( 3 @. @ 7 m ) above normal . At the intersection of Cedar and Baylen streets , oyster boats , steam tugs , wood , and other debris were scattered . A boat identified as the Wolverine was tossed into a lot near the corner . Trees and chimneys were blown down , and a tin roof was peeled off a house as a result of strong winds . On the 26th port , one bark was completely destroyed , while another eleven were tossed around . A schooner that sank during the hurricane was tipped over . At the 38th port , 29 schooners were thrown ashore , and another sixteen were completely destroyed . Only eight of the 36 lumber barges floated , while three of eight tugs were floating , and of those three of them were wrecked . Other debris was scattered around the city , including pieces of shattered glass . A fire occurred at a hotel in Pensacola .

At the navy yard of Pensacola , all but three boats ? the Isle de Luzon and two " water boats " ? were either sunk or thrown ashore . A steel dock owned by Spain was untouched , but areas surrounding it were littered with debris . In the towns of Wosley and Warrington , waterfronts were severely damaged and some houses washed away . At Pensacola Bay , the tide was 10 feet ( 3 @. @ 0 m ) high ; at East Bay , the tide was measured at 9 feet ( 2 @. @ 7 m ) ; at St. Andrews Bay , the tide was 6 feet ( 1 @. @ 8 m ) high ; and at Apalachicola Bay , the tide was 5 feet ( 1 @. @ 5 m ) high . The damage caused in the city totaled to at least \$ 2 @, @ 620 @, @ 000 , while the damage within the vicinity of the city amounted to more than \$ 1 @, @ 230 @, @ 000 . The total damage caused within Pensacola and the surrounding areas totaled to greater than \$ 3 @, @ 850 @, @ 000 . The hurricane was considered the worst in the city in 170 years . However , there was widespread praise by residents and newspapers for the Weather Bureau for tracking the hurricane and issuing storm warnings three days before the storm made landfall . A total of 35 people were killed in Pensacola .

= = = Louisiana = = =

In New Orleans , observations at the backwater of the Mississippi River indicated a storm surge of about 6 feet ( 1 @. @ 8 m ) in height on the morning of September 27 . The highest sustained winds recorded during the storm in New Orleans were measured at 49 mph ( 79 km / h ) , while the minimum pressure recorded was 987 mbar ( hPa ; 29 @. @ 15 inHg ) . In the town of Burrwood , a wharf was impacted by the hurricane 's storm surge . In addition , local crops and railroads suffered severe damage . Lake Pontchartrain overflowed during the hurricane , with its waters 5 feet ( 1 @. @ 5 m ) above normal levels , flooding New Orleans . Telegraph wires were down in New Orleans after the hurricane , resulting in the loss of contact with the city . Chimneys were blown down in the city ; and a resort along Lake Pontchartrain was underwater , and many houses were swept away near the hotel . Telephone service in New Orleans went down during the hurricane . It was reported that Fort St. Philip was flooded by boaters along the Mississippi River . The hurricane set a new 24 @- @ hour @- @ record for rainfall at Colliston , where rainfall amounted to 4 @. @ 55 inches ( 11 @. @ 6 cm ) accumulated during the hurricane .

= = = Alabama = = =

The lowest air pressure recorded in Mobile was 977 mbar ( hPa ; 28 @. @ 84 inHg ) . At the highest point , the tide was measured at 9 @. @ 87 feet ( 3 @. @ 01 m ) , while the maximum sustained wind during the hurricane reached 94 mph ( 151 km / h ) . About twenty small buildings and houses were destroyed by the hurricane 's winds . Most of the buildings in the city were either slightly or moderately damaged . Some shingles and roofs were blown off , while telegraph wires were down , along with other services that required electricity . In the Mobile River and Bay , a total of eleven steamships , seventeen barks and schooners , and 12 tugboats , had either been sunk or blown ashore . About 6 @. @ 4 inches ( 16 cm ) of rain was measured during the hurricane . In the areas surrounding Mobile , approximately half of all timber to be converted into turpentine was destroyed , and between 5 and 35 percent of other wood had been destroyed . The hurricane caused at least \$

1 @, @ 650 @, @ 000 in damage throughout Mobile . Telegraph wires were cut off from Mobile after the hurricane , resulting in the loss of communication with the city . It was estimated that five thousand houses were damaged in Mobile during the hurricane . The steamer Camp Carney was thrown onto St. Francis Street . Between Franscati Street and Three Mile Creek , all wharves were destroyed .

At the Christ Church Cathedral in Mobile , about \$ 40 @, @ 000 in damage was suffered , while at the St. Francis Baptist Church , damage totaled to about \$ 10 @, @ 000 . Several steamers sank during the storm , including the J. P. Seuh , Mary E. Staples , Mary S. Blee , Cama , Overton , Hattie B. Moore , City of Camden , and numerous others . One child was killed in Mobile . At Fort Morgan , many trees fell , roofs caved in , and windows were " smashed as though of tissue paper " . Telegraph buildings in the city were flooded and moderately damaged . Five hotels suffered damage totaling to \$ 21 @, @ 000 , while the Southern Supply Company , which was headquartered in the city , suffered \$ 100 @, @ 000 in damage . The fort 's port suffered about \$ 100 @, @ 000 in damages . Six civilians were killed at the fort . Between Flomaton and Pensacola , railroad tracks of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad were torn up and blocked by trees . The section of railroad tracks between Georgian and Graceville was affected by similar damage . The railroad cancelled all services following the hurricane .

= = = Mississippi = = =

In Scranton , the steamer Winona reported a minimum air pressure of 965 mbar ( hPa ; 28 @. @ 50 inHg ) . Lieutenant B.L. Brockway speculated that Scranton was near the center of the hurricane at the time , due to the low pressure readings . At Biloxi , Moss Point , and Mississippi City , communications were not received . However , Moss Point reported that floodwaters were 5 feet ( 1 @. @ 5 m ) deep before communications were lost . In Macon , a hotel had been demolished during the hurricane , resulting in the deaths of two people . Jackson and Brookhaven suffered a loss of at least 300 @, @ 000 cotton bales , amounting to \$ 12 @, @ 000 @, @ 000 in damage . In Vicksburg and McComb , many buildings were damaged , along with damage to shipping in Vicksburg , with a broken dock . The railroads and trees of Monticello suffered moderate damage : the railroad tracks were covered in trees , and service was suspended east of the town . In Hattiesburg , many cabins were blown down during the storm . Damage in Hattiesburg amounted to \$ 300 @, @ 000 . In McNeil , one person was killed by a tree that was blown down .

At the Horn Island lighthouse , the lighthouse keeper was killed along with his wife and daughter due to the hurricane . In addition to the death of the three at the lighthouse , it was noted that the schooner Daisy had been dismantled there , with one person killed . A person who was climbing a small tree was thrown away by the wind and drowned . Several people were trapped in their homes after a creek topped its banks . A warehouse and four other buildings were destroyed , while a bank 's roof was blown off . A train near Brookhaven was washed away along the tracks of the Mississippi Central Railroad , resulting in the injury of five people . 25 schooners along the Mississippi coastline were completely destroyed . Two barks , the Nurnberg and Hercules were destroyed during the hurricane . Mandeline , owned by Norway , was filled with water , while Sigrav suffered severe damage , completely torn apart . A boat known as the Florine was washed ashore . A total of 78 fatalities occurred .