

= 1950 Atlantic hurricane season =

The 1950 Atlantic hurricane season was the first year in the Atlantic hurricane database ( HURDAT ) that storms were given names in the Atlantic basin . Names were taken from the Joint Army / Navy Phonetic Alphabet , with the first named storm being designated " Able " , the second " Baker " , and so on . It was an active season with sixteen tropical storms , with eleven of them developing into hurricanes . Six of these hurricanes were intense enough to be classified as major hurricanes ? a denomination reserved for storms that attained sustained winds equivalent to a Category 3 or greater on the present @-@ day Saffir ? Simpson scale . One storm , the twelfth of the season , was unnamed and was originally excluded from the yearly summary , and three additional storms were discovered in re @-@ analysis . The large quantity of strong storms during the year yielded , prior to modern reanalysis , what was the highest seasonal accumulated cyclone energy ( ACE ) of the 20th century in the Atlantic basin ; 1950 held the seasonal ACE record until broken by the 2005 Atlantic hurricane season . However , later examination by researchers determined that several storms in the 1950 season were weaker than thought , leading to a lower ACE than assessed originally .

The tropical cyclones of the season produced a total of 88 fatalities and \$ 38 @.@ 5 million in property damage ( 1950 USD ) . The first officially named Atlantic hurricane was Hurricane Able , which formed on August 12 , brushed the North Carolina coastline , and later moved across Atlantic Canada . The strongest hurricane of the season , Hurricane Dog , reached the equivalent of a Category 4 hurricane on the Saffir ? Simpson scale , and caused extensive damage to the Leeward Islands . Two major hurricanes affected Florida : Easy produced the highest 24 @-@ hour rainfall total recorded in the United States , while King struck downtown Miami as a Category 4 hurricane and caused \$ 27 @.@ 75 million ( 1950 USD ) of damage . The two major landfalls made the 1945 ? 1950 period the only five @-@ year period to feature five major hurricane landfalls in the United States ? a record that held until tied in 2000 ? 2005 . The last storm of the year , an unnamed tropical storm , dissipated on November 13 .

= = Summary = =

The season officially began on June 15 and ended on November 15 ; these dates conventionally delimit the period of each year when most tropical cyclones form in the Atlantic basin . This season was the first time that the United States Weather Bureau operated with radar technology to observe hurricanes 200 mi ( 320 km ) away from land . Although the season began on June 15 , tropical activity typically does not begin before August . The tropics remained tranquil through early August , and the U.S. Weather Bureau noted that the season had been " remarkably quiet " . The inactive period ended on August 12 , when the first tropical storm developed east of the Lesser Antilles . This storm received the name " Able " as part of the Joint Army / Navy Phonetic Alphabet . ( The same alphabet was also used in the 1951 and 1952 seasons , before being replaced by female naming in 1953 . )

Before the end of August , four hurricanes had formed in the Atlantic , two of which attained major hurricane status . A major hurricane is a tropical cyclone with winds of at least 111 mph ( 178 km / h ) ; a storm of this intensity would be classified as a Category 3 or greater on the Saffir @-@ Simpson Hurricane Scale introduced in the 1970s . In contrast to the busy August , only three named storms developed in September ? although three of the August hurricanes lasted into September . Hurricane Dog became the strongest hurricane of the season on September 6 with winds of 145 mph ( 233 km / h ) ; its peak strength occurred over the open Atlantic Ocean , so it did not cause significant damage when it was at its strongest . It was among the most severe hurricanes on record in Antigua , where the hurricane struck early in its duration . Eight tropical storms or hurricanes formed in October , which is greater than in any other year .

In total , there were sixteen tropical storms during the season , of which five ( Tropical Storm How , Tropical Storm Mike and three unnamed tropical storms ) did not attain hurricane status . Overall , six major hurricanes occurred during the year . The Hurricane Hunters made about 300 flights into hurricanes during the season , the most since the practice began in 1943 . The number of storms

was above average ; in a typical year , eleven tropical storms , six hurricanes , and between two and three major hurricanes take place . With the numerous major hurricanes , the season produced a high accumulated cyclone energy ( ACE ) of 211 , although it was originally assessed as 243 before reanalysis . At one point , the 1950 total was the highest on record , before being surpassed by the 2005 season . This value is an approximation of the combined kinetic energy used by all tropical cyclones throughout the season .

= = Storms = =

= = = Hurricane Able = = =

The beginning of the hurricane season was inactive , with the formation of no tropical cyclones during June or July . In the middle of August a tropical wave spawned the first tropical storm of the year . Tropical Storm Able formed east of the Lesser Antilles on August 12 , and strengthened to hurricane status on August 14 . It likely formed earlier , as a Cape Verde @-@ type hurricane , but data in the eastern Atlantic was sparse . Able gradually intensified as it tracked generally west @-@ northwestward , and by 12 : 00 UTC on August 17 , Able became a major hurricane . Initially , Able was thought to pose a threat to the Bahamas and Florida . Instead , the hurricane turned to the northwest , reaching its peak intensity as a strong Category 3 hurricane , and later turned to the northeast , passing just offshore Cape Hatteras , North Carolina and Cape Cod . Steadily weakening and accelerating , Able struck Nova Scotia as a minimal hurricane , and later struck Newfoundland as an extratropical storm . It dissipated early on August 24 in the far northern Atlantic Ocean .

Along the coast of North Carolina , the hurricane produced light winds and rough waves , as well as moderate precipitation . Heavier rainfall occurred in southern New England , causing flooding in portions of New York City and producing slick roads that caused nine traffic fatalities . Able produced hurricane @-@ force winds in Nova Scotia , and damage across Canada totaled over \$ 1 million ( 1950 CAD , \$ 10 @.@ 2 million 2016 USD ) in the agriculture , communications , and fishing industries . Two people died in Canada when their raft was overturned .

= = = Hurricane Baker = = =

Tropical Storm Baker developed on August 18 east of the Lesser Antilles . It moved northwestward and later turned to the west , attaining hurricane status on August 21 . The next day , the hurricane attained Category 2 intensity just as it crossed over Antigua , where heavy damage was reported . More than 100 homes were damaged or destroyed , which left thousands homeless . Afterward , the hurricane began to weaken , and later on August 22 its winds decreased to tropical storm status . The cyclone then struck Montserrat as a strong tropical storm . The next day it struck southwestern Puerto Rico , and shortly thereafter weakened into a tropical depression , passing over the Dominican Republic . Baker turned more to the west , re @-@ attaining tropical storm status before striking eastern Cuba on August 24 . In Cuba , 37 people died , and the property losses reached several million dollars .

On August 25 , Baker weakened to tropical depression status while crossing Cuba , but soon thereafter regained tropical storm intensity in the western Caribbean Sea . Two days later , Baker entered the Gulf of Mexico , and by the next day Baker had regained hurricane status . It turned northward , reaching a peak intensity of 105 mph ( 169 km / h ) on August 30 . Baker weakened slightly before making landfall near Gulf Shores , Alabama with winds of 85 mph ( 140 km / h ) on August 31 . Property and crop damage totaled \$ 2 @.@ 55 million ( 1950 USD ) , primarily between Mobile , Alabama and Saint Marks , Florida . Torrential rainfall fell throughout the region , with the largest total occurring in Caryville , Florida , where 15 @.@ 49 in ( 393 mm ) of precipitation were recorded . The heavy precipitation was responsible for extensive crop damage across the region . The hurricane also spawned two tornadoes , one of which destroyed four houses and a building in Apalachicola , Florida . In Birmingham , Alabama , high wind downed power lines , which caused

one death and two injuries due to live wires . While inland , Baker tracked northwestward and eventually dissipated over southeastern Missouri on September 1 .

== Hurricane Charlie ==

Hurricane Charlie developed on August 21 to the southwest of the Cape Verde islands , although this was discovered in subsequent analyses ? at the time , the Weather Bureau did not consider Charlie to be a tropical cyclone until almost a week later . For four days , the storm tracked generally to the west as a weak tropical storm . On August 25 , it turned to the northwest and intensified , becoming a hurricane on August 28 . The next day , after Charlie had turned to the north , reconnaissance flights from the Hurricane Hunters reported peak winds of 115 mph ( 185 km / h ) about 450 mi ( 740 km ) east @-@ southeast of Bermuda . On August 30 , the hurricane was posthumously estimated to have been a strong Category 2 hurricane .

On September 2 , Charlie turned to the north and northeast . At the time , it co @-@ existed with two other hurricanes , Dog and Easy ; it is a rare occurrence for three hurricanes to exist simultaneously in the Atlantic . Charlie slowly weakened and lost tropical characteristics , and by September 5 Charlie had transitioned into an extratropical cyclone about 480 mi ( 775 km ) southeast of Halifax , Nova Scotia . It dissipated later on September 5 without having affected land .

== Hurricane Dog ==

Hurricane Dog is believed to have developed from a tropical wave that left the coast of Africa on August 24 . Its first observation as a tropical cyclone occurred on August 30 , when it was a 90 mph ( 140 km / h ) hurricane ; the storm is believed to have begun farther east as a Cape Verde @-@ type hurricane , but was not detectable before August 30 . At the time , Dog was located east of the Lesser Antilles , and it quickly attained major hurricane status as it moved to the west @-@ northwest . Dog passed through the Lesser Antilles with winds of 130 mph ( 210 km / h ) . It was considered among the worst hurricanes in the history of Antigua , where thousands were left homeless . Damage was estimated at \$ 1 million ( 1950 USD , \$ 9 @.@ 84 million 2016 USD ) , and there were two deaths from drowning in the region .

After passing through the Leeward Islands , the hurricane turned to a northerly drift with continued intensification . On September 5 , it attained wind speeds that would be equivalent to a Category 4 hurricane on the present @-@ day Saffir @-@ Simpson scale , with sustained winds of 145 mph ( 233 km / h ) . Operationally , the wind intensity value was estimated by Hurricane Hunters at 185 mph ( 298 km / h ) when the hurricane was located about 450 mi ( 720 km ) south @-@ southwest of Bermuda ; this estimate is now believed to have been an overestimation of the peak winds in Hurricane Dog , though the storm produced enormous wave heights at sea .

Maintaining peak intensity for about 18 hours , Dog began a weakening trend as it made a sharp turn to the west . It accelerated to the north on September 10 , and two days later Dog passed within 200 mi ( 320 km ) of Cape Cod . Newspapers attributed heavy rainfall in the Mid @-@ Atlantic states ? which resulted in five deaths ? to the hurricane . Further north , the hurricane killed 12 people in New England , and produced a total of \$ 2 million ( 1950 USD , \$ 19 @.@ 7 million 2016 USD ) of property damage . Twelve others died in two shipwrecks off the coast of Canada . The hurricane later became a strong extratropical cyclone , maintaining hurricane @-@ force winds while passing south of Nova Scotia and eventually hitting Scotland with hurricane @-@ force gusts on September 18 .

== Hurricane Easy ==

Hurricane Easy developed on September 1 from a trough in the western Caribbean , which persisted after Hurricane Baker moved through the region in late August . Moving northeastward , the hurricane crossed Cuba on September 3 and entered the Gulf of Mexico . Easy turned to the northwest and strengthened to its peak intensity as a Category 3 hurricane . At the time , Easy was

located just off the west coast of Florida ; however , a ridge to its north caused the hurricane to stall , execute a small loop , and make landfall near Cedar Key . Following the landfall , Easy moved offshore , turned to the southeast , and made a second landfall near Hernando Beach on September 6 . The hurricane turned northwestward over the Florida Peninsula , and gradually weakened as it moved into Georgia and the southeastern United States . On September 9 , Easy dissipated over northeastern Arkansas .

Damage in Cuba was minor , although large portions of western Florida experienced hurricane @-@ force winds and heavy rainfall . Yankeetown reported 38 @.@ 70 in ( 983 mm ) of precipitation in 24 hours , which was , at the time , the largest 24 @-@ hour rainfall total on record in the United States . The cumulative total rainfall on Yankeetown from Easy was 45 @.@ 20 in ( 1 @.@ 148 mm ) , which still retains the record for the wettest tropical cyclone in Florida . Damage was heaviest in Cedar Key , where half of the houses were destroyed and most of the remaining were damaged . The rainfall caused heavy crop damage in the region . Across the state , Easy caused \$ 3 million in damage ( 1950 USD ) , the total was less than expected , due to the sparse population of the affected area . Additionally , the hurricane was indirectly responsible for two deaths by electrocution . At the time , Easy was also known as the " Cedar Keys Hurricane " .

= = = Hurricane Fox = = =

Hurricane Fox was first discovered by Hurricane Hunters on September 10 , when it was located about 1 @.@ 000 mi ( 1 @.@ 600 km ) east of Puerto Rico . Subsequent analysis indicated that the system formed at least two days earlier . A small system , the hurricane moved generally northwestward and gradually intensified . After turning toward the north , Fox reached its peak intensity with maximum sustained winds of 140 mph ( 220 km / h ) on September 14 , as it passed about 300 mi ( 485 km ) east of Bermuda . Following its peak intensity , the hurricane accelerated to the north and northeast . By September 17 , Fox had lost all tropical characteristics , and later that day the circulation dissipated about halfway between the Azores and Newfoundland . Fox never affected land along its path . When Fox dissipated , it was the first time in 36 days without an active tropical cyclone in the Atlantic Ocean .

= = = Hurricane George = = =

George originated from a strong tropical wave when it was located several hundred miles northeast of the Lesser Antilles , and southeast of Bermuda . Forming on September 27 , George initially moved toward the north , although it curved westward over the subsequent days . Initially weak , George began strengthening on September 30 as it decreased its forward speed . The next day , while remaining nearly stationary , a nearby ship reported that George had reached hurricane status . It continued moving very slowly , passing only 100 mi ( 160 km ) south of Bermuda . The island experienced winds of 30 to 40 mph ( 40 to 65 km / h ) . Aside from rainbands , little impact was reported on Bermuda .

The hurricane passed west of Bermuda on October 3 . A day later , George reached its maximum intensity , attaining sustained winds of 110 mph ( 175 km / h ) ; in its small eye , an Air Force Hurricane Hunter plane measured a central pressure of 960 mb ( 28 @.@ 35 inHg ) . It accelerated to the north and later to the northeast , and on October 5 George transitioned into an extratropical cyclone . Shortly thereafter , it passed just south of Newfoundland , and on October 7 the remnants of George dissipated south of Iceland .

= = = Tropical Storm How = = =

A tropical depression formed in the central Gulf of Mexico on October 1 , and quickly intensified into Tropical Storm How . Initially , the tropical storm moved west @-@ northwestward and its sustained winds peaked by October 2 . Officials advised small boats to remain at port along the Louisiana coast due to the storm . On October 3 , Tropical Storm How turned toward the southwest as it began

weakening , and the next day it moved ashore near La Pesca , Tamaulipas , as a rapidly weakening tropical cyclone . About six hours after making landfall , How dissipated over the Sierra Madre Oriental in northeastern Mexico . How was the only named storm in the season not to attain hurricane status .

== Hurricane Item ==

On October 8 , another tropical storm formed in the Gulf of Mexico just off the northwest coast of the Yucatán Peninsula . Given the name Item , the storm moved westward at first , and attained hurricane status on October 9 . Reconnaissance flights by the Hurricane Hunters reported winds of 90 mph ( 145 km / h ) ; soon after that measurement , Hurricane Item turned to the southwest . On October 11 , the hurricane made landfall at peak intensity near Nautla , Veracruz , where wind gusts reached 110 mph ( 175 km / h ) . It quickly dissipated over land . In the sparsely populated area where Item moved ashore , the hurricane dropped heavy rainfall . Newspaper reports considered it the worst storm to hit Mexico in ten years , with damage in Veracruz totaling around \$ 1 @. @ 5 million ( 1950 USD , \$ 14 @. @ 8 million 2016 USD ) . The strong winds sank 20 ships , and although there were no reports of casualties , Item caused 15 injuries . Communications were disrupted across the region , and downed trees blocked roads . Near Tuxpam , the winds damaged large areas of banana plantations .

== Hurricane Jig ==

A tropical storm was first observed on October 11 in the central Atlantic Ocean , northeast of the Lesser Antilles and southeast of Bermuda . Two days later , a ship reported strong winds and a rapid pressure drop , indicating a hurricane was in the region ; the tropical cyclone was given the name Jig . It moved northwestward , steadily intensifying before turning to the north and northeast . On October 15 , Hurricane Jig passed about 300 mi ( 480 km ) east of Bermuda , and later that day its sustained winds reached their peak strength , which is considered to be highly uncertain . The hurricane began weakening on October 16 . Jig became an extratropical cyclone later that day and quickly dissipated , never having affected land due to its small size .

== Hurricane King ==

The origins of Hurricane King can be traced to the formation of a tropical storm just off the north coast of Honduras on October 13 . Given the name King , the tropical storm was a small weather system throughout its duration . During its first 72 hours as a tropical cyclone , King initially toward the east and east @- @ northeast . On October 16 , King 's maximum sustained winds reached hurricane strength while the storm was located between Jamaica and the Cayman Islands . The next day , King struck Cuba near Camagüey with winds of 90 mph ( 140 km / h ) , equivalent to an upper @- @ end Category 1 hurricane . The hurricane killed seven people and caused \$ 2 million ( 1950 USD , \$ 19 @. @ 7 million 2016 USD ) in damage throughout the country . After crossing Cuba , King rapidly deepened over the Gulf Stream as it turned toward South Florida , becoming the sixth and final major hurricane of the season .

After reaching the southwestern Atlantic Ocean , King turned northward and later northwestward , striking downtown Miami on October 18 as a Category 4 hurricane . It was the most severe hurricane to impact the city since the 1926 Miami hurricane . Across Florida , damage totaled \$ 27 @. @ 75 million ( 1950 USD , \$ 273 million 2016 USD ) , of which \$ 15 million ( 1950 USD , \$ 148 million 2016 USD ) was in the Miami metropolitan area . A preliminary survey indicated there were 12 @, @ 290 houses damaged in the region , with an additional eight destroyed . Along its path through the state , strong winds were observed around Lake Okeechobee , with a 93 mph ( 150 km / h ) gust in Clewiston . Overall , there were three deaths in the state . Early on October 19 , King weakened to tropical storm status over north @- @ central Florida , and on the next day it dissipated over western Georgia . There was one additional death in Georgia .

### == Tropical Storm Twelve ==

A tropical storm developed in the east @-@ central Atlantic on October 17 . It moved northwestward at first before turning to the northeast on October 19 . The storm steadily intensified as it tracked toward the Azores , and it reached a peak intensity of 70 mph ( 110 km / h ) on October 21 . Maintaining its peak strength for 30 hours , the storm began a steady weakening trend before crossing through the southern Azores . It turned to the southeast , weakening to tropical depression status on October 24 . Subsequently , the system turned to the southwest and quickly dissipated . This tropical storm was not considered to be a tropical storm at the time , and thus the system was not included in the Monthly Weather Review 's summary of the 1950 hurricane season . It is unknown when the storm was added to the Atlantic hurricane database , although by 1962 , the storm was included in seasonal statistics .

### == Hurricane Love ==

In the wake of Hurricane King moving northward through Florida , an area of low pressure developed into a tropical cyclone on October 18 south of Louisiana . This storm was given the name Love and quickly strengthened , reaching hurricane status shortly thereafter . The storm initially moved westward across the Gulf of Mexico , but soon swung southward into the central portion of the Gulf on October 19 . Hurricane Love 's maximum sustained winds are believed to have reached their peak intensity early on October 20 . Throughout the hurricane 's track , dry air infringed on the western side of the tropical cyclone 's circulation , which produced unfavorable conditions for additional tropical cyclogenesis . On October 20 , the storm began curving northeastward towards the coast of western Florida ; however , the dry air completely circled Love 's center of circulation , drastically weakening the cyclone in the process . On October 21 , Love weakened to a tropical storm , and it struck the Big Bend region of Florida , north of Cedar Key . At the time , its winds were only of moderate gale force , and the storm dissipated shortly thereafter .

Certain areas began preparing for the storm along Florida 's west coast . Hospitals set up emergency facilities in case of power failure , and some coastal residents left their homes . Initially , the storm was forecast to strike the Tampa area , but missed to the north as it weakened . It reportedly left little damage in the sparsely populated land where it made landfall .

### == Tropical Storm Mike ==

Mike was not classified as a tropical storm until post @-@ analysis .

### == Tropical Storm Fifteen ==

Only existed for two days .

### == Tropical Storm Sixteen ==

Sparse information on this storm . Only existed for two days , just like Fifteen .

### == Storm names ==

This was the first season in the Atlantic hurricane database in which cyclones that attained at least tropical storm status were given names . The names used to name storms during the 1950 season were taken from the Joint Army / Navy Phonetic Alphabet , which was also used in the 1951 and 1952 hurricane seasons before being replaced by female names in 1953 . Names that were not assigned are marked in gray .