

= Tropical Storm Arthur (1996) =

Tropical Storm Arthur caused minimal flooding in the Carolinas in mid @-@ June 1996 . The first tropical cyclone and named storm of the annual Atlantic hurricane season , Arthur originated from an area of increased convection east of the Bahamas on June 16 . Gradually , the system increased in organization , and was designated as a tropical depression on June 17 . The depression tracked north @-@ northwest and became Tropical Storm Arthur while just offshore the Southeastern United States on June 19 . Later that day , Arthur peaked with maximum sustained winds of 45 mph (75 km / h) , but weakened slightly before making landfall in North Carolina early the following day . After striking North Carolina , Arthur tracked out to sea and weakened further to a tropical depression . By June 21 , Arthur transitioned into an extratropical cyclone . Overall , impact from Arthur was minimal , limited to light rainfall and moderate surf in North and South Carolina , as well as a tornado in Florida . Total damage amounted to \$ 1 million (1996 USD) , but no fatalities were reported . Oddly enough , 18 years later in 2014 , around the same time , another tropical cyclone with the same name impacted areas very similar to where this tropical storm impacted .

= = Meteorological history = =

On June 16 , satellite imagery revealed an area of increased convection east of the Bahamas , which was believed to have been associated with a tropical wave . On June 17 , the convection increased in organization at the lower levels of the atmosphere . By 1800 UTC , the system had organized sufficiently to be designated as a tropical depression , making it the first of the season . Initially , the depression tracked north @-@ northwest under the steering currents of the low @-@ level flow around the western periphery of the Atlantic subtropical ridge . Strong wind shear due to fast upper @-@ level winds associated with a cold @-@ core low over the eastern Gulf of Mexico hindered further intensification for a time , but on June 18 , an area of deep convection developed north of the center of circulation . Based on analysis of reconnaissance data , the tropical depression was upgraded to Tropical Storm Arthur at 1900 UTC on June 19 .

Further strengthening occurred , as the storm attained peak winds of 45 mph (75 km / h) . With time , Arthur gradually turned northeast and made landfall near Cape Lookout , North Carolina early on June 20 . The center moved over the Pamlico Sound and the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and exited into the Atlantic . Although the storm contained minimal deep convection , satellite imagery indicated that Arthur had a well @-@ defined low @-@ level center . The tropical storm weakened to a tropical depression about 100 mi (160 km) northeast of Cape Hatteras , and accelerated towards the northeast when westerly steering currents increased . Deep convection increased once again on June 21 , although the lack of symmetry indicated that the remnants of Arthur were losing tropical characteristics . Forward speed increased to 40 mph (64 km / h) and the storm subsequently lost all tropical characteristics at 1200 UTC on June 21 , while centered about 350 mi (560 km) north @-@ northeast of Bermuda . The extratropical remnants tracked northeastward for 36 hours , and were last identified about midway between Newfoundland and the Azores , where it was absorbed by a much larger extratropical cyclone over the North Atlantic .

= = Preparations and impact = =

On June 18 , a tropical storm warning was issued for coastal locations from Edisto Beach , South Carolina to Cape Lookout , North Carolina . Shortly thereafter , a tropical storm watch was issued north of Cape Lookout to the North Carolina / Virginia border , including Pamlico and Albemarle Sounds . The tropical storm watch was later extended from the North Carolina / Virginia border to Cape Charles , Virginia , including Virginia Beach . By late on June 19 , all advisories were discontinued .

One tornado touched down in Florida , causing no known fatalities or injuries . As the center of Arthur passed 75 mi (121 km) east of Cape Romain , South Carolina , minor increases in surf were reported . In North Carolina , swells ranged as high as 7 ft (2 @.@ 1 m) . Rainfall peaked at 5

@. @ 85 inches (149 mm) in Georgetown , South Carolina , though because it fell gradually , no significant flooding was reported , other than minor ponding of water on roads . In addition , Arthur also brought precipitation to Georgia and Virginia , though the amounts of rainfall recorded rarely exceeded 3 inches (76 mm) . Sustained winds of 46 mph (74 km / h) were reported , and offshore , the Atlantic Huron reported a sustained wind of 48 mph (77 km / h) at 1500 UTC on June 19 , while located 35 mi (56 km) southeast of Arthur 's center . In addition , a C @- @ Man station located about 34 @. @ 5 mi (55 @. @ 5 km) southeast of Cape Fear , North Carolina reported sustained winds of 39 mph (64 km / h) and gusts up to 45 mph (75 km / h) . Overall , damage caused by Arthur was minimal , totaling only \$ 1 million (1996 USD) .