

= 1960 Texas tropical storm =

The 1960 Texas tropical storm brought severe but localized flooding to southeastern Texas in June 1960 . The first tropical cyclone and first tropical storm of the annual season , this system developed from an area of showers and thunderstorms in the Bay of Campeche on June 22 . Initially a tropical depression , it strengthened and was estimated to have reached tropical storm status on June 23 . Early on the following day , the storm peaked with winds of 45 mph (75 km / h) . Later that day , it made landfall near Corpus Christi , Texas , at the same intensity . The storm weakened slowly and moved across the Central United States , before dissipating over Illinois on June 29 .

In Texas , the storm dropped up to 29 @. @ 76 inches (756 mm) of precipitation in Port Lavaca . Thus considerable flooding occurred in some areas of south and eastern Texas . Throughout the state , more than 150 houses sustained flood damage in several counties . In addition , numerous major highways were closed , including portions of U.S. Routes 59 , 87 , 90 , and then @-@ 185 , and Texas State Highways 35 and 71 . In Arkansas , a few buildings in Hot Springs were damaged from high winds . Flooding in that state resulted in three deaths from drowning . Light to moderate rainfall was recorded in at least 11 other states , though damage was minimal . The storm was the rainiest tropical cyclone on record in the state of Kentucky , dropping 11 @. @ 25 inches (286 mm) in Dunmore . Overall , 18 fatalities were attributed to the storm and \$ 3 @. @ 6 million (1960 USD) in damage was reported .

= = Meteorological history = =

In late June 1960 , a large mass of deep convection developed in the Gulf of Mexico . A reconnaissance flight into the system on June 22 did not indicate a closed circulation . However , weather stations in Mexico reported a circulation and thus , it is estimated that the first tropical depression of the season developed at 0600 UTC on June 22 . Early on June 23 , barometric pressures in from Tampico , Tamaulipas to Brownsville , Texas had significantly decreased , which indicated that the tropical cyclone was moving generally northward . Shortly thereafter , another reconnaissance flight into the depression indicated winds of only 20 mph (30 km / h) and a barometric pressure of 1 @, @ 006 mbar (29 @. @ 7 inHg) . However , the plane may not have flown under the most intense convection .

The depression gradually strengthened , and by 1200 UTC on June 23 , it reached tropical storm status . Over Texas , airborne radars and the Dow Chemical Company radar in Freeport indicated curved convective banding associated with the storm . Though no wall cloud was reported , the Kelly Air Force Base reported a cloud center . Late on June 23 , the storm intensified slightly further , and peaked with winds of 45 mph (75 km / h) . Early on June 24 , the tropical storm made landfall near Corpus Christi , Texas . After moving inland , the storm quickly weakened back to a tropical depression . Over the following 24 hours , the depression executed a small cyclonic loop over southern Texas . On July 26 , the depression accelerated to the north @-@ northeast , and eventually dissipated over northern Illinois on July 29 at 0000 UTC .

= = Impact = =

= = = Texas = = =

Some towns in Texas considered it the worst disaster since a hurricane in 1945 . In Copano Bay , waves produced by the storm damaged three fishing piers ; a shrimp boat also capsized , killing three people . In addition , another ship was beached . However , the tides measured were only 3 @. @ 5 feet (1 @. @ 1 m) above mean water levels . In Rockport , sustained winds reached 40 mph (65 km / h) and gusts were up to 60 mph (95 km / h) . Padre Island Park also reported tropical storm force winds , with sustained winds of 50 mph (80 km / h) and gusts reaching 60 mph (95 km / h) .

Heavy rainfall was reported , peaking at 29 @. @ 76 inches (756 mm) in Port Lavaca . As a result , water 6 to 12 inches (150 to 300 mm) was reported in several homes and businesses in Port Lavaca . Two boys drowned in Port Lavaca after being swept by flood waters into the city harbor . Over 19 inches (480 mm) fell in Bay City . It was reported by the Bay City Tribune that all of Matagorda County was " under water " . Due to large amounts of precipitation , portions of U.S. Routes 59 , 87 , 90 , and then @-@ 185 , and Texas State Highways 35 and 71 . Rainfall totals in the Houston area peaked at more than 17 inches (430 mm) . At the height of the storm , about one @-@ fourth of the streets in Houston were flooded . Three subdivisions of the city were significantly affected by flooding : Alameda Plaza , Pleasantville , and Sunnyside . Many shingles were blown off the roof of a house , and then water caused the roof to collapse into the dining room and living room . However , no one was injured or killed . Several hundred people were evacuated from places with poor drainage or low @-@ lying areas . Between 150 and 200 houses were affected by flooding and damaged estimates reached \$ 1 @. @ 5 million in Harris County alone . In addition , three people drowned in the flood waters in Houston .

Following the storm , the town of Port Lavaca requested aid from the United States Navy and Fourth United States Army . Later , cots and blankets were sent by helicopters and trucks . Three schools were opened as shelters for flood refugees in Port Lavaca . The Texas Department of State Health Services sent water and sanitation teams to the areas affected by the storm , as well as 3 @, @ 000 shots of typhoid vaccine . In addition , Calhoun County was declared a disaster area . Overall , the storm caused \$ 3 @. @ 6 million and 15 fatalities in the state of Texas .

= = = Elsewhere = = =

Elsewhere along the Gulf Coast of the United States , light to moderate rainfall was reported in the states of Mississippi and Louisiana . In both states , affects were minimal , and rainfall was generally less than 5 inches (130 mm) . To the north of Texas in the state of Oklahoma , precipitation was also light , peaking at 4 @. @ 34 inches (110 mm) in Kiamichi . The storm brought moderate to heavy rainfall throughout Arkansas . Much of the state reported at least 3 inches (76 mm) , while precipitation in some areas was more than 10 inches (250 mm) . The Ouachita River reached flood stage at Arkadelphia . Three children drowned near Redfield after the car they were occupying was swept off U.S. Route 65 and fell into a ditch . Near Hot Springs , high winds damaged a few buildings . In Tennessee , much of the state reported precipitation , though it was generally no more than 5 inches (130 mm) .

Heavy rainfall was reported in Kentucky , peaking at 11 @. @ 25 inches (286 mm) in Dunmor , making it the wettest tropical cyclone in the history of that state . Light precipitation was reported in Illinois , Indiana , and Missouri ; none of those states experienced more than 4 inches (100 mm) of rain . The storm dropped rainfall was far north as Michigan and Wisconsin . In those two states , precipitation was generally light , and did not exceed 3 inches (76 mm) . Rainfall totals reached 2 @. @ 83 inches (72 mm) and 2 @. @ 28 inches (58 mm) in Wisconsin and Michigan , respectively .