

= 1933 Outer Banks hurricane =

The 1933 Outer Banks hurricane lashed portions of the North Carolina and Virginia coasts less than a month after another hurricane hit the general area . The twelfth tropical storm and sixth hurricane of the 1933 Atlantic hurricane season , it formed by September 8 to the east of the Lesser Antilles . It moved generally to the north @-@ northwest and strengthened quickly to peak winds of 140 mph (220 km / h) on September 12 . This made it a major hurricane and a Category 4 on the Saffir @-@ Simpson scale . The hurricane remained at or near that intensity for several days while tracking to the northwest . It weakened approaching the southeastern United States , and on September 16 passed just east of Cape Hatteras , North Carolina with winds of about 100 mph (160 km / h) . Turning to the northeast , the hurricane became extratropical on September 18 before moving across Atlantic Canada , eventually dissipating four days later .

The threat of the hurricane prompted widespread tropical cyclone warnings and watches along the eastern United States and prompted some people to evacuate . Damage was heaviest in southeastern North Carolina near New Bern , where the combination of high tides and swollen rivers flooded much of the town . Across North Carolina , the hurricane caused power outages , washed out roads , and damaged crops . Several houses were damaged , leaving about 1 @, @ 000 people homeless . Damage was estimated at \$ 4 @. @ 5 million , and there were 21 deaths in the state , mostly from drowning . Hurricane force winds extended into southeastern Virginia , where there were two deaths . High tides isolated a lighthouse near Norfolk and covered several roads . Farther north , two people on a small boat were left missing in Maine , and another person was presumed killed when his boat sank in Nova Scotia .

= = Meteorological history = =

Beginning on September 7 , there was an area of disturbed weather near and east of the Lesser Antilles , by which time there was a nearly closed circulation . At 0800 UTC the next day , a ship reported winds of about 35 mph (55 km / h) ; on that basis , it is estimated a tropical depression developed eight hours earlier and into a tropical storm by the time of the report . The storm tracked generally to the north @-@ northwest , passing about 300 mi (480 km) northeast of Saint Martin . Based on continuity and subsequent reports , it is estimated the storm intensified into a hurricane on September 10 . Early on September 12 , a ship reported a barometric pressure of 947 mbar (28 @. @ 0 inHg) in the periphery of the storm while reporting winds of 70 mph (110 km / h) . This suggested winds of 140 mph (220 km / h) , making it the equivalent of a modern Category 4 hurricane on the Saffir @-@ Simpson scale .

For over two days , the hurricane remained near peak intensity while tracking to the northwest , and during that time several ships reported low pressure and strong winds . The hurricane weakened as it turned to the north @-@ northwest toward the eastern United States . At around 1100 UTC on September 16 , the eye of the hurricane passed over Cape Hatteras , North Carolina , around which time a pressure of 957 mbar (28 @. @ 3 inHg) was recorded . The eye also passed over Diamond Shoals , where a pressure of 952 mbar (28 @. @ 1 inHg) was recorded . Based on the reading , it was estimated the hurricane remained about 15 mi (25 km) east of the Outer Banks , with winds of about 100 mph (160 km / h) occurring along the coast . By that time , the size of the storm had greatly increased , and hurricane force winds also extended into southeastern Virginia . The hurricane turned to the northeast , ahead of an approaching cold front , producing tropical storm force winds along the eastern United States through New England . After passing southeast of Cape Cod , the storm increasingly lost its tropical characteristics , and was an extratropical cyclone by 1100 UTC on September 18 when it made landfall on eastern Nova Scotia . Continuing to the northeast , the former hurricane crossed the Gulf of Saint Lawrence and subsequently near Newfoundland and Labrador , eventually dissipating on September 22 between southern Greenland and Iceland .

= = Preparations and impact = =

While the hurricane was approaching the Carolinas , the Weather Bureau issued storm warnings from Jacksonville , Florida to Beaufort , North Carolina at 2100 UTC on September 14 . Six hours later , these were extended northward to Virginia Capes . By 1530 UTC on September 15 , forecasters predicted that the hurricane would hit North Carolina in 12 hours and ordered hurricane warnings from Wilmington , North Carolina to Cape Hatteras . At the same time , the storm warning was expanded northward to Boston , Massachusetts , and later to Eastport , Maine . The early warnings gave ample time for preparation for the storm in Norfolk , reducing damages considerably . Residents in Virginia evacuated farther inland to escape the storm .

The outer rainbands of the hurricane dropped moderate to heavy rainfall , peaking at 12 @. @ 6 in (320 mm) in Cape Hatteras . Due to the storm remaining offshore , damage was much less than another hurricane less than a month prior . Damage from this hurricane was heaviest near New Bern , North Carolina , where the storm surge reached 3 to 4 ft (0 @. @ 91 to 1 @. @ 22 m) , which was 2 ft (0 @. @ 61 m) higher than the record set in 1913 . Much of the town was flooded due to the high tide and swollen nearby rivers . Strong winds in the city uprooted several trees and damaged roofs . Morehead City suffered similar but slightly lesser damage , including hundreds of downed trees , and Beaufort experienced one of its worst storms in the memory of its residents . Across the region , the storm downed telephone and telegraph lines . Several roads were washed out , and there was moderate agriculture damage , including hundreds of drowned livestock and flooded cotton crop . There were 21 deaths , mostly related to drownings , and damage was estimated at \$ 4 @. @ 5 million . About 1 @, @ 000 people were left homeless . After the storm , relief agencies provided food and medical crews for the storm victims .

In southeastern Virginia , winds reached 79 mph (128 km / h) . At Sewell 's Point in Norfolk , the storm produced 8 @. @ 3 ft (2 @. @ 5 m) high tides , which turned the peninsula containing New Point Comfort Light into an island . Several roads were flooded , which disrupted traffic and forced residents to travel by rowboat . About 2 @, @ 000 people lost power , and due to well @- @ executed preparations , there were two deaths in the state . Damage was estimated at \$ 250 @, @ 000 . Outside of Virginia , damage was minimal north of Cape Henry . Wind peaks included 48 mph (77 km / h) in Atlantic City , New Jersey and 52 mph (84 km / h) on Block Island . A boat required rescue in the Delaware Bay . Precipitation fell on the western periphery of the hurricane , associated with an approaching cold front . In Provincetown , Massachusetts , the storm dropped 12 @. @ 3 in (310 mm) of rainfall it passed the region . In New England , high waves damaged waterfront properties . On Block Island , two boats were damaged , and another sank . In Maine , the rainfall flooded cellars and damaged roads . Two people were reported missing in Boothbay Harbor after venturing into the storm in a small boat .

Still maintaining strong winds by the time it struck Canada , the former hurricane washed one boat ashore , left three missing , and capsized one . One person was presumed killed when his boat sunk in Lockeport , Nova Scotia . The storm dropped heavy rainfall across the region , including 1 @. @ 1 in (27 mm) in Yarmouth , Nova Scotia , and about 3 in (75 mm) in 15 hours in Gagetown , New Brunswick ; there , the rains flooded roads and damaged crops . At Harvey Station in the same province , high rainfall washed out a 75 ft (22 m) portion of a rail line .