

= Hurricane Carol ( 1953 ) =

Hurricane Carol in 1953 was the strongest storm of the 1953 Atlantic hurricane season and the first Category 5 hurricane in the Atlantic basin since the 1938 New England hurricane . Carol developed on August 28 off the west coast of Africa , although the Weather Bureau did not initiate advisories until five days later . On September 2 , Carol attained hurricane status , based on a ship report . It moved northwestward , attaining peak winds of 160 mph ( 260 km / h ) , based on reports from the Hurricane Hunters . After weakening , it brushed Bermuda and turned northeastward near New England , passing west of Nova Scotia before making landfall near Saint John , New Brunswick on September 7 . While crossing Atlantic Canada , Carol became an extratropical cyclone , which dissipated on September 9 southwest of Greenland .

When Carol initially threatened to strike Bermuda , several planes were evacuated from the island . Later , the hurricane produced high waves along the New England coastline which , in combination with foggy conditions , caused several boating accidents . At least 40 people required rescue , and four people were killed . Although winds in the region were minor , fishing damage totaled about \$ 1 million ( 1953 USD , \$ 8 @. @ 84 million 2016 USD ) . In Nova Scotia , hurricane @-@ force wind gusts downed trees and power lines , as well as heavy damage to the apple crop totaling \$ 1 million ( 1950 CAD , \$ 9 @. @ 15 million 2016 USD ) . High waves washed several boats ashore , and also killed one person . Ferry travel was halted across Atlantic Canada , although impact was less severe outside of Nova Scotia . In Prince Edward Island , gusty winds caused isolated power outages , and minor flooding occurred in New Brunswick .

= = Meteorological history = =

In late August , a tropical wave exited the west coast of Africa , developing into a tropical depression developed near Cape Verde on August 28 . It moved west @-@ southwestward for two days before turning to the west . The depression is estimated to have intensified into a tropical storm on August 31 , and subsequently it turned to the west @-@ northwest . On September 2 , the S.S. Umatilla reported winds up to force 12 on the Beaufort scale , or hurricane strength ; the ship also reported very high seas and a rapidly decreasing pressure . Based on the report , the Miami Weather Bureau office initiated advisories on Hurricane Carol about 750 miles ( 1200 km ) east @-@ northeast of Barbados .

After reaching hurricane status , Carol embarked a steady intensification trend as it moved northwestward . On September 3 , the Hurricane Hunters flew into the storm and reported winds of 160 mph ( 260 km / h ) , along with a minimum pressure of 929 mbar . This was its peak intensity , attained about 30 hours after reaching hurricane strength , and making Carol the strongest storm of the season . At its peak , the maximum winds were in an area 3 mi ( 4 @. @ 8 km ) in diameter across the center . The hurricane maintained peak winds for about a day before beginning to weaken . Early on September 6 , Carol passed about 225 mi ( 362 km ) southwest of Bermuda with winds of about 110 mph ( 180 km / h ) . The next day the hurricane turned to the north @-@ northeast , bypassing Cape Cod by about 140 mi ( 230 km ) . Late on September 7 , Carol brushed western Nova Scotia before making landfall near Saint John , New Brunswick with winds of around 75 mph ( 121 km / h ) . Shortly after making landfall , Carol transitioned into an extratropical cyclone , which crossed the Gulf of Saint Lawrence , eastern Quebec , and Labrador before dissipating southwest of Greenland on September 9 .

= = Preparations and impact = =

As Carol was threatening Bermuda , planes flew away from the island and ships returned to harbor for safety . Although hurricane @-@ force winds were initially predicted , Carol only brushed the island with high waves and gale force winds . The winds toppled a few trees and power lines , and also injured two motorcyclists after they lost control of their vehicles .

Along the East Coast of the United States , the Weather Bureau issued storm warnings from New

Jersey through Maine due to the approaching hurricane . The combination of high waves and foggy conditions caused several boating accidents in New England , killing four people and left at least 40 people in need of Coast Guard rescue . Winds across much of the region were not significant , reaching only 50 mph ( 80 km / h ) on Nantucket . Across southeast Maine , Carol produced at least 1 in ( 25 mm ) of rainfall , which was beneficial due to gardeners and trees due to previously dry conditions . Effects were generally minimal in the state , although the rainfall prompted the cancellation of a few Northeast Airlines flights . The hurricane caused moderate damage to the fishing industry in New England , totaling around \$ 1 million ( 1953 USD , \$ 8 @. @ 84 million 2016 USD ) .

In the Grand Banks of Canada , the threat of the hurricane prompted fishing boats to venture back to port . In the Bay of Fundy , foggy conditions drove an ocean liner aground . Across Nova Scotia , rough seas washed a boat near Dartmouth , a schooner near Halifax , four yachts in Chester , and another three boats in Shelburne ashore . In addition , eleven yachts in Chester sank during the storm . The seas flooded a coastal road and nearby field in Prospect , destroying a garage . In Cow Bay , a man drowned after falling off of a yacht . Rough seas halted ferry service between Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia , as well as between Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick ; other ferry service across the region were delayed .

As Carol moved through eastern Canada , it dropped light to moderate rainfall along its path , peaking at 4 @. @ 33 inches ( 110 mm ) in the Côte @- @ Nord region of eastern Quebec , along the northern coast of the Gulf of St. Lawrence . Strong winds affected much of the region , primarily Nova Scotia , including an 80 mph ( 129 km / h ) gust in Halifax . Across the province , the combination of winds and rain downed the equivalent of about 500 @, @ 000 ft<sup>3</sup> ( 14 @, @ 000 m<sup>3</sup> ) of trees , most of which in areas where some trees were already cut . The winds blew trees onto power lines , leaving widespread areas without telephone , telegraph , or power . In Annapolis Valley , strong winds heavily damaged the apple and grain crop , with farms experiencing losses up to 50 % . Losses from the apple crop was estimated around \$ 1 million ( 1950 CAD , \$ 9 @. @ 15 million 2016 USD ) . Strong winds left some property damage , including broken windows and at least one instance of a blown @- @ off roof . Across the province , Carol left several people injured .

Outside of Nova Scotia , the winds from Carol were strong enough to knock down trees and power lines in New Brunswick . Light rainfall , peaking at 2 @. @ 44 inches ( 62 mm ) in the province , caused street flooding in Moncton . The rainfall reached as far west as Ontario , and as far east as Prince Edward Island , where rainfall reached 1 @. @ 73 inches ( 44 mm ) . Winds in the latter province damaged roofs and downed some trees , resulting in minor power outages . Further north in Quebec , adverse conditions from the storm delayed a search party after a plane crash .