

= Tropical Storm Arlene ( 1959 ) =

Tropical Storm Arlene was a short lived , pre @-@ season tropical storm which made landfall on the central Louisiana coastline on May 30 , 1959 , causing minor damages and one fatality . Arlene developed out of a tropical wave which was first noted near the Dominican Republic on May 23 . Development of the system was slow before it gained enough convection to be declared Tropical Storm Arlene on May 28 . The storm slowly intensified and reached its peak intensity of 60 mph ( 95 km / h ) on May 30 . Rapid weakening took place as the storm neared land and Arlene made landfall with winds of 45 mph ( 75 km / h ) later that night . Arlene weakened to what is now classified as a Tropical Depression early the next morning . The system degenerated into a remnant low on the afternoon of May 31 and fully dissipated late on June 2 while located over South Carolina .

Arlene dropped heavy rains totaling over 1 ft ( 0 @. @ 30 m ) in localized areas as it moved into the Southeast United States . The maximum rainfall amount was 13 @. @ 55 in ( 344 mm ) , recorded in Merrill , Mississippi , over a three @-@ day period . The heavy rains caused minor flooding in Louisiana and property damage from the storm amounted to \$ 500 @, @ 000 ( \$ 3 @. @ 7 million 2008 USD ) . One death was indirectly attributed to the storm when a man drowned in rough surf off the Texas coast .

= = Meteorological history = =

Tropical Storm Arlene developed out of a tropical wave which was first noted near the Dominican Republic on May 23 . The wave slowly developed as it moved westward through the Caribbean Sea and developed into an area of low pressure on May 25 . By May 27 , the low entered the Gulf of Mexico and a ship report the next day showed that the low had developed a closed low @-@ level circulation . Early the next morning , the low was determined to have intensified into Tropical Storm Arlene , the first storm of the season , while located 300 mi ( 480 km ) south @-@ southeast of New Orleans , Louisiana with winds estimated at 40 mph ( 65 km / h ) . Arlene was moving towards the northwest at 10 to 15 mph ( 16 to 24 km / h ) . Arlene slowly intensified throughout the day as it continued towards the northwest at 12 to 15 mph ( 19 to 24 km / h ) . On May 29 , Arlene turned towards the west and its foreword motion slowed before becoming nearly stationary that night .

The storm was located 150 mi ( 240 km ) south of Lafayette , Louisiana as it drifted northward and winds were estimated to have peaked at 50 mph ( 85 km / h ) . However , in the post @-@ season , it was determined that Arlene peaked near landfall with winds of 60 mph ( 95 km / h ) . As Arlene neared the coast , the storm began to weaken due to the interaction with land . Arlene made landfall about 40 mi ( 65 km ) southeast of Lafayette , Louisiana at 2100 UTC ( 4 p.m. CST ) . The operational landfall intensity was 50 mph ( 85 km / h ) but it was lowered to 45 mph ( 75 km / h ) in the post season . Upon making landfall , Arlene became the earliest landfalling tropical cyclone in Louisiana history . Arlene weakened quickly to a tropical depression shortly after landfall . The storm further degenerated to a remnant area of low @-@ pressure on the afternoon of May 31 . The remnant of the storm lingered in the Southern United States until June 2 , when it dissipated over South Carolina . Although the original low pressure system dissipated , a new , non tropical center formed further north over Virginia . This new low quickly tracked northeast , brushing the southern coast of New England before moving over Nova Scotia and losing its identity on June 3 .

= = Preparations and impact = =

The low that eventually became Arlene prompted wind warnings and small craft advisories for both coasts in southern Florida on May 27 . The small craft advisory was significantly expanded the next day when the low was upgraded to Tropical Storm Arlene . The new warnings stretched from Sabine Pass , Texas to Saint Marks , Florida . Gale warnings were also issued upon the upgrade from Morgan City , Louisiana to Pascagoula , Mississippi . Rough seas and tides of two to four feet ( 0 @. @ 6 to 1 @. @ 2 metres ) ? also known as storm surge ? were expected in the areas under the gale warning . By May 29 , all craft were advised not to leave port in Louisiana . Memories of

Hurricane Audrey led to numerous residents evacuating coastal areas upon hearing about Arlene . In Pierre , 50 families evacuated to higher grounds . Officials reported that 25 families were also evacuated from low @-@ lying areas in Vermilion Parish . As Arlene neared landfall , the small craft advisory was canceled from Pensacola , Florida southward . The new warnings extended from Pensacola to Galveston , Texas . The gale warnings shifted more towards the west , now extending from Galveston , Texas to Grand Isle , Louisiana .

Arlene produced winds up to 55 mph ( 90 km / h ) with gusts up to 75 mph ( 120 km / h ) upon landfall . The lowest pressure recorded on land was 999 @.@ 7 mbar ( hPa ; 29 @.@ 52 inHg ) , which was rounded up to 1000 mbar ( hPa ; 29 @.@ 53 inHg ) for the minimum pressure of the storm . Minor storm surge up to three feet was recorded at Weeks Island and Point Au Fer , Louisiana . Heavy rains fell across much of the southeastern Louisiana coastline . During a 24 ? hour span , 10 @.@ 92 in ( 277 mm ) of rain fell in Moisant International Airport . Roughly 2 ft ( 0 @.@ 61 m ) of water flooded the control tower at the airport , forcing traffic control workers to relocate to the new tower which was under @-@ construction . A state maximum rainfall of 13 @.@ 13 in ( 334 mm ) fell in Houma . Along the coast , a few towns reported downed trees and electrical lines from high winds , resulting in scattered power outages .

At the height of the storm , several of the main roads in New Orleans were shut down due to flooding . At least 100 homes were flooded by the storm . In Baton Rouge , dozens of people were evacuated from a flooded home via ambulance and wagon to safer areas . In nearby Mississippi , rainfall from the storm was mainly confined to the southeastern counties ; however , significant accumulations , peaking at 13 @.@ 55 in ( 344 mm ) , were recorded . Rain from the remnant low spread into Georgia . Some stream flooding and crop damage were reported but overall , the damage was minor . In all , Arlene caused \$ 500 @,@ 000 ( \$ 3 @.@ 7 million 2010 USD ) in damage . One death was related to Arlene ; a man drowned in rough surf off the Galveston coast . After the initial low dissipated over the southeastern United States , the extratropical remnants of Arlene brought moderate rainfall to parts of the Mid @-@ Atlantic States and New England .