

= Hurricane Allison (1995) =

Hurricane Allison was the first named storm and first hurricane of the 1995 Atlantic hurricane season . It was an early season hurricane that delivered heavy rains and caused minor damage , primarily across Cuba , Florida and Georgia .

The storm developed on June 2 , less than 48 hours after the official start of the hurricane season . It strengthened into a tropical storm early on June 3 and into a hurricane on June 4 in the Gulf of Mexico . It would make landfall in the Big Bend area of Florida on June 5 before tracking northward as an extratropical system . One death was reported in Cuba . Allison 's early formation heralded the start of what would eventually become a very active 1995 hurricane season .

= = Meteorological history = =

The origins of the system can be traced to a tropical wave that moved across the eastern Caribbean Sea in the last week of May . The wave gradually organized itself as it entered the western Caribbean Sea on June 1 . The circulation continued to close up on June 2 and that evening it was declared Tropical Depression One while east of Honduras .

The depression was in an unusually low @-@ shear environment for early June as it began tracking northward , which allowed the system to strengthen into Tropical Storm Allison on the morning of June 3 as it tracked into the Yucatan Channel . Despite the fact that westerly wind shear began to increase , the warm water allowed Allison to gradually strengthen more that afternoon and evening . Late that evening , while between the Yucatan Peninsula and Cuba , Allison developed a circular central dense overcast and became a high @-@ end tropical storm . As the storm emerged into the Gulf of Mexico , the warm waters allowed Allison to strengthen further and it was upgraded to a hurricane on the morning of June 4 while travelling almost due north .

Allison remained somewhat disorganized , as no eye was ever visible , even when Reconnaissance flights confirmed that it was at hurricane intensity . The storm maintained itself as a minimal hurricane throughout the day on June 4 before it began to turn to the northeast , in response to southwesterly shear . Late that evening , the storm began to weaken , dropping back to tropical storm intensity as it approached the Florida Big Bend area . The intensity leveled off on June 5 until it made landfall that morning . Allison made its first landfall at about 10 : 00 am EDT (1400 UTC) near Alligator Point , Florida as a high @-@ end tropical storm with 70 mph (110 km / h) winds . It briefly re @-@ emerged over Apalachee Bay and made another landfall near St. Marks , Florida about one hour later with 65 mph (100 km / h) winds . Operationally , Allison was considered a hurricane until it made landfall , and was considered the earliest hurricane landfall in the United States for a while .

After making its final Florida landfall , Allison rapidly weakened . Tropical storm force winds continued over the eastern Florida Panhandle until late that afternoon , as the storm moved northward into Georgia . It weakened to a tropical depression on the evening of June 5 over southern Georgia . Early on June 6 , Allison began to transition into an extratropical storm as it interacted with a warm front to the northeast while tracking across the Carolinas . The remnant low emerged into the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Cape Hatteras that evening . It then raced across the western Atlantic , crossing the easternmost part of Nova Scotia on June 8 and Newfoundland on June 9 . It continued northward across the Labrador Sea , dissipating on June 11 .

= = Impact = =

Winds to tropical storm @-@ force were reported throughout the western part of Cuba , with a peak gust of 64 mph (102 km / h) in Havana . Heavy rainfall of up to 18 inches (450 mm) was also reported in the area . 32 houses were damaged or destroyed due to flooding that resulted . One person was killed in western Cuba and three others were injured . The overall economic loss as a result of the storm was reported to have fairly minor .

In Florida , Allison 's winds knocked down power lines , leaving 48 @,@ 000 residents without

power or telephone services . Along the 150 @-@ mile (240 km) stretch of Florida 's Big Bend , 65 seaside homes were flooded and there was extensive beach erosion as a result of the storm surge . Three hotels and a restaurant were damaged . In Apalachicola , three fishing boats were swamped ; the storm closed a bridge linking Apalachicola with St. George Island . The highest storm surge in Florida was about 6 to 8 feet (1 @.@ 8 to 2 @.@ 5 m) in Wakulla and Dixie Counties , and 2 to 6 feet (0 @.@ 6 to 1 @.@ 8 m) to the east . A tornado spawned by Allison touched down at Jacksonville Beach , causing minor damage when it downed power lines and flipped over vehicles . Minor crop damage was also reported . There were no deaths reported as a result of Allison in Florida . Damage was estimated at \$ 860 @,@ 000 (1995 USD) in Florida , primarily as a result of the storm surge .

Most of the damage in Georgia was as a result of several tornadoes related to Allison . The most significant of the tornadoes touched down in the town of St. Marys . An elementary school was destroyed and significant damage was also reported to several buildings at the Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base . Several other tornadoes also touched down but damage from them was minimal . Damage from the tornado was estimated at \$ 800 @,@ 000 (1995 USD) .