

= Hurricane Beth =

Hurricane Beth was a short @-@ lived tropical cyclone which traveled from Florida to Nova Scotia in the middle of August 1971 . The second named storm of the 1971 Atlantic hurricane season , Beth 's genesis was impeded by a cold environment surrounding the storm . However , as it continued on its northeastward course , it achieved fully tropical characteristics and peaked as a modest Category 1 hurricane on the Saffir ? Simpson Hurricane Scale . The cyclone struck Nova Scotia on August 16 before dissipating shortly after . Beth produced substantial precipitation , and the resultant flooding inflicted severe damage to infrastructure and crops .

= = Meteorological history = =

On August 9 , a low pressure system in the upper levels of the atmosphere formed off the east coast of Florida . It became a surface low by the next day and acquired the characteristics of a tropical cyclone ; it is officially stated to have become a tropical depression at 1200 UTC on August 10 . The depression slowly advanced northeastward within a relatively cold environment , and as such , it did not intensify for several days . The system turned more toward the east as it approached the coast of North Carolina , at which time its structure became conducive to further development . On August 14 , the depression was declared a tropical storm and assigned the name Beth following recent data from a reconnaissance aircraft .

Several hundred miles off the U.S. East Coast , Beth accelerated somewhat ? reaching forward speeds of up to 19 mph (31 km / h) as it resumed a northeastward course . Its minimum central pressure deepened to 990 millibars (29 inHg) , and correspondingly , maximum sustained winds increased . In response , the cyclone was recognized as a Category 1 hurricane . It continued to mature as it passed east of Cape Cod , achieving peak winds of 85 mph (137 km / h) and a pressure of 977 mb (28 @.@ 9 inHg) . Subsequently , the hurricane weakened slightly while nearing Nova Scotia . On August 16 , it made landfall near Copper Lake before crossing Cape Breton Island . Shortly thereafter , Beth was swept up by a nearby cold front and transitioned into an extratropical cyclone .

= = Preparations and impact = =

In advance of Hurricane Beth , hurricane warnings were issued for coastal and marine areas of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland . In Halifax , bus service was disrupted by the storm , and in Antigonish , business owners closed their stores and filled sandbags to prepare .

The hurricane left extensive damage in its wake , especially to crops and infrastructure . Halifax International Airport reported 10 @.@ 49 in (266 mm) of rainfall over 30 hours . The heavy precipitation throughout the country triggered severe flooding , stranding hundreds of travelers . The mayor of Dartmouth reported that the area was a " disaster " , as 500 homes were reportedly inundated . Antigonish also experienced significant flooding ; waters there approached the top of parking meters . Impacted crops in the region included cereal grain , corn , and tobacco , whose inundated fields resembled vast lakes .

Transport suffered severely : several main roads , including part of the Trans @-@ Canada Highway and Nova Scotia Highway 102 , in northeastern Nova Scotia received flood damage and were temporarily blocked off . Additionally , the rising waters washed out several bridges in the region and swept away automobiles . Railways were covered by water , forcing trains to suspend their operation . Drinking water in Dartmouth was contaminated due to excessive runoff into Lake Antigonish , and a trailer park in Antigonish flooded , prompting 600 residents to evacuate . Overall monetary damage from Beth is estimated at between \$ 3 @.@ 5 million and \$ 5 @.@ 1 million USD . One person was indirectly killed by the hurricane in a traffic accident induced by heavy rain .