

= 1855 Atlantic hurricane season =

The 1855 Atlantic hurricane season featured tropical cyclone landfalls in the Gulf Coast of the United States , the Greater Antilles , and Mexico , but none along the East Coast of the United States . It was inactive , with only five known tropical cyclones . Operationally , another tropical storm was believed to have existed offshore Atlantic Canada in late August and early September , but HURDAT ? the official Atlantic hurricane database ? now excludes this system . The first system , Hurricane One , was initially observed on August 6 . The final storm , Hurricane Five , was last observed on September 17 . These dates fall within the period with the most tropical cyclone activity in the Atlantic . At one point during the season , two tropical cyclones existed simultaneously . Two of the cyclones only have a single known point in their tracks due to a sparsity of data , so storm summaries for those systems are unavailable .

Of the season 's five tropical cyclones , four reached hurricane status . Furthermore , one of those four strengthened into a major hurricane , which are Category 3 or higher on the modern @-@ day Saffir ? Simpson hurricane wind scale . The strongest cyclone of the season , Hurricane Five , peaked at Category 3 strength with 125 mph (205 km / h) winds . It brought only minor impact to Louisiana and Mississippi . The first storm of the season brought locally severe impact to Tampico , Tamaulipas , Mexico in early August . Tropical Storm Four caused severe damage in the Lesser Antilles .

The season 's activity was reflected with a low accumulated cyclone energy (ACE) rating of 18 . This was the lowest value on record until a rating of 13 during the 1907 season . ACE is , broadly speaking , a measure of the power of the hurricane multiplied by the length of time it existed , so storms that last a long time , as well as particularly strong hurricanes , have high ACEs . ACE is only calculated for full advisories on tropical systems at or exceeding 34 knots (39 mph , 63 km / h) or tropical storm strength .

= = Storms = =

= = = Hurricane One = = =

Based on newspaper reports , the first hurricane of the season was within the vicinity of Tampico , Tamaulipas on August 6 . Maximum sustained winds were at 105 mph (165 km / h) , indicating a Category 2 hurricane . No further information is available on the meteorological history of this storm . However , it is possible that the storm developed in the Caribbean Sea in late July , due to data obtained from the barque Bercaldine . Torrential rainfall in the Tampico area caused disastrous flooding , with heavy damage to goods and property . Eleven vessels were docked at Tampico , some of which lost their cargo . At the mouth of the Pánuco River , a pilot station and a fort were swept away . The event was considered " the worst inundation of Tampico over the last 30 years " .

= = = Hurricane Two = = =

The ship James Foster Jr. encountered a hurricane on August 10 , while located about 575 miles (925 km) east @-@ southeast of Cape Race , Newfoundland . Sustained winds of 105 mph (165 km / h) were observed , equivalent to a Category 2 hurricane . Data from the James Foster Jr. and Rebecca indicate that the storm moved rapidly northeastward . This system was last noted about 560 miles (900 km) west of Ireland on August 11 .

= = = Hurricane Three = = =

The HMS Walverine reported a hurricane at 12 @.@ 5 ° N , 83 @.@ 0 ° W , which is located about 15 miles (24 km) north of Corn Islands , Nicaragua . A sustained wind speed of 80 mph (130 km / h) was observed . Shortly thereafter , the HMS Walverine was wrecked and no further information is

known about this storm .

=== Tropical Storm Four ===

Based on reports of a strong gale , a tropical storm was first tracked about 250 miles (400 km) east @-@ southeast of Barbados early on August 24 . It initially headed westward , before re @-@ curving west @-@ northwestward early on the following day . Shortly thereafter , the storm passed through the Windward Islands between Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines . The storm peaked with winds of 70 mph (110 km / h) while moving northwestward across the Caribbean Sea . It weakened slightly before making landfall near San Pedro de Macoris , Dominican Republic with winds of 60 mph (95 km / h) early on August 27 . The storm slowly weakened over Hispaniola and was last noted near Bombardopolis , Haiti later that day .

There was considerable damage in the Lesser Antilles . On Saint Vincent , rains destroyed roads and a number of houses . Many sugar cane fields were also ruined . Several vessels were lost there and on other islands , including Barbados , Dominica , and Martinique . On Saint Croix in the present @-@ day U.S. Virgin Islands , at least one vessel was destroyed by the heavy gales . There were also strong gales reported in Puerto Rico and Dominican Republic .

=== Hurricane Five ===

The ship Orphan encountered a hurricane with winds of 80 mph (130 km / h) in the central Gulf of Mexico on September 15 . It strengthened quickly while moving northward , becoming a Category 2 hurricane later that day . By 0000 UTC on September 16 , the storm peaked as a Category 3 hurricane with maximum sustained winds of 125 mph (205 km / h) , making it the strongest tropical cyclone of the season . Shortly thereafter , the hurricane made landfall near Buras @-@ Triumph , Louisiana at the same intensity . It weakened after moving inland , decreasing to Category 1 intensity later on September 16 . Early on the following day , the system weakened to a tropical storm , several hours before dissipating over central Alabama .

This was regarded as the worst hurricane in the region since 1819 . In Louisiana , winds and storm surge impacted the eastern portions of the state . The wharf and bathhouse in Proctorville were swept away . About 4 feet (1 @.@ 2 m) of water was reported at Proctor 's Landing . A combination of strong winds and storm surge destroyed a number of houses along the shores of Lake Borgne . Along the coast of Mississippi , most structures were swept to sea . The foundation of the Biloxi Lighthouse was endangered due to erosion from this storm . The Cat Island Lighthouse was also left in " severe peril " . Several ships were damaged or capsized in the Mississippi River , including the Atchafalaya , J.S. Chenoweth , Ship Shoal , and Venice .

=== Other storms ===

In addition to the five tropical systems , another storm was operationally believed to have existed in late August and early September . The ship Atlantic encountered a very heavy gale while located west of Sable Island , Nova Scotia on August 31 . The storm moved rapidly east @-@ northeastward offshore Atlantic Canada . It was last noted on September 2 and was thought to have transitioned into an extratropical cyclone . However , HURDAT no longer includes this system in its database .