= 2005 Azores subtropical storm =

The 2005 Azores subtropical storm was the nineteenth nameable storm of the record @-@ breaking 2005 Atlantic hurricane season . It was not officially named by the National Hurricane Center as it was operationally classified as a non @-@ tropical low . The storm developed in the eastern Atlantic Ocean out of a low @-@ pressure area that gained subtropical characteristics on October 4 . The storm was short @-@ lived , crossing over the Azores later on October 4 before becoming extratropical again on October 5 . No damage or fatalities were reported . After being absorbed into a cold front , the system went on to become Hurricane Vince , which affected the Iberian Peninsula .

Months after the hurricane season , when the National Hurricane Center was performing its annual review of the season and its named storms , forecasters Jack Beven and Eric Blake identified this previously unnoticed subtropical storm . Despite its unusual location and wide wind field , the system had a well @-@ defined center convecting around a warm core ? the hallmark of a subtropical storm .

= = Meteorological history = =

The system originated out of an upper @-@ level low just west of the Canary Islands on September 28 . The low organized itself over the next several days , producing several bursts of convection . While remaining non @-@ tropical with a cold core it moved gradually west to northwest . On October 3 , it became a broad surface low about 400 nautical miles (460 mi , 740 km) southwest of São Miguel Island in the Azores . Early on October 4 , convection increased as the surface low organized itself , and the system became a subtropical depression . Around the same time , the depression turned northeast into a warm sector ahead of an oncoming cold front and strengthened into a subtropical storm . The system continued to track northeast and strengthened slightly , reaching its peak intensity of 50 mph (85 km / h) as it approached the Azores that evening . After tracking through the Azores , the storm weakened slightly as it moved to the north @-@ northeast . Through an interaction with the cold front early on October 5 the subtropical storm became extratropical . The system was fully absorbed by the front later that day . The newly absorbed system would separate from the dissolving frontal system and become Subtropical Storm Vince on October 8 .

At the time , the system was not believed to have been subtropical . However , there were several post @-@ season findings that confirmed that the system was indeed a subtropical storm . The first was the cloud pattern , in which it had deep convection around the center and was better organized with a well @-@ defined center of circulation . In addition , the system had a warm core more typical of tropical cyclones as opposed to the cold core of extratropical cyclones . The warm @-@ core nature also meant that there were no warm or cold fronts attached to the system , as temperatures did not change ahead of and behind the system until the unrelated cold front passed the Azores . Satellite imagery suggested that the system was briefly a tropical storm as the warm core was found ; however , the widespread wind field and the presence of an upper @-@ level trough confirmed that it was merely subtropical .

= = Impact , classification , and records = =

Tropical storm @-@ force winds were reported across parts of the Azores , primarily on the eastern islands . The strongest winds were reported on Santa Maria Island , where 10 @-@ minute sustained winds reached 49 mph (79 km / h) with gusts to 59 mph (94 km / h) . Ponta Delgada faced 38 mph (61 km / h) winds , with the peak recorded gust being 52 mph (85 km / h) . No damage or fatalities were reported .

The storm was not classified as a subtropical storm until April 10 , 2006 , after a reassessment by the National Hurricane Center . Every year , the NHC re @-@ analyzes the systems of the past hurricane season and revises the storm history frequently if there is new data that was operationally

unavailable . If the storm had been operationally recognized it would have been named Subtropical Storm Tammy , and storms forming after October 4 would have been moved one name down the list . Hurricane Wilma would have been given the name Alpha : a name that , had it been retired like Wilma was , could not be replaced by an " alternate " Greek letter , as is the convention with names on the standard A ? W list . When the system strengthened into a subtropical storm on October 4 , it was the earliest the 19th tropical or subtropical storm of the season formed . The old record was held by an unnamed storm in the 1933 Atlantic hurricane season , which formed on October 25 , 1933 . It was also only the fourth time that 19 storms formed in a season .