

= 1928 Haiti hurricane =

The 1928 Haiti hurricane was considered the worst tropical cyclone in Haiti since the 1886 Indianola hurricane . The second tropical cyclone and second hurricane of the season , the storm developed from a tropical wave near Tobago on August 7 . Steadily intensifying as it moved northwestward , the system passed through the southern Windward Islands . Upon entering the Caribbean Sea early on August 8 , the tropical depression strengthened into a tropical storm . On August 9 , the storm strengthened to the equivalent of a Category 1 hurricane . The next day , the hurricane peaked with winds of 90 mph (150 km / h) . After striking the Tiburon Peninsula of Haiti , the cyclone began weakening and fell to tropical storm intensity on August 12 . By midday on the following day , the storm made landfall near Cienfuegos , Cuba . Upon emerging into the Straits of Florida , the storm began to re @-@ strengthen . Early on August 13 , it struck Big Pine Key , Florida , as a strong tropical storm . Weakening slowly while moving north @-@ northwestward , the system made another landfall near St. George Island . After moving inland , the tropical storm slowly deteriorated and dissipated over West Virginia on August 17 .

In Haiti , the storm completely wiped out live stock and many crops , particularly coffee , cocoa , and sugar . Several villages were also destroyed , rendering approximately 10 @,@ 000 people homeless . Damage reached \$ 1 million and there were at least 200 deaths . The only impact in Cuba was downed banana trees . In Florida , the storm left minor wind damage along the coast . A Seaboard Air Line Railroad station was destroyed in Boca Grande , while signs , trees , and telephone poles were knocked down in Sarasota . Several streets in St. Petersburg were closed due to flooding or debris . Between Cedar Key and the Florida Panhandle , several vessels capsized . Water washed up along the side of roads and in wooded areas . The storm contributed to flooding onset by the previous hurricane , with rainfall peaking at 13 @.@ 5 in (340 mm) in Caesars Head , South Carolina . The worst impact from flooding occurred in North Carolina , where several houses were destroyed . Six people were killed in the state , of which four due to flooding . Property damage in the state totaled over \$ 1 million . Overall , the storm caused at least \$ 2 million in damage and 210 fatalities .

= = Meteorological history = =

A westward @-@ moving tropical wave developed into a tropical depression while situated near Tobago on August 7 . Initially , the storm was considered a " disturbance of slight to moderate intensity " . Moving northwestward , the system passed through the Windward Islands just south of Carriacou and Petite Martinique . Upon entering the Caribbean Sea early on August 8 , a ship reported winds of 46 mph (74 km / h) . As a result , HURDAT indicts that the depression became a tropical storm at 00 : 00 UTC . On August 9 , the storm strengthened into a Category 1 hurricane on the modern @-@ day Saffir ? Simpson hurricane wind scale , while located about 155 mi (250 km) south of San Pedro de Macorís , Dominican Republic . At 12 : 00 UTC on August 10 , the cyclone attained its peak intensity as strong Category 1 hurricane with maximum sustained winds with winds of 90 mph (150 km / h) and a minimum barometric pressure of 998 mbar (29 @.@ 5 inHg) . Early on August 9 , the storm made landfall in the Tiburon Peninsula of Haiti , based on " belated reports [indicating] that a very small but destructive disturbance passed over extreme southwest Haiti " . The quickly re @-@ emerged into the Caribbean Sea later that day .

A small cyclone , the hurricane passed between Cuba and Jamaica and weakened to a tropical storm early on August 12 . By midday , the storm made landfall near Cienfuegos , Cuba , with winds of 60 mph (95 km / h) . Several telegraphic reports indicated that " the center [of the storm] was not definitely traceable for the next 24 to 36 hours " , but other reports noted that the center passed over then @-@ Oriente Province . Hours later , the system reached the Straits of Florida and immediately began to re @-@ intensify . Early on August 13 , it struck Big Pine Key , Florida , as a strong tropical storm with winds of 70 mph (110 km / h) . Thereafter , the storm moved north @-@ northwestward over the Gulf of Mexico . At 14 : 00 UTC on August 14 , it made landfall near St. George Island , Florida , with winds of 50 mph (85 km / h) . After moving inland , the tropical storm

slowly deteriorated , falling to tropical depression intensity over east @-@ central Alabama on August 15 . Thereafter , the depression moved north @-@ northeastward and dissipated over West Virginia on August 17 .

= = Impact = =

= = = Greater Antilles = = =

As the storm approached Hispaniola , warnings were sent to vessels offshore Haiti and Jamaica . In Haiti , the storm brought torrential rainfall for over 20 hours . Many villages were completely destroyed , leaving over 10 @,@ 000 people homeless . The city of Saint @-@ Louis @-@ du @-@ Sud was almost completely wiped out , with only two buildings retaining their roofs . Additionally , approximately 80 % of buildings in Grand @-@ Boucan and Petit Trou were flattened . Overall , most municipalities were flooded with 8 to 20 ft (2 @.@ 4 to 6 @.@ 1 m) of water . At least 200 deaths were recorded , including 26 in Miragoâne and 12 at a single dwellings in Belle @-@ Riviere . In the most devastated areas , flooding also killed all farm animals and entire coffee , cocoa , and sugar crops were wiped out . An estimated three to six months was required to regrow the lost agriculture . Along the coast , rough seas capsized or washed ashore many small crafts . The storm was described as the worst in Haiti since the 1886 Indianola hurricane . The storm destroyed most of the unpaved , vehicular trails in its path . Overall , the damage to roadways , communications , and public services was estimated at \$ 1 million .

After the storm , approximately 100 @,@ 000 people were facing starvation . Then @-@ Haitian president Louis Borno reported that the government had inefficient resources for recovery and asked citizens to assist with repairing infrastructure and providing food and shelter to others . The Government of Haiti , in turn , appropriated \$ 200 @,@ 000 for relief . Eleven storages with relief supplies were established throughout the country . The approximately 10 @,@ 000 people left homeless were temporarily housed in larger , undamaged buildings . Within a few months after the storm , 299 homes were rebuilt or repaired , costing almost \$ 37 @,@ 000 . The vehicular paths destroyed by the hurricane were eventually replaced by 10 ft (3 @.@ 0 m) -wide paved gravel roads . In September , the American Red Cross donated \$ 10 @,@ 000 to the Haitian Red Cross .

In Cuba , the storm brought gusty winds and excessive rainfall , but impact was primarily limited to fallen banana trees in an area then known as Oriente Province .

= = = United States = = =

Hurricane warnings were hoisted in portions of the Florida Keys early on August 13 . However , the highest observed wind speed was only 36 mph (58 km / h) . Between Cedar Key and the Florida Panhandle , some residents took refuge at churches and schools . In the mainland of Florida , winds resulted in generally minor damage along the west coast . In Boca Grande , a Seaboard Air Line Railroad station was destroyed . Plate glass was damaged and signs , trees , and telephone poles were knocked down in Sarasota . Rough seas began smashing a revenue cutter service ship docked at the Coast Guard station in St. Petersburg against the wharves ; bumpers were placed between the ship and pilings to further damage . Several streets were closed due to flooding or debris . One street closed after roof tiles started falling from a theater . At one intersection , several cars were stranded due to 3 ft (0 @.@ 91 m) of water covering the road . Although some coastal areas experienced rough seas , others reported their lowest tides in years , especially Pass @-@ a @-@ Grille and Tampa , with almost all of the water blown out of Boca Ciega Bay , which is located adjacent to the former . Several vessels , mostly small fishing crafts , capsized . Water washed up along the side of roads and in wooded areas , while many trees were toppled .

The storm also contributed to ongoing flooding in the Southeastern United States onset by the previous hurricane . In Georgia , hydroelectric dams in Quitman were overtopped by creeks and rivers . One highway was completely submerged and four bridges were swept away . A railroad

passenger train was abandoned due to water rising above the tracks . The Ocmulgee River at Macon crested at 20 @. @ 9 ft (6 @. @ 4 m) . Additionally , the Withlacoochee River was expect to reach its highest level in years . Overall , crops , highways , and railroads across the southern portion of the state were severely damaged . Milledgeville was left without water due to flooding . The Oconee River was expected to reach 34 ft (10 m) in height at the city 's river gauge . A bridge across the Oconee was swept away as was approximately 1 @, @ 500 ft (460 m) of railroad tracks . About 200 families in Augusta evacuated due to the rising Savannah River . In South Carolina , rainfall peaked at 13 @. @ 5 in (340 mm) in Caesars Head , which is the highest precipitation total associated with the storm . The city of Spartanburg prepared for its worst flood since 1916 . Throughout Upstate South Carolina , highways , railroads , and crops were flooded . In Bath , a " freakish " tornado destroyed at least 50 homes and injured one person . Additionally , a wind storm in Newberry County severely damaged " scores " of dwellings . Two deaths occurred in South Carolina .

In North Carolina , rainfall caused the Catawba , French Broad , Swannanoa , and Yadkin rivers to overflow their banks . Many nearby homes and structures were swept away . Families along the South Pacolet River near Tryon were evacuated . Additionally , two shelters were set up in Asheville , one at a Salvation Army post and another at the municipal auditorium , where hundreds of cots were set @-@ up . A mudslide near Asheville moved across a railroad track , blocking the route to locomotive traffic . Several feet of water covered highways near Marshall , leaving many roads impassable . Extensive crop losses also occurred in western North Carolina , with agricultural losses reaching \$ 250 @, @ 000 in Burke County alone . Six people were killed in the state , of which four due to flooding and two others from a tornado in Ashley Heights . Property damage totaled over \$ 1 million . Rainfall from both the previous hurricane and this storm brought flooding to Virginia . Major flooding was reported along the Roanoke River from Brookneal to Roanoke . At the former , the river crested at 14 ft (4 @. @ 3 m) above flood stage . In Altavista , crops were ruined and 11 buildings were flooded . Route 17 north of Fincastle was inundated , blocking traffic between Clifton Forge and Covington . Two deaths occurred in Virginia , one from drowning and another from fright while crossing the Roanoke River .