

= Tropical Depression One ( 1988 ) =

Tropical Depression One was the wettest tropical cyclone in Cuba since Hurricane Flora of 1963 . The first tropical cyclone of the 1988 Atlantic hurricane season , the system developed on May 30 from an area of disturbed weather in the northwestern Caribbean Sea . The tropical depression headed northeastward , making landfall in La Habana Province , Cuba without intensifying . Crossing Cuba , the depression became very disorganized as it emerged into the Straits of Florida and degenerated into an open trough on June 2 . Although only a tropical depression , the system flooded central and western Cuba with over 40 inches ( 1000 mm ) of rain , causing 37 fatalities , damage to over 1 @, @ 000 houses , and the evacuation of about 65 @, @ 000 residents .

= = Meteorological history = =

On May 31 , Tropical Depression One developed in the western Caribbean Sea , a day before the start of the Atlantic hurricane season . The depression moved northeastward , passing just northwest of Isla de la Juventud before striking the Cuban mainland south of Havana . As it crossed the country , its strongest rainfall was east of the center , and the depression failed to intensify beyond winds of 30 mph ( 45 km / h ) . The National Hurricane Center never expected it to strengthen further , due to unfavorable wind shear . After a hurricane hunters flight could not detect a circulation , The depression degenerated into an open trough east of Florida on June 2 .

= = Impact and aftermath = =

While crossing Cuba , the depression dropped heavy rainfall , affecting the provinces of Cienfuegos , Villa Clara , Sancti Spíritus , Camagüey , and Ciego de Ávila . The precipitation peaked at 40 @. @ 35 in ( 1 @, @ 025 mm ) in Cienfuegos Province , of which 34 @. @ 13 in ( 867 mm ) fell in one day . At the time , it was the second highest rainfall total in the country , only behind Hurricane Flora in 1963 , although Hurricane Dennis in 2005 later surpassed the depression . Rainfall reached 22 @. @ 76 in ( 578 mm ) in Cienfuegos and 21 @. @ 90 in ( 556 mm ) in Sancti Spíritus .

The heavy rainfall caused flooding in Camagüey that damaged about 5 @, @ 700 houses and destroyed 200 . The flooding also damaged 15 schools and hospitals , as well as several crop buildings . The floods left widespread areas without electricity or communications . Six bridges were destroyed in central and western Cuba , which , in addition to damaged roads and rail lines , severely disrupted the country 's transportation infrastructure . A total of 131 roads were unpassable due to the flooding , and 55 rail lines were damaged . The flood waters prompted officials to evacuate 65 @, @ 000 residents in low lying areas , including using helicopters and amphibious vehicles . A tornado was reported in the city of Camagüey , destroying five Soviet planes and several buildings . By the day after the depression dissipated , the Cuban government reported nine deaths , although the death toll was later finalized at 37 . The depression also killed thousands of livestock . Following the severe flooding , the Red Cross sent aid to the victims of Tropical Depression One in Cuba . The Red Cross had sent medical units , tents , blankets , and other necessary item to the victims by plane . Overall about 90 @, @ 000 people were affected .

With most of the rainfall occurring east of the center , the depression did not produce significant precipitation in Florida . Precipitation of around 1 in ( 25 mm ) spread across the Miami area , peaking at 3 @. @ 18 in ( 81 mm ) in Pompano Beach .