

= Tropical Storm Arlene (2005) =

Tropical Storm Arlene was an unusually large and early @-@ forming tropical storm forming during the 2005 Atlantic hurricane season . It was the first storm of the season , which would become the most active on record . Tropical Storm Arlene formed near Honduras on June 8 and moved northwards . It crossed western Cuba on June 10 and strengthened to just under hurricane strength before making its final landfall on the Florida Panhandle the next day . The storm weakened as it continued to move north over the United States , becoming extratropical on June 13 . Arlene was responsible for only one death and minor damages .

= = Meteorological history = =

Early in the season ? nearly two months earlier than the first storm formation in 2004 ? a low @-@ pressure area formed and persisted north of Honduras . Despite significant shear , the low managed to become Tropical Depression One on June 8 just north of Honduras . The depression began to head north towards western Cuba that day , but as it was a very large and poorly organized system under the influence of heavy shear , the official forecasts from the National Hurricane Center emphasized that the route the storm would take was uncertain . Despite this uncertainty , the official forecasts were highly accurate in predicting the storm 's track .

As the shear dropped , the depression strengthened further and it became Tropical Storm Arlene on June 9 . It produced precipitation over a very wide area ; the Cayman Islands reported tropical storm @-@ force winds and heavy rain over 150 statute miles (240 km) east of the center . Arlene crossed the western tip of Cuba on the morning of June 10 with 50 mph (85 km / h) winds . Tropical Storm Arlene had an unusual structure throughout its life , with a large circulation containing numerous small centers rotating about a larger gyre , as opposed to an inner convective core .

Tropical Storm Arlene then entered the Gulf of Mexico and strengthened further to its peak strength with 70 mph (110 km / h) winds . The official forecast at this time called for further intensification to minimal hurricane strength . This did not occur however and Arlene instead weakened as result of dry air entering the circulation . The storm made landfall just west of Pensacola , Florida in the afternoon of June 11 with 57 @.@ 5 mph (95 km / h) winds . As most of the precipitation and wind of the storm were located north and east of the center , most of the effects of the storm were on land long before it made landfall .

Arlene was the most intense landfalling June storm since Hurricane Allison hit the same location as a strong tropical storm during the 1995 season . Arlene weakened into a tropical depression later that day , but managed to persist as a tropical system as it moved north over the United States . The system finally became extratropical on June 13 just northeast of Flint , Michigan and was absorbed by a larger system the next day .

= = Preparations = =

Tropical storm warnings were issued for western Cuba , the Caymans , and the Dry Tortugas before the landfall on Cuba on June 10 . While Arlene was over Cuba a tropical storm watch was issued for the Gulf Coast from Morgan City , Louisiana to Indian Pass , Florida . A tropical storm warning was issued for a stretch of coast slightly further east than the area covered by the preceding watch , and a hurricane watch was issued for the central section of this region . This turned into a hurricane warning from Pearl River , Louisiana to Indian Pass due to fears of a strengthening to hurricane strength . The warnings were reduced and were then canceled eight hours after the second landfall .

Florida Governor Jeb Bush issued a state of emergency two days before the storm 's final landfall . Recovery teams were also deployed for the area . An evacuation order was issued for all areas south of the Gulf Coast Highway , including Pensacola Beach , Perdido Key , and Inerarity Point . Walton County officials issued a voluntary evacuation for low line areas and mobile homes . Walton County also opened a shelter in Freeport , and four shelters and one special needs shelter were

opened in Escambia County .

Two days prior to landfall , 36 oil platforms and 16 rigs were evacuated . The cumulative production loss caused from the evacuation of the storm totalled 0 @. @ 109 % of the yearly production , approximately 575 million barrels . The stopped rigs also accounted for 3 @. @ 87 % of the daily production on June 13 .

= = Impact = =

= = = Cuba = = =

Between June 9 and 10 , Tropical Storm Arlene produced heavy rains over western areas of Cuba , leading to school closures and several cities . The area impacted by the rainfall was previously suffering from a severe drought and moisture brought in by Arlene helped to alleviate the dry conditions . Upwards of 10 in (250 mm) of rain was expected to fall due to the storm , possibly triggering flooding and mudslides .

= = = United States = = =

The only death attributed to Arlene was that of a woman caught in a rip current in Miami Beach , Florida , far from the center of circulation .

= = = = Florida = = = =

In the Florida Keys , Arlene produced wind gusts of up to 60 mph (95 km / h) , causing wind damage to four homes in Lower Matecumbe Key . The storm caused a storm surge of 1 @. @ 25 feet (0 @. @ 38 m) above normal . Waves on top of the surge caused flooding on roads in Key West . Damage in the Florida Keys totaled to \$ 90 @, @ 000 (2005 USD) .

In the Florida Panhandle , the storm dropped heavy rainfall , peaking at 8 @. @ 51 inches (216 mm) in Plantation Bay , Florida in Flagler County . Upon making landfall , Arlene caused a storm surge of up to 5 feet (1 @. @ 5 m) in Walton County . Moderate beach erosion also occurred . The storm surge and strong waves caused moderate to severe damage to roads along the panhandle . Strong winds caused power outages to 500 people in Walton , Washington and Bay counties . The storm spawned a weak tornado in Navarre , Florida , causing minor damage on its 0 @. @ 1 @- @ mile (0 @. @ 2 @- @ km) path . Damage on the panhandle totaled to \$ 3 @. @ 5 million (2005 USD) , \$ 2 @. @ 5 million of which was in Fort Pickens alone .

= = = = Alabama = = = =

Upon making landfall , the storm produced storm tides of up to 3 @. @ 9 feet (1 @. @ 2 m) in height . Minor beach erosion occurred as well . Arlene dropped moderate to heavy rainfall throughout Alabama , with higher totals of up to eight inches (200 mm) to the west of Interstate 65 . Four to six inches (152 mm) of rain fell in a three @- @ hour period in the Mobile area . Several roads were temporarily impassable from the flooding , and one road was completely washed away . Wind speeds were around 20 to 30 mph (30 to 50 km / h) , while wind gusts of over 60 mph (95 km / h) existed . The winds downed several trees and power lines , leaving thousands without power for several hours . With the storm following a path similar to Hurricane Ivan just nine months earlier , many trees damaged from Ivan were downed completely . In addition , several homes experienced light wind damage . The outer bands of the storm also caused numerous funnel clouds , though no tornadoes were reported . Overall , damage was light , amounting to \$ 1 @. @ 7 million (2005 USD) .

= = = = Elsewhere = = = =

Heavy rainfall in Towns County , Georgia forced multiple residents to evacuate from rising flood water . Numerous creeks and rivers in the northern portion of the state overflowed .

Tropical Storm Arlene caused light rainfall across southeastern Mississippi , typically between 1 and 2 inches (25 to 50 mm) . Effects were generally minimal .

In Indiana , the remnants of Arlene dropped heavy rainfall , peaking at 4 @. @ 44 inches (112 @. @ 8 mm) in Evansville . In Indianapolis , 3 @. @ 04 inches (75 mm) fell at the International Airport . Rainfall from the storm was 85 % of the typical June rainfall level . Arlene also spawned two tornadoes . An F1 tornado developed to the southwest of Hayden on June 12 . The tornado damaged several buildings and trees on its 5 @. @ 3 @- @ mile (8 @. @ 5 @- @ km) path , with total damage amounting to \$ 100 @, @ 000 (2005 USD) . Outer rainbands also developed an F0 tornado just south of Indianapolis , downing a few tree limbs .

The remnants of Arlene combined with a non @- @ tropical system caused heavy rainfall across New York , with some locations reporting 6 to 7 inches (150 to 175 mm) of precipitation in a 2 @- @ hour period . The rainfall collected into streams and rivers , with some officials calling it a 1 in 500 year flood . The flash flooding caused at least one mudslide , and damaged several roads . The flooding forced at least 20 to evacuate from their homes , and numerous houses were damaged . Strong winds also downed trees and power lines , causing scattered power outages . Damage totaled to \$ 6 @. @ 5 million (2005 USD) .