

= 1901 Louisiana hurricane =

The 1901 Louisiana hurricane was the first hurricane to make landfall in Louisiana in the month of August or earlier since 1888 . The fourth tropical cyclone and second hurricane of the season , this storm developed southwest of the Azores on August 2 . Moving southwestward and later westward , the depression remained weak for several days , until strengthening into a tropical storm while approaching the Bahamas early on August 9 . It then crossed through the islands and intensified only slightly . Late on August 10 , the storm made landfall near Deerfield Beach , Florida . After reaching the Gulf of Mexico the next day , continuous intensifying occurred and by August 12 , the storm reached hurricane status . Peaking with winds of 90 mph (150 km / h) , it struck Louisiana late on August 14 and then Mississippi less than 24 hours later . The system weakened to a tropical storm early on August 16 and became extratropical several hours later .

Along portions of the east coast of Florida , " considerable damage " was reported due to strong winds . In Alabama , trees were uprooted , houses were de @-@ roofed , and chimneys collapsed in Mobile . Some areas of the city were also inundated with up to 18 inches (460 mm) of water due to storm tide . Several yachts , schooners , and ships were wrecked or sunk , resulting in at least \$ 70 @, @ 000 (1901 USD) in damage . However , due to warnings by the Weather Bureau , the Mobile Chamber of Commerce estimated that several millions of dollars in damage was evaded . All towns along the coast of Mississippi " suffered seriously " . In Louisiana , severe damage was reported at some towns due to strong winds and high tides . The community of Port Eads reported that only the lighthouse was not destroyed , while other sources state that an office building also remained standing . In New Orleans , overflowing levees inundated numerous streets . Outside the city , crops suffered severely , particularly rice . Overall , the storm caused 10 ? 15 deaths and \$ 1 million in damage .

= Meteorological history =

A tropical depression developed about 615 miles (990 km) southwest of Flores Island , Azores at 0000 UTC on August 2 . The depression moved southwestward and remained weak for several days . On August 5 , it re @-@ curved west @-@ southwestward and then westward while passing north of the Lesser Antilles . The next day , the system curved west @-@ northwestward and briefly to the west on August 8 . Finally , the depression strengthened into a tropical storm at 0000 UTC on August 9 , while located about 50 miles (80 km) northeast of Cat Island , Bahamas . Around that time , the Weather Bureau first observed a " feeble disturbance in the subtropical north of Cuba . " Between August 9 and August 10 , the storm strengthened slightly further and moved through the Bahamas , passing over Cat Island and the Berry Islands . Around 2200 UTC on August 10 , the system made landfall near Deerfield Beach , Florida with winds of 45 mph (75 km / h) .

Early on August 11 , the storm weakened slightly while crossing Florida . It then decelerated and reached the eastern Gulf of Mexico several hours later . Thereafter , the system began to re @-@ strengthen and became a Category 1 hurricane on the modern @-@ day Saffir ? Simpson hurricane wind scale at 1200 UTC on August 12 . Early the next day , the storm attained its maximum sustained wind speed of 90 mph (150 km / h) . It weakened slightly early on August 14 and curved northwestward while approaching the coast of Louisiana . At 2100 UTC , the storm made landfall near Buras with winds of 85 mph (140 km / h) . Curving northeastward , the hurricane re @-@ emerged into the Gulf of Mexico early on August 15 . However , around 1700 UTC , it made another landfall near Ocean Springs , Mississippi at the same intensity . Early on August 16 , the system weakened to a tropical storm . It then weakened much quicker and transitioned into an extratropical cyclone over Mississippi at 0000 UTC on August 17 . The remnant extratropical cyclone persisted until late the next day , at which time it dissipated over Indiana .

= Preparations and impact =

As the storm approached the east coast of Florida on August 10 , a warning was sent to all

Weather Bureau stations in Florida , as well as Savannah , Georgia , and Charleston , South Carolina , regarding a " disturbance of moderate intensity " , which posed a threat to small crafts in Florida and the western Bahamas . The next day , as the storm was moving across Florida , another message sent to Weather Bureau stations from New Orleans to Charleston warned of the potential for severe squalls along the west coast of Florida . While approaching the Gulf Coast of the United States on August 13 , storm warnings were ordered for Alabama , Mississippi and Louisiana , as well as for the west coast of Florida . At the National Weather Service office in New Orleans , hurricane warnings were ordered in Louisiana from mouth of the Mississippi River westward on August 15 and expanded to eastern Texas later that day . In New Orleans , 500 men , who were city authorities or levee board members , worked to strengthen the levees along canals in the city . Throughout much of the Gulf Coast of the United States , vessels and ships were warned to take precautions and remain in port .

In Florida , " considerable damage " due to strong winds was reported along portions of the east coast . Wind gusts reached 70 mph (110 km / h) in Pensacola . Offshore , the Portuguese bark Propheta , with a cargo of timber worth \$ 5 @, @ 000 , was badly damaged . Strong winds up to 60 mph (97 km / h) were observed in the Mobile area of Alabama , uprooting trees , unroofing houses , and toppling chimneys . Tides inundated the cotton exchange with up to 18 inches (460 mm) of water , while the Western Union , post office , and electrical house for railroads were also flooded . The pleasure yacht Ariel , which was bound for the Fish River , was smashed into pieces at a wharf along the eastern end of Mobile Bay . Between 12 and 15 schooners from the F. F. Saunders company fishing fleet were badly damaged ; four of which sank , resulting in \$ 70 @, @ 000 in damage . However , due to warnings by the Weather Bureau , the Chamber of Commerce estimated that several millions of dollars in damage was evaded . All towns along the coast of Mississippi " suffered seriously " .

High winds and rough seas were observed in Louisiana . In Port Eads , five @-@ minute sustained winds reached 56 mph (90 km / h) , before the anemometer blew away . At the same location , a 24 @-@ hour rainfall record was set for the month of August , with 7 @. @ 64 inches (194 mm) of precipitation observed . According to a contemporaneous report , the weather instrument shelter was swept away due to storm tides and the flag staff was broken . While the office building did weather the storm intact , documents in it were soaked . However , a report written in 2010 states that in Port Eads only the lighthouse remained standing in the aftermath of the devastation . Fifteen fatalities were reported after a house was swept away by storm tides . The 2010 report , however , states that a total of ten deaths were caused by the storm over its entire existence . In Pilottown , the large " lookout " tower was toppled and destroyed . The outhouse that displaymen used and slept in was blown over and then rapidly filled with water , due to tides rising to 4 feet (1 @. @ 2 m) in only 10 minutes . Additionally , property of the Weather Bureau was also damaged .

Buras reported 4 feet (1 @. @ 2 m) of water in town . River stages along the Mississippi River at New Orleans rose to a level of 7 feet (2 @. @ 1 m) during the storm , producing much flooding . The Carondelet Canal also overflowed , inundating streets in the neighborhood of Tremé with 1 to 3 feet (0 @. @ 30 to 0 @. @ 91 m) of water . Levee breaks around New Orleans flooded the city . Additionally , strong winds littered the streets with tree branches . The worst hit areas of New Orleans were the neighborhoods of Bucktown , Milneburg , West End , all of which are located on the shore of Lake Pontchartrain . In the New Orleans suburb of Shell Beach , severe crop damage was reported , particularly to rice . While sailing the Mississippi River just outside New Orleans , Dr. J. N. Thomas reported that a schooner and a small boat were wrecked , resulting in 60 deaths . However , this was not confirmed . Overall , damage in Louisiana reached \$ 1 million , which excluded losses to crops .