

= Tropical Storm Dottie =

Tropical Storm Dottie was the ninth tropical cyclone and fourth named storm of the 1976 Atlantic hurricane season . The precursor to Dottie formed in the Gulf of Mexico on August 17 and organized into a tropical depression on August 18 . The storm drifted towards the east , and , after peaking as a moderate tropical storm , it accelerated northeastward and made landfall on Florida . Upon re-emerging in the Atlantic , Dottie turned northward and moved ashore near Charleston , South Carolina . Damage from the storm was primarily insignificant and limited to gusty winds , heavy rainfall , and high tides ; however , a fishing boat capsized in the Bahamas , resulting in the deaths of four people .

= Meteorological history =

Dottie originated in an area of low pressure that formed on August 17 , about 150 mi (240 km) northwest of Key West , Florida . The center of the disturbance soon began to consolidate while barometric pressure fell 8 mbar in 24 hours ; it was declared a tropical depression at 0000 UTC on August 18 . The depression drifted east and northeastward over the next day , though it began to accelerate on August 19 . The cyclone further intensified to tropical storm status by 1200 UTC . Operationally , however , it was not named until later that day .

Having made landfall in southwestern Florida , Dottie quickly proceeded northeastward before re-emerging into the Atlantic Ocean . High pressure building to the north of the storm indicated it would turn more towards the west , but it moved nearly due northward . The cyclone attained its peak intensity with winds of 50 mph (85 km / h) at 0600 UTC on August 20 and subsequently began to weaken ; by the time Dottie made landfall in Charleston , South Carolina later that evening , it was barely of tropical storm intensity . It deteriorated into a tropical depression on August 21 and dissipated shortly thereafter . The remnant low pressure system turned southward and once again entered the Atlantic before turning westward and crossing the Florida peninsula .

= Preparations and impact =

In response to the storm , gale warnings were issued on August 19 from Jacksonville , Florida to Virginia Beach , Virginia . A hurricane watch was also posted between Savannah , Georgia and Cape Hatteras , North Carolina . The hurricane watch was later extended to Jacksonville when conditions appeared more favorable for the storm 's intensification , but was soon discontinued . Flooding rains were anticipated in the Carolinas , though , in contrast , Dottie was compared to a mere thunderstorm by some local officials .

Prior to being upgraded to a tropical storm , the depression spawned heavy precipitation and high winds throughout southern Florida and portions of the Bahamas . In Fort Lauderdale , the storm dropped 10 in (254 mm) of rainfall , and in the Miami area , 24-hour rainfall totals reached 8 in (203 mm) . The heavy rainfall caused street flooding across the region . The highest recorded wind gusts were 62 mph (100 km / h) in Islamorada , and in the city the winds damaged a roof . The winds downed trees , and left roughly 20 neighborhoods in southern Florida without power during the passage of Dottie . Wind gusts of 40 to 50 mph (64 to 80 km / h) were recorded across the northern Florida Keys and Grand Bahama . Near the latter location , a fishing boat capsized during the storm ; four of its occupants drowned . Along the Southeastern U.S. coast , tides generally ran 1 to 2 ft (0.3 to 0.6 m) above normal , peaking at 3 ft (0.9 m) in North Carolina . Moderate to heavy rainfall was reported in the Carolinas , causing flooding of 5 ft (1.5 m) deep in New Hanover County , North Carolina . Overall damage was light and primarily limited to coastal beach erosion . In some areas , Dottie helped relieve drought conditions .