

= Hurricane Jeanne ( 1980 ) =

Hurricane Jeanne was a moderate hurricane that formed and dissipated in the Gulf of Mexico without making landfall . The tenth tropical cyclone and eighth hurricane of the 1980 Atlantic hurricane season , Jeanne developed over the southern Caribbean on November 7 . It moved swiftly northward , and it intensified to a tropical storm on November 9 . It entered the southern Gulf of Mexico on November 10 . Jeanne turned to the west on November 11 , and it rapidly intensified to its peak intensity of 100 mph ( 155 km / h ) . It weakened on November 12 , and its forward motion slowed ; the cyclone weakened further to a tropical storm because of dry air intrusion , and it executed a clockwise loop on November 15 . It dissipated on November 16 .

At the time , Jeanne was one of three November hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico ; it was the first tropical cyclone to attain hurricane strength in the Gulf of Mexico during November . The late season storm surprised maritime interests , and two barges broke free from towing vessels . Indirectly , the hurricane produced heavy precipitation that peaked at 23 @. @ 28 inches ( 591 mm ) in Key West . Minor beach erosion occurred along the Texas coast , where tides were two to four feet above normal ; coastal flooding affected the state , which was heavily impacted by tropical cyclones in August and September . Jeanne caused no deaths .

= = Meteorological history = =

On the late afternoon of November 7 , an area of disturbed weather organized to a tropical depression 60 miles ( 100 km ) east of Atlántico Norte , Nicaragua . Its origins were traced to a tropical wave that originated over western Africa on October 26 . Atmospheric conditions resembled an early fall pattern , and a large ridge was situated over the Gulf of Mexico and Southwestern United States . The depression moved northward into the Caribbean Sea , and the environment supported further development . On November 9 , the depression strengthened to a 40 mph ( 65 km / h ) tropical storm and was given the name Jeanne . Later , an Air Force reconnaissance aircraft reported a strengthening system ; maximum sustained winds increased to 50 mph ( 80 km / h ) , and a minimum pressure of 999 mbar was measured . The tropical cyclone moved northward into the southern Gulf of Mexico on November 10 . Jeanne 's northward movement was blocked by the ridge , and the cyclone slowly turned to the west . On November 11 , Jeanne quickly intensified to a minimal hurricane ; later , it attained its peak intensity of 100 mph ( 155 km / h ) .

On November 12 , Jeanne weakened to a Category 1 hurricane . It entered the western Gulf of Mexico , and its forward motion diminished as the ridge moved east . Later , Jeanne diminished to a 65 mph ( 105 km / h ) tropical storm . A developing trough remained west of Jeanne , and the cyclone was embedded in a weak pressure gradient . Although Jeanne briefly re @-@ intensified to 70 mph ( 110 km / h ) , an advancing frontal boundary brought dry air over the western Gulf of Mexico . Jeanne weakened to a depression on November 14 . It executed a clockwise loop , and it merged with the frontal boundary on November 16 .

= = Preparations = =

Some residents on Dauphin Island voluntarily evacuated , spurred by memories of 1979 's Hurricane Frederic and Jeanne 's northward motion . 3 @, @ 000 workers evacuated their oil rigs because of Jeanne 's high waves . The National Hurricane Center advised small watercraft to remain in ports from Brownsville to Tarpon Springs . Forecasters expected tides of 2 feet above normal in Louisiana , which increased to 4 feet above normal along coastal Texas . In Terrebonne and Lafourche parishes , schools were closed because of uncertainties regarding Jeanne 's path . The hurricane center also expected Jeanne to make landfall in southwestern Louisiana , although the hurricane eventually stayed offshore ; thousands of residents moved inland , while Civil Defense officials remained alert . Forecasters expected locally heavy rainfall , although they suggested it would remain below 8 inches ( 203 mm ) .

= = Impact = =

The combination of a large high pressure system and Jeanne produced rough seas over the northern Gulf of Mexico ; wave heights reached 15 feet ( 4 @. @ 60 m ) . On November 11 , a ship reported sustained winds of 110 mph ( 175 km / h ) , although this reading was discarded and attributed to intense squalls . In Key West , the storm 's outer fringes produced a record @-@ breaking 24 @-@ hour rainfall total of 23 @. @ 28 inches ( 591 mm ) ; 13 @. @ 58 inches ( 345 mm ) fell within six hours . It remains the record 24 @-@ hour November rainfall total for the city as of 2012 . The previous record was set in 1954 . The heavy precipitation was attributed to a mesoscale feature ; an inflow band intersected with an adjacent stationary front , which also contributed to the deluge . Schools and most businesses were closed , while flights were grounded at Key West International Airport ; authorities urged residents to stay home . Telephone and power services were cut to some areas of the city .

Elsewhere , several ships were caught off guard by the late arrival of Jeanne . The cyclone entered the Gulf of Mexico , and two barges broke loose from towing vessels via strong winds and high waves . One barge was an oil rig tender that contained 16 people ; it was carried several hundred miles across the central Gulf of Mexico . All crew members survived , and there were no maritime deaths related to the hurricane . Jeanne produced a prolonged period of rough surf and heavy swells along the Texas coast . Tides reached 2 to 4 feet ( 1 @. @ 20 m ) above normal . The hurricane caused coastal flooding ; the worst flooding occurred near Galveston .

Jeanne was one of only four tropical cyclones in the 20th century to attain hurricane status in the Gulf of Mexico without making landfall ; the others were Laurie of 1969 , Henri of 1979 , and Alberto of 1982 .