

= Tropical Storm Beryl (1988) =

Tropical Storm Beryl was an unusual Atlantic tropical cyclone that formed over southeastern Louisiana in August 1988 . The second tropical storm of the 1988 Atlantic hurricane season , Beryl developed from a slow @-@ moving trough of low pressure on August 8 . It tracked southeastward into the coastal waters of eastern Louisiana , and Beryl reached peak winds of 50 mph (85 km / h) while located about 75 miles (120 km) southeast of New Orleans . The storm turned to the northwest over Louisiana and Texas , and slowly dissipated . The remnants of Beryl continued northward into the central United States , dropping some rainfall and providing relief to a severe heat wave .

Due to its slow motion , Beryl dropped heavy amounts of rainfall , peaking at 16 @.@ 09 inches (408 mm) on Dauphin Island in Alabama . The rainfall caused some reports of flooding , while prolonged durations of rough waves resulted in severe beach erosion . The waves capsized a boat in Mobile Bay , killing one of its passengers . Overall damage was minor , totaling about \$ 3 million (1988 USD , \$ 5 @.@ 46 million 2009 USD) .

= Meteorological history =

A weak surface trough of low pressure emerged into the northeast Gulf of Mexico on August 1 . Under weak steering currents , the trough drifted westward , and slowly became better defined with the formation of a circulation in the mid- through upper @-@ levels of the atmosphere . An upper @-@ level low developed over Texas , providing unfavorable amounts of vertical wind shear . A surface circulation was first evident on satellite imagery on August 4 just off the coast of Mississippi , and for several days it remained nearly stationary over the Mississippi Sound . As the upper @-@ level low over Texas drifted southwestward , an anticyclone developed over the system , with the circulation becoming better defined and more vertically aligned . On August 7 , the system drifted into southeastern Louisiana . It continued to become better organized , and on August 8 it developed into Tropical Depression Three while located near the northern coast of Lake Pontchartrain . This is unusual in that tropical cyclones rarely form over land .

Upon becoming a tropical cyclone , the depression drifted southeastward , and within hours of its formation it emerged into the Gulf of Mexico . Based on ship reports and observations from oil rigs , it is estimated the depression intensified into Tropical Storm Beryl at 1000 UTC on August 8 while located just offshore coastal Louisiana . Conditions remained favorable for further intensification , with the circulation located over warm waters and maintaining well @-@ defined outflow ; early on August 9 Beryl attained its peak intensity of 50 mph while located about 75 miles (120 km) southeast of New Orleans . Shortly thereafter , a trough from the northwest dissipated the anticyclone and resulted in a steady northwest motion very near where the cyclone originally moved offshore . Beryl maintained tropical storm status for about 18 hours before weakening to a tropical depression over central Louisiana . It turned to the northwest , and the surface circulation dissipated on August 10 while located a short distance south of Shreveport , Louisiana . The surface low pressure area crossed into north Texas before dissipating early on August 12 , while its upper @-@ level circulation turned northward into Oklahoma before being merged by an approaching trough .

= Preparations =

Upon becoming a tropical storm , the National Hurricane Center issued a tropical storm warning from the mouth of the Mississippi River to Pensacola , Florida . Six hours later , the warning was extended westward to Morgan City , Louisiana . The threat of Beryl prompted some voluntary evacuations in St. Bernard Parish in Louisiana , and also forced the evacuations of thousands from offshore oil rigs . Officials advised small craft to remain at port from Port O 'Connor , Texas to Pensacola , Florida .

= Impact =

Rainfall from the storm reached over 7 inches (175 mm) a short distance east of Pensacola , Florida , though impact in the state was minor . Wind gusts peaked at 38 mph (61 km / h) in Pensacola . In Alabama , Beryl produced sustained winds of 38 mph (61 km / h) , with gusts to 54 mph (86 km / h) , as well as above normal tides . The storm dropped heavy rainfall in coastal portions of Alabama , peaking at 16 @. @ 09 inches (408 mm) on Dauphin Island . Rough waves overturned a shrimp boat in Mobile Bay . A 15 @- @ year @- @ old boy on the boat drowned , the only direct fatality from the storm . The boy 's father , also on the boat , spent 24 hours in the water before being rescued by the United States Coast Guard . The waves caused severe beach erosion along the coastline , with Dauphin Island losing 60 to 70 feet (18 to 21 m) of beach .

In Mississippi , coastal areas reported heavy amounts of precipitation , reaching over 10 inches (250 mm) in Jackson County . Sustained winds reached 47 mph (76 km / h) at Gulfport , the strongest wind on a land station . Similar to Alabama , strong waves caused considerable beach erosion along portions of the coastline .

Beryl dropped rainfall across much of Louisiana , peaking at over 10 inches (250 mm) near Morgan City . The rainfall caused significant river flooding along the Biloxi River . Wind gusts were fairly light across the state , reaching 40 mph (65 km / h) in New Orleans . The winds caused light tree damage , which resulted in some power outages . A storm surge of about 5 feet (1 @. @ 5 m) caused some coastal flooding .

The remnants of Beryl produced locally heavy precipitation peaking at about 12 inches (300 mm) in east @- @ central Texas , resulting in some reports of flash flooding . The rainfall flooded some roads and also causes severe river flooding on the Angelina River . Remnant moisture dropped about 5 inches (125 mm) of rain in southeast Oklahoma and 3 inches (75 mm) in southwestern Arkansas . Further inland , the remnants of Beryl cooled temperatures and provided relief to the severe heat wave in the central United States .

Throughout its path , Beryl caused about \$ 3 million in damage (1988 USD , \$ 5 @. @ 46 million 2009 USD) , primarily along the immediate coastline from erosion or flood damage .