

= Tropical Storm Chris (2006) =

Tropical Storm Chris was the fourth tropical storm of the 2006 Atlantic hurricane season . Forming on July 31 in the Atlantic Ocean east of the Leeward Islands from a tropical wave , Chris moved generally to the west @-@ northwest , skirting the northern fringes of the Caribbean islands . Chris was a relatively short @-@ lived storm , reaching a peak intensity with winds at 65 mph (100 km / h) on August 2 , while positioned north of St. Martin . The storm gradually weakened before finally dissipating on August 5 , near eastern Cuba . Overall impact was minimal , amounting to moderate amounts of rainfall throughout its path . No deaths were reported .

= = Meteorological history = =

A tropical wave moved westward off the coast of Africa on July 27 . Initially , vigorous convection persisted throughout the wave axis , though dry air greatly diminished the convection on July 28 . The wind field remained well @-@ defined as it continued westward , and deep convection increased two days later along the northern end of the wave axis . Dvorak classifications began on July 30 in response to an increase in vertical depth and organization of the convection . On July 31 a buoy recorded a change of wind direction from northeast to west , indicating a small low pressure area formed . Convective organization rapidly increased as it turned to the northwest , and the system developed into Tropical Depression Three on August 1 while located about 235 miles (375 km) east @-@ southeast of Barbuda .

Forecasters initially predicted wind shear from an upper level low would prevent strengthening and cause dissipation within three days . However , the depression continued to organize as deep convection continued to develop near the circulation despite moderate amounts of wind shear , and the system intensified into Tropical Storm Chris six hours after developing . The convection gradually consolidated over the system , and by late on the 1st Chris reached winds of 60 mph (95 km / h) while passing 50 miles (80 km) north of the northern Leeward Islands . The structure of Chris continued to improve and become more symmetrical , and an upper level eye feature developed early on August 2 . Outflow improved in all quadrants , as well , and the storm reached a peak intensity of 65 mph (100 km / h) shortly thereafter while located 120 miles (195 km) east of St. Thomas . Despite initial predictions of Chris intensifying to a hurricane as a ridge of high pressure forced it west @-@ northwestward , upper level shear dissipated the well @-@ defined inner core of the storm , and Chris started to weaken .

Early on August 3 , strong wind shear over Chris detached the deep convection from the low level circulation , while a building ridge to its north turned the storm towards the west into an area of drier air . By mid @-@ day on the 3rd the circulation was devoid of any convection within 85 miles (135 km) , while the deeper convection spread across Puerto Rico and Hispaniola . Late on August 3 , deep convection developed over the center of circulation again , though persistent vertical shear weakened Chris to a tropical depression on August 4 . Due to computer models predicting lesser amounts of shear , forecasters indicated the possibility of moderate strengthening in the Gulf of Mexico to a 60 mph (95 km / h) storm . However , convection remained minimal , and Chris degenerated into a remnant area of low pressure late on August 4 . Late on August 5 , convection increased in the remnants of the storm , and forecasters indicated the potential for slow development over the Gulf of Mexico due to marginally favorable conditions . Redevelopment never occurred , and the remnant circulation dissipated near Havana , Cuba on August 6 .

= = Preparations = =

When the National Hurricane Center issued its first advisory on Tropical Depression Three , the governments of Antigua and Barbuda , Anguilla , Saint Kitts and Nevis , and the British Virgin Islands issued a Tropical Storm Warning for their respective territories . When the depression strengthened to Tropical Storm Chris , Tropical Storm Warnings were also issued for Saba , Sint Eustatius , Saint @-@ Barthélemy , and Saint Martin . Three Royal Caribbean cruise ships re @-@

routed their paths to avoid the storm . Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) representatives coordinated with local emergency management officials in the United States Virgin Islands to determine if preparation necessities would be adequate , such as hospital usage , shelters , and sand bags .

On August 1 , officials in Puerto Rico issued a tropical storm warning for the island . The next day , approximately 600 tourists evacuated the islands of Vieques and Culebra . On August 2 , the government of the Bahamas issued a Hurricane Watch for the Turks and Caicos Islands , the Acklins and Crooked Islands , Ragged Island , Inagua , and Mayaguana . In response to the threat , officials urged citizens to stock up on hurricane supplies , while boat owners in Staniel Cay secured their boats in preparation for the storm .

In response to the storm 's projected path into the Gulf of Mexico , prices for crude oil rose on the New York Mercantile Exchange at branch offices in London . Natural gas prices rose considerably in New York Mercantile Exchange electronic trading on August 2 . Anticipation of a threat to supply by a potential Hurricane Chris coupled with high demand during an ongoing heat wave were cited as factors in the price move . In New Orleans , officials including Mayor Ray Nagin prepared for a possible evacuation of the city if Chris entered the Gulf of Mexico as a hurricane . The evacuation plan included moving all residents out of the city as a worst @-@ case scenario , intended to avoid a re @-@ occurrence of Hurricane Katrina around one year prior . Florida Emergency Management requested ten mobile recovery centers , and placed hospitals in the Florida Keys on standby for evacuation . Officials in Mississippi identified the need for 110 to assist in an evacuation process in case of a possible landfall . Both Louisiana and Texas emergency operation centers monitored the progress of the storm , though did not execute any preparation action .

= = Impact = =

Despite its initial threat , Chris caused little impact in the Lesser Antilles . Overall damage from Chris was minimal . The storm dropped light rainfall in Puerto Rico , peaking at 3 @.@ 09 inches (78 mm) in Fajardo . The rainfall from the storm caused the Fajardo River to overflow its banks , which temporarily closed a highway in the northeastern portion of the island .

Rainfall reached up to 2 inches (50 mm) across portions of Hispaniola , the Turks and Caicos , the Bahamas , and eastern Cuba , and reached 4 inches (100 mm) in some mountainous areas . In Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic , heavy rainfall caused severe flooding . Las Américas reported 5 @.@ 01 inches (127 mm) of rainfall from Chris . Several people were left temporarily homeless due to flooding entering their households . The flooding left many roads impassable near the capital city , and also resulted in landslides . The flooding also covered rice fields in the northeastern portion of the country . The National Office of Meteorology issued flood warnings for residents in low @-@ lying areas and near rivers in the northeast and southeast portions of the country . Despite the flooding , overall damage was minor , and there are no casualties associated with Chris .