Hurricane Gordon (2000) =

Hurricane Gordon caused minor damage in the Eastern United States . The seventh named storm and fourth hurricane of the 2000 Atlantic hurricane season , Gordon developed in the extreme western Caribbean Sea from a tropical wave on September 14 . Shortly thereafter , the depression moved inland over the Yucatán Peninsula and later emerged into the Gulf of Mexico on September 15 . The depression began to quickly organize , and by early on September 16 , it was upgraded to Tropical Storm Gordon . After becoming a tropical storm , Gordon continued to intensify and was reclassified as a hurricane about 24 hours later ; eventually , the storm peaked as an 80 mph (130 km / h) Category 1 hurricane . However , southwesterly upper @-@ level winds caused Gordon to weaken as it approached land , and it was downgraded to a tropical storm by late on September 17 . At 0300 UTC on September 18 , Gordon made landfall near Cedar Key , Florida as a strong tropical storm . After moving inland , Gordon rapidly weakened and had deteriorated to tropical depression status by nine hours later . Later that day , Gordon merged with a frontal boundary while centered over Georgia .

Prior to becoming a tropical cyclone , the precursor tropical wave caused severe flooding in Guatemala , killing 23 people . While crossing the Yucatán Peninsula , the storm dropped heavy rainfall , with a few areas experiencing more than 10 inches (250 mm) of precipitation . Similarly , portions of western Cuba reported rainfall totals reaching 10 inches (250 mm) . Gordon brought moderate storm surge to the west coast of Florida ; one person drowned due to rough seas . Numerous trees and power lines sustained damage , which left 120 @,@ 000 people without electricity . In the Tampa Bay area and Cedar Key , minor roof damage to houses and street flooding occurred . In addition , two tornadoes caused some damage in Cape Coral and Ponce Inlet . Elsewhere , affects were minimal , though two indirect fatalities occurred in North Carolina , and minor flooding was reported in South Carolina , Virginia , West Virginia , Maryland , Delaware , Pennsylvania , New Jersey , and New York . Overall , Gordon caused $ 10 @.@ 8 million (2000 USD) in damage and 26 fatalities .

Meteorological history = =

A tropical wave moved off the coast of Africa on September 4 and tracked westward across the Atlantic Ocean without strengthening . On September 9 and 10 , the tropical wave moved though the Lesser Antilles bringing local heavy rainfall and wind gusts reaching 35 mph (55 km / h) . The wave then moved west @-@ northwest and developed a well @-@ defined center on September 12 in the central Caribbean Sea . Satellite photos on September 13 indicated that the convective pattern in the system was disorganized . However , later that day , a broad low pressure area had developed along axis of the wave , based on surface observations about 118 mi (190 km) southeast of Cozumel , Mexico . Early on September 14 , it was estimated from satellite imagery that the low pressure system was near tropical depression strength , even though the convection was still disorganized .

The system was classified as Tropical Depression Eleven at 1200 UTC on September 14 , based on reports from reconnaissance aircraft . Later that day , the developing depression moved inland over the Yucatán Peninsula . The depression moved slowly to the northwest without emerging over water , therefore , the depression did not gain intensity . At this time , the predicted track for the system was highly uncertain due to different computer models forecasting different tracks . The official forecast predicted a northwestward movement into the western Gulf of Mexico , but some models predicted the low to move towards northwestern Florida , while another model predicted the low to move southwards into the Bay of Campeche . Late on September 15 , the depression moved off the north coast of the Yucatán Peninsula and into the Gulf of Mexico , where it showed signs of better organization . The future track was still very uncertain , though a few computer models forecasted for the depression to move northeastwards towards Florida , resulting in an eastward shift on official forecast . Early on September 16 , data from Hurricane Hunter aircraft indicated that the storm had strengthened to about 60 mph (95 km / h) at the surface , and the barometric

pressure had fallen to 1 @,@ 003 mbar (29 @.@ 6 inHg) . Therefore , it was upgraded to Tropical Storm Gordon at 0000 UTC .

Upon being a tropical storm on September 16 , Gordon was moving northeastward towards the Big Bend of Florida , continuing to slowly intensify . The official forecast track was shifted further east , forecasting Gordon to track to the northeast . Early on September 17 , a ship reported winds of 75 mph (120 km / h) , indicating that Gordon had attained hurricane strength . Gordon reached a peak intensity of 80 mph (130 km / h) , six hours later while located about 190 mi (310 km) southwest of Tampa , Florida . Later that day , Gordon began to weaken due to entrainment from the south and increasing vertical wind shear . Gordon was downgraded to a tropical storm as it neared the Florida coast . The storm made landfall just northwest of Cedar Key , Florida , at 0300 UTC on September 18 with winds of 60 mph (95 mph) . After moving inland , interaction with the land and cool , dry air further weakened the storm . Gordon weakened to a tropical depression nine hours after landfall , and six hours later , it had merged with a frontal system over southeastern Georgia . The storm also transitioned into an extratropical cyclone , as it moved to the northeast . On September 21 , the system merged with a large extratropical system over eastern Canada .

= = Preparations = =

= = = Florida = = =

Residents in Florida loaded up supplies on September 16 when the National Hurricane Center issued a hurricane watch along Florida 's west coast from Bonita Beach to the Suwanee River . The hurricane watch extended northward and westward later in the day to Apalachicola . Hurricane warnings were initiated on September 17 for areas along the Florida coast from Anna Maria Island to Ochlockonee River . Tropical storm warnings were issued south of Anna Maria Island to Bonita Beach and west of Ochlockonee River to Indian Pass . Tropical storm warnings were also issued along the east coast of the United States from Titusville in Florida to Little River Inlet in South Carolina . The Florida Division of Emergency Management in Tallahassee issued a mandatory evacuation in Hernando County , while voluntary evacuations were called for some of the coastal areas along Florida 's west coast . Anticipating that Gordon will make landfall and move inland , two tornado watches were in effect from Sarasota to Naples , and tornado warnings were issued from Orlando to Vero Beach . Flash flood warnings were also in effect in parts of Florida .

On September 17 , Governor of Florida Jeb Bush activated emergency response teams . In various areas of Florida , spokesmen for the Emergency Operations Center advised residents to prepare for the storm and monitor the track of the approaching hurricane . At Cape Canaveral , National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) also took precautions against the hurricane , as the storm could force NASA to move Space Shuttle Discovery off its launch pad at the seaside and into the hangar . Many evacuations took place once Gordon crossed the Florida coast . The Emergency Operations Center in Florida said authorities had arranged mandatory evacuations for coastal regions in the Citrus , Franklin , Hernando , Levy and Taylor counties , while also recommending voluntary evacuations for numerous other counties . The Red Cross reported that the storm forced 500 people to seek refuge in shelters . Also , many flights were canceled at the Tampa International Airport . About 200 National Guardsmen were called to help clean up the damage in flooded areas . Officials forced schools in six counties ? Gilchrist , Columbia , Citrus , Taylor , Lafayette and Suwannee to close down for one day .

= = = Gulf of Mexico = = =

Chevron Corporation and Shell Oil Company evacuated offshore crews from the Gulf of Mexico on September 16 in preparation for a possible hurricane threat from Hurricane Gordon , even though there was little effect on oil and gas production before that day . The Chevron Corporation expected the number of people working in the Gulf to reduce from 1 @,@ 700 on September 16 to 450 the

next day . Gordon also forced the cruise liner Carnival Sensation , consisting of 2 @,@ 200 passengers and 900 crew members , to remain at sea for one day . Residents in Alabama , Mississippi and Louisiana were also advised by radio to keep track of the approaching hurricane .

= = Impact = =

= = = Latin America = = =

As a tropical wave , Gordon killed 23 people in Guatemala mainly due to flooding and landslides in mountainous regions . While drifting over the Yucatán Peninsula of Mexico , Gordon dropped heavy rainfall peaking at 9 inches (230 mm) in Cancún . The storm also dumped heavy rainfall in western Cuba with totals reaching 10 inches (250 mm) . However , no flooding was reported in either the Yucatán Peninsula or Cuba .

= = = United States = = =

= = = = Florida = = = =

Before Gordon made landfall in Florida , one death occurred when a surfer drowned in the raging seas offshore Pensacola . Other than that , minimal effects occurred to the west of the storm 's path . Light rainfall was reported , with 0 @.@ 71 inches (18 mm) in Tallahassee and 4 @.@ 83 inches (123 mm) in Cross City recorded . Lying near in the path of the storm , rainfall from the Gordon in the United States peaked at 9 @.@ 48 inches (241 mm) in Mayo . Winds in the region were also light , with a sustained wind speed of 33 mph (53 km / h) and gusts to 42 mph (68 km / h) reported in Cross City . In Perry , sustained winds reached 28 mph (45 km / h) and gusts of 39 mph (63 km / h) occurred . At the C @-@ MAN Station in nearby Keaton Beach , a wind gust of 41 mph (66 km / h) was reported .
Although the storm made landfall near Cedar Key , no wind observations were taken there , though the offshore Coastal @-@ Marine Automated Network (C @-@ MAN) Station reported winds of 46 mph (74 km / h) and gusts to 68 mph (109 km / h) . Tides were also light , reaching 3 @.@ 9 feet (1 @.@ 2 m) in Cedar Key . Similarly , precipitation was also light , with 4 @.@ 8 inches (120 mm) of rain reported at Cedar Key . Minor roof and tree damage occurred in Levy County , totaling to about $ 100 @,@ 000 . In Citrus County , winds downed a few trees , powerlines , and tree branches between Sulpher Springs and Ozello , though damage was less than $ 25 @,@ 000 . Ten homes were flooded and a few trees and powerlines were downed , resulting in about $ 100 @,@ 000 in losses . Roofs were damaged at 15 villas in Pasco County , while falling trees struck vehicles parked at a subdivision in New Port Richey ; damage in that county totaled to $ 250 @,@ 000 . Winds and minor floods damaged 51 single @-@ family homes , 32 mobile homes , 27 multi @-@ family homes , and 24 businesses in Pinellas County , resulting in nearly $ 500 @,@ 000 in losses . In addition , nearly 1 foot (0 @.@ 30 m) of water inundated coastal roads between St. Pete Beach and Clearwater . Two locations reported sustained tropical storm force winds in St. Petersburg .
Due to high tides , a large portion of the west coast of Florida from Pinellas County southward experienced coastal flooding . On September 17 , 1 foot (0 @.@ 30 m) of water covered Bayshore Boulevard near downtown Tampa . The Courtney Campbell Causeway , which connects Clearwater and Tampa , was closed for almost four hours due to storm surge flooding . 40 houses in low @-@ lying areas between Ruskin and Riverview were damaged by flooding from the storm surge . Several other houses in Hillsborough County were damaged by toppled trees and large falling branches . Winds throughout the state of Florida left 120 @,@ 000 people without electricity , mostly in the Tampa metropolitan area . Overall , damage in Hillsborough County totaled to nearly $ 500 @,@ 000 . Further south in Manatee County , storm surge and high tides flooded 25 homes and businesses in Bradenton Beach . 60 mph (97 km / h) wind gusts in Coquina Beach toppled

lifeguard towers and destroyed an anemometer . Several homes in Anna Maria suffered light to moderate roof damage due to winds . Losses in Manatee County reached almost $ 500 @,@ 000 .
 In Sarasota County , 8 feet (2 @.@ 4 m) waves ripped a 20 feet (6 @.@ 1 m) section and three 50 feet (15 m) concrete pilings off the Venice Municipal Fishing Pier , resulting in nearly $ 600 @,@ 000 in damage . Between 1 and 2 feet (0 @.@ 30 and 0 @.@ 61 m) of water covered coastal roads on Siesta and Casey Keys . Minor beach erosion occurred in Charlotte County and a sustained wind speed of 37 mph (60 km / h) was reported in Punta Gorda . Despite effects in adjacent counties , there was minimal damage in Charlotte County . In Lee County , tropical storm force winds damaged roofs , awnings , and lanais at nine homes ; winds also toppled several large trees and branches , and downed power lines across Cape Coral and Fort Myers . A tornado rated F1 on the Fujita scale touched down near Sanibel . It caused extensive damage to two condominium complexes , and 24 nearby homes . Further along its path , the tornado damaged a few other homes and carports , while also toppling or spanning palm trees . Gordon also spawned two tornadoes that touched down as it made landfall . One tornado touched down near Cape Coral , Florida , damaging three homes , while an F0 tornado touched down near Ponce Inlet in Volusia County , Florida , causing minimal damage , mainly to trees and roofs .
 In Citrus and Levy Counties , residents who were evacuated on the day when Gordon struck the coast were allowed early the next day to return to their homes after the storm passed .

 = = = = Georgia , The Carolinas , and Virginia = = = =

 Despite the rain , Gordon did little to relieve an ongoing drought in Georgia . The remnants of Tropical Storm Gordon brought heavy rainfall to South Carolina , with spotter reports and radar estimates indicating over 8 inches (200 mm) in Georgetown . Numerous streets were reported flooded by emergency managers , while according to newspaper accounts , there was standing water of more than 2 ? 3 feet (0 @.@ 61 ? 0 @.@ 91 m) in depth in many areas . Many motorists were forced to abandon their cars , several of which sustained water damage . Numerous homes were flooded in the town , especially on Hawkins Street . Additionally , many businesses were forced to close for the day along Front and Fraser Streets . One injury was reported when a policeman had a heart attack after the flood waters entered his home . In Charleston County , 6 to 10 inches (150 to 250 mm) of rain fell . Flooding occurred in the northeastern portions of the county , in combination with more than 8 inches (200 mm) of precipitation that had fallen less than two weeks earlier . Water entered homes and businesses in the McClellanville area and inundated a portion of U.S. Route 17 , causing that section to be closed for most of the day on September 18 . Sustained winds of 29 mph (47 km / h) and gusts up to 37 mph (60 km / h) in Charleston downed a few trees in coastal areas . Flooding in North Carolina occurred as the storm moved up the East Coast of the United States , indirectly killing two people when a car lost control and struck a tractor trailer during the storm . Two men in a fishing boat were also reported missing . Rainfall in North Carolina peaked at 5 @.@ 71 inches (145 mm) in Hoffman Forest .
 The remnants of Gordon moved across the Virginia on September 19 . Rainfall totals throughout the state peaked at 4 @.@ 38 inches (111 mm) in Rocky Branch . The daily rainfall was broken at Washington Dulles International Airport after 1 @.@ 24 inches (31 mm) of rain fell . Isaac Creek overflowed its banks near Cross Junction , flooding Route 689 . Happy Creek overflowed its banks in Front Royal and flooded Eighth Street . Across Warren County , Ritenour Hollow Road and Oregon Hollow Road were closed by high water . High water was reported on U.S. Route 11 south of Woodstock .

 = = = = Mid @-@ Atlantic and West Virginia = = = =

 By September 19 , the remnants of Gordon reached Maryland . In Carroll County , 4 hour rainfall amounts include 2 @.@ 78 inches (71 mm) in Westminster , 2 @.@ 48 inches (63 mm) at Piney Run Park , and 2 @.@ 38 inches (60 mm) Manchester . As a result , a few roads in the county were closed due to water inundation . In other areas , similar precipitation totals were reported ,

including 2 @.@ 83 inches (72 mm) near Columbia , 2 @.@ 16 inches (55 mm) in Emmitsburg , 2 @.@ 11 inches (54 mm) in Sharpsburg , 2 @.@ 08 inches (53 mm) in Laurel , 2 @.@ 05 inches (52 mm) at Brighton Dam , 1 @.@ 72 inches (44 mm) in Ellicott City and Hagerstown , 1 @.@ 65 inches (42 mm) in Frederick , and 1 @.@ 5 inches (38 mm) in Lisbon . Doppler radar estimates indicate that around 3 inches (76 mm) of rain fell in only 3 hours in portions of Cecil , Kent , Queen Anne 's County , resulting in minor flooding in poor drainage or low @-@ lying areas . In Delaware , precipitation totals at Newark and New Castle Airport both reached 1 @.@ 82 inches (46 mm) . This resulted in minor flooding along the Christina River in New Castle County and nearby low @-@ lying areas . In West Virginia , the storm produced locally heavy rainfall in the Eastern Panhandle , peaking at 1 @.@ 82 inches (46 mm) in Berkeley County .

 The remnants of Gordon dropped heavy rain across southeast Pennsylvania on September 19 , resulting in flooding in low @-@ lying areas . The heaviest rain fell near Willow Grove NAS , located in Horsham Township , Montgomery County . In Bucks County , stream flooding was reported in the Little Neshaminy Creek Basin in Warrington and Warminster Townships . The Pennypack Creek overflowed in Montgomery County and damaged parked cars at an elementary school in Hatboro . Flood waters also entered several rooms of the Old Mill Inn . In Horsham Township , homes on County Line Road were flooded , including one that had 4 feet (1 @.@ 2 m) of water in its garage . Storm totals included 2 @.@ 64 inches (67 mm) at the Willow Grove NAS , 2 @.@ 6 inches (66 mm) in Southampton , 2 @.@ 46 inches (62 mm) at King of Prussia , 2 @.@ 22 inches (56 mm) in Reading , 2 @.@ 18 inches (55 mm) at Northeast Philadelphia Airport , 1 @.@ 69 inches (43 mm) at Neshaminy Falls , 1 @.@ 66 inches (42 mm) in Exton , and 1 @.@ 57 inches (40 mm) in Furlong . Heavy precipitation fell in west central and southwest New Jersey , causing poor drainage flooding in low @-@ lying areas . The heaviest rain fell in Mercer County and caused some minor flooding along the Assunpink Creek . Roadway flooding along U.S. Route 130 was reported in Collingswood . Rainfall totals included 2 @.@ 14 inches (54 mm) in Trenton , 2 @.@ 1 inches (53 mm) in Pennsauken , 2 inches (51 mm) in Somerdale and Windsor , 1 @.@ 74 inches (44 mm) in Mount Laurel , and 1 @.@ 66 inches (42 mm) in Mount Holly . Rainfall in Orange County , New York of 2 to 3 inches (51 to 76 mm) caused minor stream flooding , such as along New York State Route 132 in Woodbury .