

= Hurricane Faith =

Hurricane Faith reached the northernmost latitude and had the longest track of any Atlantic tropical cyclone . The sixth named storm and fifth hurricane of the 1966 Atlantic hurricane season , Faith developed from an area of disturbed weather between Cape Verde and the west coast of Africa on August 21 . Tracking westward , the depression gradually intensified and became Tropical Storm Faith on the following day . Moving westward across the Atlantic Ocean , it continued to slowly strengthen , reaching hurricane status early on August 23 . About 42 hours later , Faith reached an initial peak with winds of 105 mph (165 km / h) , before weakening slightly on August 26 . Located near the Lesser Antilles , the outer bands of Faith produced gale force winds in the region , especially Puerto Rico , the Virgin Islands , and Antigua . Minor coastal damage occurred as far south as Trinidad and Tobago .

By August 28 , the storm began to re @-@ intensify , after curving north @-@ northwestward near The Bahamas . At 0000 UTC on the following day , Faith peaked as a 125 mph (205 km / h) Category 3 hurricane Saffir ? Simpson hurricane scale . Eventually , the storm weakened back to a Category 2 hurricane and re @-@ curved to the northeast . One person drowned in the western Atlantic after his ship sank . Heavy rainfall and strong winds pelted Bermuda , though no damage occurred . The storm maintained nearly the same intensity as a Category 2 hurricane for several days , while tracking northeastward into the far North Atlantic Ocean . Faith finally weakened while north of Scotland and became extratropical near the Faroe Islands on September 6 . Three other drowning deaths occurred in the North Sea near Denmark . A fifth death occurred after a man succumbed to injuries sustained during a boating incident related to the storm .

= = Meteorological history = =

Television Infrared Observation Satellite XI (TIROS XI) imagery indicated the presence of an area of disturbed weather over Ivory Coast on August 18 . The system moved slowly westward and eventually reached the Atlantic Ocean . It is estimated that a tropical depression developed at 0000 UTC on August 21 , while located about 240 miles (390 km) southeast of Cape Verde . Continuing westward , the depression intensified , and was upgraded to Tropical Storm Faith on the following day . Gradual intensification persisted as Tropical Storm Faith headed nearly due westward at 17 to 23 mph (27 to 37 km / h) . By August 23 , Faith was upgraded to a Category 1 hurricane . Curving slightly west @-@ northwestward , the storm reached Category 2 intensity and briefly peaked at sustained winds of 105 mph (165 km / h) . Hurricane Faith curved to the northwest and weakened back to a Category 1 hurricane while approaching the northeastern Leeward Islands on August 25 . Initially , Faith was scheduled to be seeded as part of Project Stormfury . However , the scheduled seeding was cancelled as Faith was approaching The Bahamas . Bypassing the Leeward Islands , Faith remained at nearly the same intensity , until re @-@ strengthening into Category 2 hurricane on August 28 , near Turks and Caicos Islands . The storm quickly intensified further into a Category 3 hurricane only six hours later .

At 0000 UTC on August 29 , Faith attained its maximum sustained winds of 125 mph (205 km / h) . After reaching maximum sustained winds late on August 29 , Faith began to gradually weaken and decreased to Category 2 hurricane intensity early on August 30 . By that time , the storm turned to the northeast around the periphery of an Atlantic subtropical anticyclone while located about midway between Bermuda and Florida . Faith remained well offshore of the East Coast of the United States and Atlantic Canada , after veering eastward on September 1 . Thereafter , it began to accelerate and eventually curved northeastward . While approaching Europe , Faith 's forward speed increased to as much as 50 mph (75 km / h) . At 0600 UTC on September 3 , a minimum barometric pressure of 950 mbar (28 inHg) was recorded ? the lowest in relation to the storm . After remaining a Category 2 hurricane since August 29 , Faith weakened slightly to a Category 1 hurricane early on September 6 , as it neared the Faroe Islands . Crossing the North Sea , Faith finally transitioned into an extratropical storm at 1200 UTC later that day , while centered about 125 miles (200 km) east @-@ northeast of Tórshavn . The extratropical remnants of Faith headed eastward and affected

Norway with winds as high as 60 mph (95 km / h) . Tracking over Scandinavia , the extratropical storm weakened to the equivalency of a tropical depression before entering the Soviet Union (present day Russia) . Eventually , the storm degenerated into an extratropical low pressure area , curved northward , and retained its identity until September 15 , when it was over Franz Josef Land , which is roughly 600 miles (965 km) from the North Pole .

= = Impact and records = =

In the Leeward Islands , the approach of Faith caused the tracking station on Antigua ? which was monitoring an unmanned rocket launched by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) ? to shut down 45 minutes after the rocket lifted off . Faith also produced gale force winds across Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands , though only minor damage and no fatalities or injuries were reported . Further south , Faith brought rough seas to Trinidad and Tobago , with waves ranging from 10 to 15 feet (3 @. @ 0 to 4 @. @ 6 m) . These conditions inflicted minor damage to small boats and jetties . In the Turks and Caicos Islands , sea defenses suffered some damage as Faith passed about 65 miles (105 km) to the east @-@ northeast . Along the East Coast of the United States , the storm produced rough seas and high tides from Cape Canaveral (then Cape Kennedy) , Florida , to the Virginia Capes . Additionally , the Weather Bureau warned of possible gale force winds in The Carolinas and Virginia , but also noted that the area would only experience fringe effects from the storm . In Bermuda , the outer rainbands of Hurricane Faith produced heavy rainfall and wind gusts up to 62 mph (100 km / h) .

Five people died as a result of the storm , though only one of them on land . Rough seas in the western Atlantic battered the Alberto Benati , pitching one man overboard . Two others drowned near Denmark while attempting to cross the Atlantic Ocean in a rowboat . Another man was missing and presumed dead after heavy seas forced him and his shipmates to abandon their boat off the northern coast of Denmark . Property damage was minimal , mainly because the areas impacted by Faith were sparsely populated . A 2 @, @ 726 ton Norwegian car ferry known as Skagerak began to sink as it headed for Hirtshals in Region Nordjylland of Denmark . Waves pounded the side hatches , which flooded in the engine room , causing the ship to become disabled . A large @-@ scale search operation was conducted to rescue the 144 passengers aboard . All passengers were rescued and treated for their injuries in Hjørring , Denmark . However , one person later died in the hospital . In Norway , the remnants of Faith impacted areas between Ryfylke and Sunnfjord . The storm brought heavy rainfall and resulted in glacier melting , which in turn caused rampant flooding in some locations . Discharge from the Folgefonna , Fjærland , and Sunnfjord glaciers reached a record high melt due to the remnants of Faith .

Throughout its duration , Faith traveled for 6 @, @ 850 miles (11 @, @ 020 km) , making it the longest track of an Atlantic hurricane and the second longest worldwide , after Hurricane John in 1994 in the Eastern Pacific Ocean . Faith also traveled to the northernmost latitude of any Atlantic tropical cyclone , reaching as far north as 61 @. @ 1 ° N.