

= Hurricane Alma (1962) =

Hurricane Alma saw the latest development of the first storm since 1941 . The first named storm of the 1962 Atlantic hurricane season , Alma formed from a tropical wave located offshore South Florida on August 26 . Initially a tropical depression , it subsequently moved inland over South Florida . Impact in the state was minor , generally limited to light rainfall and rough seas . Early on August 27 , the depression reemerged into the Atlantic Ocean and strengthened into Tropical Storm Alma later that day . Thereafter , it moved northeastward and remained offshore the East Coast of the United States . Alma strengthened into a hurricane on August 28 , while located offshore the Outer Banks of North Carolina . In the eastern portion of the state , strong winds downed electrical poles , which caused power outages . Storm tides caused erosion in some areas . Damage in North Carolina reached \$ 35 @, @ 000 (1962 USD) .

The storm continued to intensify and peaked as a 100 mph (155 km / h) Category 2 hurricane on the Saffir ? Simpson hurricane wind scale on August 29 . Alma weakened back to a Category 1 later on August 29 , while passing offshore New England . The outer bands brought rainfall , rough seas , and strong winds , especially in Massachusetts . However , the precipitation was mostly beneficial , as New England was suffering from drought conditions . In Massachusetts , strong winds caused power and telephone outages , and felled numerous trees . Rough seas offshore Massachusetts destroyed over 100 boats . Losses in New England were less than \$ 1 million . Alma curved eastward and weakened to a tropical storm in the northwestern Atlantic on September 30 . Several hours later , the storm transitioned into an extratropical cyclone while situated south of Nova Scotia .

= = Meteorological history = =

A weak circulation , associated with a tropical wave , was first observed by Television Infrared Observation Satellite (TIROS) in the eastern Atlantic Ocean on August 14 . The system tracked westward and was observed by a research flight on August 18 . Four days later , the system entered the Caribbean Sea and continued to remain disorganized . The wave moved across eastern Cuba on August 24 , before emerging into the Straits of Florida on the following day . The system finally began to organize , and at 1200 UTC on August 26 , a tropical depression developed offshore southeastern Florida coast . Shortly thereafter , the depression made landfall near Boca Raton , Florida with winds of 30 mph (45 km / h) . It traveled barely inland and emerged into the Atlantic Ocean near Fort Pierce early on August 27 . The depression moved northeastward and strengthened due to its location beneath an anticyclone . Later on August 27 , the depression was upgraded to Tropical Storm Alma while situated about 150 mi (240 km) east of the Florida ? Georgia border .

Alma steadily intensified as it paralleled the coastline of The Carolinas , becoming a hurricane on August 28 a few miles off the coast of Cape Hatteras , North Carolina . Around that time , Alma attained its minimum barometric pressure of 986 mbar (29 @. @ 1 inHg) . At 0600 UTC on August 29 , Alma strengthened into a Category 2 hurricane . Meanwhile , the storm also attained its maximum sustained wind speed of 100 mph (155 km / h) . While located about 80 miles (130 km) east @- @ southeast of Nantucket , Massachusetts , the storm weakened back to a Category 1 hurricane . A high pressure system over Atlantic Canada caused Alma to turn east @- @ southeastward , while weakening to a tropical storm on August 30 . Later that day , the storm transitioned into an extratropical cyclone while situated about 180 miles (290 km) south @- @ southeast of the southwestern tip of Nova Scotia . The high pressure system also caused the extratropical remnants to execute a cyclonic loop between August 31 and September 2 . Later that day , the extratropical remnants of Alma curved northeastward , before dissipating south of Newfoundland .

= = Preparations and Impact = =

In Puerto Rico , heavy rainfall associated with the precursor tropical wave produced flooding in the southeastern portion of the island . On August 25 , a day before Alma developed , the precursor system brought high seas to the Atlantic coasts of Florida and Georgia ; this resulted in small craft warnings from Daytona Beach , Florida to Savannah , Georgia . Additionally , the storm brought light precipitation to some areas of both states . As the storm traveled parallel to the East Coast of the United States , smalls crafts were also advised to remain in port between Edisto Island and the mouth of the Little River in South Carolina . Along the coast of that state , Alma brought gusty winds and heavy to excessive precipitation in some area , though no damage was reported .

Despite its proximity to land , the storm produced peak wind gusts of only 53 mph (85 km / h) in Nags Head . Wind gusts downed a power pole in Hatteras , which caused an hour long power outage for one @-@ third of the town . There , the storm tide was 3 ft (0 @.@ 91 m) above normal , which resulted in some erosion . The highest rainfall total from Alma in the United States was a report of 10 @.@ 38 in (264 mm) in Cape Hatteras . Damage in the state amounted to \$ 35 @,@ 000 . The eye of Alma passed about 70 miles (110 km) south @-@ southeast of the Virginia Capes , and brought light precipitation , gusty winds , and rough surf to the eastern portion of the state . Rainfall peaked at only 0 @.@ 64 inches (16 mm) in Norfolk , causing no flooding . Minor beach erosion occurred due to tides 1 @.@ 3 feet (0 @.@ 40 m) above normal at Hampton Roads . No significant wind damage occurred , as the strongest sustained wind speed in the area was 36 mph (58 km / h) in Cape Henry .

In Massachusetts , the outer bands of Alma brought 40 hours of nearly continuous rainfall , as well as gale force winds for several hours . Precipitation amounts reached up to 3 inches (76 mm) , though it was mostly beneficial , as the region of New England was suffering from drought conditions . Slick roads resulted in several traffic accidents . Tides reached 2 ft (0 @.@ 61 m) above normal in the state of Massachusetts , which resulted in minor coastal flooding . However , Alma produced strong waves that destroyed over 100 boats . Additionally , many cabin cruisers and smaller vessels broke loose from their moorings and smashed against the rocks . The storm produced northerly wind gust up to 51 mph (82 km / h) to the Boston area , in addition to winds of 60 mph (97 km / h) along coastal sections of the state . As a result , many trees fell , causing power and telephone outages , and smashing a house and parked car in Lynn . At the Civil Defense facility in Melrose , winds and rainfall short @-@ circuited the sirens , causing them to wail for more than 2 hours . At the Fair Grounds in Topsfield , a large tent was blown down . One indirect death occurred when a woman was struck by a truck that skidded off the road in Haverhill .

Elsewhere in New England , the storm brought rainfall and 60 mph (97 km / h) winds to coastal Rhode Island . Storm damage was reported as far north as Portsmouth , New Hampshire , while precipitation extended northward into Maine . Damage from the storm in New England was estimated at less than \$ 1 million .