

= Hurricane Alberto ( 2000 ) =

Hurricane Alberto was among the longest lived tropical cyclones on record in the Atlantic Ocean . The third tropical cyclone , first named storm , and first hurricane of the 2000 Atlantic hurricane season , Alberto developed near the western coast of Africa from a tropical wave on August 3 . Initially a tropical depression , it strengthened into Tropical Storm Alberto early on August 4 . While briefly turning westward on August 6 , Alberto attained hurricane status . The cyclone continued to track west northwestward , and by early the following day , reached an initial peak with winds of 90 mph ( 150 km / h ) . Shortly thereafter , Alberto re curved northwestward and began encountering increased wind shear . As a result , Alberto weakened back to a tropical storm on August 9 . However , the system quickly re strengthened as winds became more favorable , and early on August 10 , Alberto became a hurricane again . The storm gradually curved northward and north northeastward between August 11 and August 12 ; Alberto attained its peak intensity with winds of 125 mph ( 205 km / h ) during that time .

Increasing upper level westerlies caused Alberto to weaken as it moved east northeastward , with the cyclone losing most of its convection . Early on August 14 , Alberto was downgraded to a tropical storm . A westerly trough that had been guiding Alberto outran the storm , and strong ridging developed to the north and west . As a result , Alberto turned southward on August 15 , southwestward on August 16 , and then to the west on August 17 . While curving northwestward and then northward , Alberto began to re strengthen , and was upgraded to a hurricane for a third time on August 18 . Alberto reached a third peak intensity as a Category 2 hurricane with winds of 105 mph ( 205 km / h ) on August 20 . After weakening back to a Category 1 hurricane , Alberto conducted an unusually large cyclonic loop , spanning approximately 5 degrees latitude and 8 degrees longitude . The cyclone was downgraded to a tropical storm on August 23 , shortly before completing its extratropical transition . Although it did not effect land while tropical , the precursor tropical wave caused light rainfall in Senegal . The remnant extratropical cyclone also likely produced tropical storm force winds in Iceland and Jan Mayen .

= = Meteorological history = =

A mesoscale convective complex , or large circular area of thunderstorms , developed in the Ethiopian Highlands of Africa on July 28 . The complex moved west southwestward through the continent , waxing and waning until persisting along a tropical wave on August 2 . The next day , the wave emerged into the Atlantic Ocean from Guinea . Once over the open Atlantic Ocean , the wave quickly developed and became Tropical Depression Three later that day . The depression moved to the west northwest and was upgraded to Tropical Storm Alberto early on August 4 . Alberto continued to strengthen , but moved to cooler waters late on August 5 and weakened briefly . However , the storm strengthened again early on August 6 , and it was upgraded to hurricane status as an eye became visible . The upgrade was accompanied with a brief westward turn . However , Alberto continued to move to the west northwest later that day , reaching its first peak intensity of 90 mph ( 150 km / h ) on August 7 .

A vigorous upper level low developed west of Alberto on August 7 and August 8 . This caused an increase in vertical shear , weakening the hurricane down to a tropical storm on August 9 . The low also caused the storm to turn to the northwest . However , on August 10 , Alberto became better organised and was upgraded to hurricane status again . It then moved in a gradual curve towards the north and northeast through a break in a subtropical ridge between August 11 and August 12 . Alberto made its closest approach to Bermuda on August 11 , passing about 345 mi ( 555 km ) east of the island . The strong storm became a Category 3 major hurricane on August 12 and reached its second and highest peak intensity of 125 mph ( 205 km / h ) , and a 60 mi ( 95 km ) wide eye was observed . Alberto was an unusual storm in that it reached its peak intensity at a high latitude , north of 35 ° N , after it had re curved . The hurricane began to weaken due to increasing upper level westerlies on August 13 and August 14 , while moving east northeastward . Alberto was downgraded to a tropical storm on August 14 .

As early as August 10 , computer models anticipated the hurricane to accelerate to the northeast and become extratropical within three days , but this did not materialize . A westerly trough that had been influencing Alberto 's motion outran the storm , and a strong ridge developed to the north and west , causing the storm to turn abruptly to the south on August 15 , and to complete a large loop over the open Atlantic . Alberto turned to the southwest on August 16 and to the west on August 17 . The storm then took a sharp turn toward the northwest as a large , slow moving mid level trough was carving out over the eastern United States . Alberto began to strengthen , and reached hurricane status for the third time on August 18 . The hurricane continued to turn to the north on August 19 and to the northeast on August 20 and August 21 . During this time , Alberto reached a third peak intensity of 105 mph ( 165 km / h ) on August 20 , and a 70 mi ( 110 km ) wide eye was observed . Operationally , Alberto reached a peak intensity of 110 mph ( 175 km / h ) , but after reanalysis , it was reduced to 105 mph ( 165 km / h ) .

Hurricane Alberto began to weaken on August 22 as it accelerated into higher latitudes . It was downgraded to a tropical storm early on August 23 . Initially , it was forecast to become extratropical on August 22 , but a little burst of colder cloud tops enabled Alberto to remain tropical for a longer time , persisting into August 23 , while it moved into a very high latitude at 53 ° N. The weakening storm finally became extratropical late on August 23 , while accelerating to the north northeast , passing near Iceland on August 24 . Winds dropped below gale force , as the centre turned to the east northeast on August 25 . Alberto dissipated about 85 mi ( 140 km ) east of Jan Mayen later that day .

= = Impact , records , and naming = =

Very minimal impact occurred as a result from Hurricane Alberto . Dakar , Senegal , received 25 mm ( 1 in ) of rain as the pre Alberto tropical wave passed over the city . A discussion was issued on August 9 advising residents in Bermuda to monitor the progress of the storm until it safely passed . Also , from August 12 to August 14 , public advisories were issued advising people from Azores to monitor the progress of Hurricane Alberto . This stopped when Alberto began to slow its motion and began to turn to the south , away from the Azores . Some swells were reported along the east coast of the United States a few days after the storm 's recurvature . No reports were available on the impact of Alberto on Iceland , but it was estimated that winds of at least tropical storm force were experienced there . Otherwise , there were no known reports of damage or casualties as a result of Hurricane Alberto .

Hurricane Alberto completed the largest loop ever observed over the Atlantic Ocean , spanning approximately 5 degrees latitude by 8 degrees longitude . The storm is currently the ninth longest lived storm in the Atlantic Ocean ( lasting 19 days ) , and is also the second longest lived Atlantic storm during August ( the longest lived is the 1899 Hurricane San Ciriaco ) . Also , Alberto is the third farthest travelling in the Atlantic ( travelling 600 miles ) , only behind Hurricane Faith and Hurricane Carrie , being able to retain tropical characteristics at an unusually high latitude , up to 53 ° N. The last storm to do so was Hurricane Frances in 1980 .