

RECENT STORMS THAT SLAMMED THE SOUTH

From Beryl to Zeta, these hurricanes killed hundreds, tore up property

MARTHA BELLISLE | Associated Press

While Hurricane Milton is garnering a lot of attention in Florida and other states in the southeastern U.S., other major hurricanes in recent memory have left hundreds of people dead and caused billions of dollars worth of damage across the South.

SEPTEMBER 2024



MARTHA ASENCIO-RHINE, TAMPA BAY TIMES

The St. Pete Pier is visible near high waves Sept. 26 as Hurricane Helene makes its way toward the Florida panhandle in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Hurricane Helene

Hurricane Helene made landfall on Florida's Panhandle on Sept. 26 and churned its way across five other states, leaving at least 236 dead and an unknown number of people still missing. The Category 4 storm brought torrential floodwaters that ripped homes off their foundations and uprooted trees, leaving thousands without power and water for days.

Falling trees killed many, including grandparents in South Carolina and a mother and her two infants in Georgia. First responders were among those killed, including a nurse in Tennessee who tried to save a man stranded by rushing waters, only to have his boat flip over. Homeowners trying to rebuild face a daunting task without flood insurance.

JULY 2024



BRANDON BELL, GETTY IMAGES

Vehicles sit in floodwater during Hurricane Beryl on July 8 in Houston, Texas.

Hurricane Beryl

Hurricane Beryl was the first of the 2024 Atlantic hurricane season, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Exceptionally warm ocean temperatures caused it to strengthen into a Category 5 storm rapidly in early July. Its winds peaked at 165 mph before weakening to a still-destructive Category 4.

By the time Beryl hit Texas, it had dropped to a Category 1 storm. Beryl has been blamed for at least 36 deaths. The storm caused an estimated \$28 billion to \$32 billion in damages, according to AccuWeather's preliminary estimates.

AUGUST 2023



DOUGLAS R. CLIFFORD, TAMPA BAY TIMES

Rescue workers with Tidewater Disaster Response wade through a tidal surge on a highway Aug. 30 while looking for people in need of help after the Steinatchee River flooded in Steinatchee, Fla., following the arrival of Hurricane Idalia.

Hurricane Idalia

Hurricane Idalia slammed into Florida on Aug. 30, 2023, with 125-mph winds that split trees in half, ripped roofs off hotels and turned small cars into boats before sweeping into Georgia and South Carolina, where it flooded roadways and sent residents running for higher ground.

The Category 4 hurricane was the largest to hit Florida's Big Bend region in more than 125 years. The storm left 12 dead and produced 5 to 10 inches of rain across Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas, leaving damages topping \$3.6 billion, according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center.

OCTOBER 2020



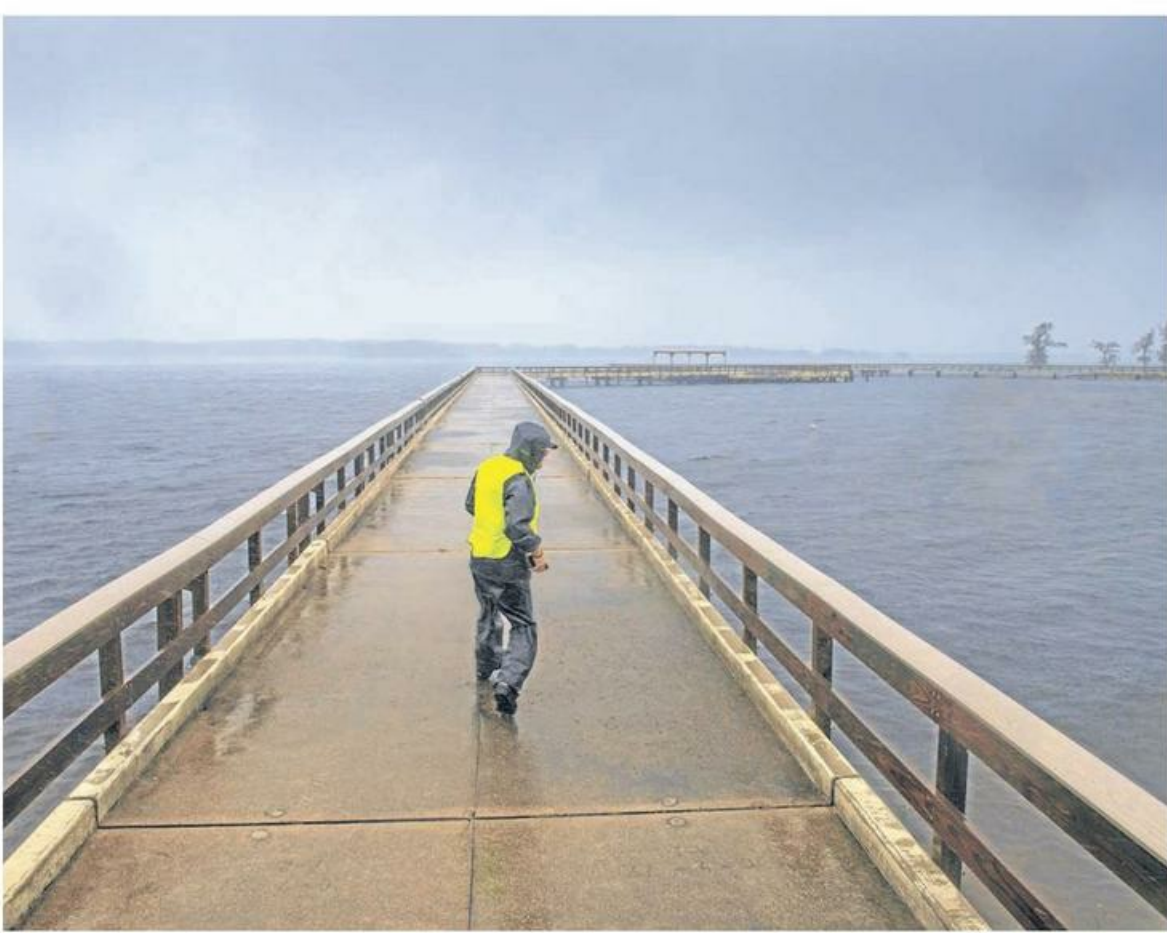
GERALD HERBERT, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Debris is piled in the median of Highway 90 in Pass Christian, Miss., Oct. 29, 2020, in the aftermath of Hurricane Zeta.

Hurricane Zeta

Hurricane Zeta left millions without power when it hit southeastern Louisiana on Oct. 29, 2020. It had weakened to a tropical storm after leaving the Yucatan Peninsula but intensified to a Category 3 storm before making landfall.

The hurricane caused five direct fatalities and about \$4.4 billion in damage in the United States, according to the National Hurricane Center.



CHRIS GRANGER, THE ADVOCATE

Storm chaser Shaun Piegdon walks down a pier Oct. 9, 2020, over Lake Arthur as Hurricane Delta's outer bands move into Louisiana.

Hurricane Delta

When Hurricane Delta slammed into Louisiana on Oct. 9, 2020, residents were still cleaning up from Hurricane Laura, which had taken a similar path just six weeks earlier. Delta was a Category 4 storm before it made two landfalls — both at Category 2 intensity, according to the National Hurricane Center.

It first hit the Yucatan Peninsula before coming ashore in southwestern Louisiana. Delta cost \$2.9 billion in the United States and was linked to six deaths in the U.S. and Mexico, according to a report from the hurricane center.

AUGUST 2020



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hurricane Laura roared ashore as a Category 4 storm in August 2020 near Cameron, Louisiana, bringing 150mph winds, torrential rains and a storm surge as high as 15 feet.

Hurricane Laura

Hurricane Laura, a Category 4 storm, roared ashore in southwest Louisiana on Aug. 27, 2020, packing 150mph winds and a storm surge as high as 15 feet in some areas. Laura was responsible for 47 direct deaths in the United States and Hispaniola, and caused about \$19 billion in damage in the U.S., according to the National Hurricane Center.

The deaths included five people killed by fallen trees and one person who drowned in a boat. Eight people died from carbon monoxide poisoning due to unsafe operation of generators.

SEPTEMBER 2022



WILFREDO LEE, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Damaged homes and debris were left in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian on Sept. 29, 2022, in Fort Myers Beach, Fla.

Hurricane Ian

Hurricane Ian briefly reached maximum Category 5 status before weakening to a Category 4 storm as it blasted ashore in September 2022 in southwest Florida. The storm caused more than \$112 billion in damage in the U.S. and more than 150 deaths directly or indirectly, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The agency reported that Ian was the costliest hurricane in Florida history and the third-costliest ever in the U.S. as a whole. In addition to Florida, Ian impacted Georgia, Virginia, the Carolinas and Cuba before it fell apart Oct. 1, 2022.

AUGUST 2021



GERALD HERBERT, ASSOCIATED PRESS

A man takes pictures of high waves Aug. 29, 2021, along the shore of Lake Pontchartrain as Hurricane Ida nears New Orleans.

Hurricane Ida

Hurricane Ida roared ashore in Louisiana as a Category 4 storm with 150mph winds in late August 2021, knocking out power to New Orleans, blowing roofs off buildings and reversing the flow of the Mississippi River as it rushed from the Louisiana coast into one of the nation's most important industrial corridors.

At the time it was tied for the fifth-strongest hurricane ever to hit the mainland. At least 91 deaths across nine states were attributed to the storm — most from drowning, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Damages from the storm were estimated to be about \$36 billion.