



REANALYSIS OF 1951 TO 1955 ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASONS COMPLETED

A complete reanalysis of the Atlantic hurricane database (HURDAT) was conducted for the 1951 to 1955 seasons.

Nine hurricanes were identified to have struck the continental United States during 1951 to 1955, with one new U.S. hurricane (Hazel in 1953) identified and two hurricanes no longer considered to have had hurricane impacts in the United States (Carol in 1953 and Diane in 1955). Originally, five of these hurricanes were considered to be a major hurricane – Category 3, 4, or 5 on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale – at U.S. landfall. After the reanalysis, only two were retained as major U.S. hurricanes: 1954's Carol which struck New York, Connecticut, and Rhode Island as a Category 3 and 1954's Hazel which struck South Carolina and North Carolina as a Category 4. Three other systems were downgraded to a Category 2 at U.S. landfall: 1954's Edna in Massachusetts, 1955's Connie in North Carolina, and 1955's Ione in North Carolina.

The worst hurricanes during these five seasons were 1954's Hurricane Hazel, which killed as many as 1200 people in Grenada, Haiti, United States, and Canada, and 1955's Hurricane Janet, which killed 681 people in Barbados, Belize, and Mexico. Janet also holds the distinction of being the strongest hurricane observed during these seasons, reaching Category 5 with peak sustained winds of 175 mph at its landfall in Mexico. In addition, twelve new tropical storms were identified and added into the database for this five year period.

This reanalysis was accomplished by obtaining the original observations collected – mainly by ships, weather stations, and the early Hurricane Hunter Navy and Army Air Force aircraft reconnaissance planes – and assessing the storms based upon our understanding of hurricanes today.

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NOAA Hurricane Re-analysis Project: http://www.aoml.noaa.gov/hrd/data_sub/re_anal.html

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