

Tropical Storm Chris, 9-12 September 1982

An upper low pressure system began developing over the northeast Gulf of Mexico on 6 September with the circulation gradually working downward as it drifted westward. Reports from ships and NOAA buoys indicated a surface low had developed over the north central Gulf of Mexico by the evening of 8 September. The low continued to drift westward and on 9 September began to take on tropical characteristics as widespread convection north and east of the low warmed the atmosphere. On the morning of 10 September increasing winds on offshore oil rigs, banding on radar, and an Air Force reconnaissance aircraft report of pressure near 1000 mbs. indicated tropical storm Chris had formed.

Tropical storm Chris began moving northward almost immediately under the influence of a large low pressure trough moving eastward from the Southwestern United States. The center moved inland between Port Arthur, Texas and Lake Charles, Louisiana near Sabine Lake during the early morning hours of 11 September. Chris weakened rapidly while moving north northeast through western Louisiana and into eastern Arkansas on 12 September, where the low pressure center associated with Chris lost all identity. However, moisture from the storm contributed to heavy rains in Tennessee and Kentucky with local rainfall totals up to 16 inches reported.

The storm reached maximum strength near the coast with satellite classification indicating highest sustained winds to be 55 knots. Offshore oil rigs reported gusts up to 70 knots. Lowest pressure was estimated to be 994 mbs. It is quite likely Chris would have become a hurricane in a few hours if the circulation had not moved inland.

Highest tides were between 5 and 6 feet just east of the center. Rainfall amounts of 5 to 10 inches were observed in Louisiana with a few local amounts in excess of 10 inches.

There were no casualties reported. Preliminary damage estimates in Louisiana were less than one million dollars. In Texas a restaurant on Pleasure Island near Port Arthur had an estimated \$200,000 wind damage. There was the usual damage to trees and power lines. Several large boats in the Gulf of Mexico sustained heavy damage. Casualty and damage figures from flooding in Kentucky and Tennessee are not known at this time.

There were as many as 6500 residents evacuated from the immediate Louisiana coast and many oil workers were taken off the Gulf of Mexico oil rigs.

Gale warnings were issued on the Louisiana coast prior to naming the storm because of the strong pressure gradient between a large high pressure system over the United States and the developing low. A summary of all the warnings is attached.

GBC 9/27/82

TROPICAL STORM CHRIS

SUMMARY OF WARNINGS

DATE	TIME (GMT)	ACTION TAKEN
9/9/82	0100	Gale Warnings issued for the Louisiana coast east of Port Arthur, Texas to the mouth of the Mississippi.
9/9/82	1600	Gale Warnings issued for the Texas coast from Port Arthur to Port Oconnor.
9/10/82	1000	Gale Warnings extended south of Port Oconnor to Brownsville.
9/10/82	1000	Gale Warnings discontinued from Morgan City, Louisiana eastward to the mouth of the Mississippi.
9/10/82	2200	A Hurricane Watch issued from Port Oconnor, Texas to Morgan City, Louisiana.
9/10/82	2200	Gale Warnings extended eastward from Morgan City, Louisiana to the mouth of the Mississippi.
9/10/82	2200	Gale Warnings discontinued from Port Oconnor to Brownsville, Texas.
9/11/82	0200	Gale Warnings and the Hurricane Watch are discontinued south of Freeport, Texas.
9/11/82	1000	The Hurricane Watch is discontinued from Freeport, Texas to Morgan City, Louisiana.
9/11/82	1300	Gale Warnings are discontinued from west of Port Arthur to Freeport, Texas.
9/11/82	1600	Gale Warnings are discontinued from east of Morgan City, Louisiana to the mouth of the Mississippi.
9/11/82	2200	Gale Warnings are discontinued from Port Arthur, Texas to Morgan City, Louisiana.

TROPICAL STORM CHRIS - PRELIMINARY BEST TRACK

9-12 SEPTEMBER 1982

DATE	TIME (GMT)	Position		PRESSURE (MB)	WIND (KT)	STAGE
		LATITUDE (°N)	LONGITUDE (°W)			
9/9	0000	26.2	91.0	1010	25	Subtropical Depression
"	0600	26.3	91.7	1010	25	" "
"	1200	26.4	92.3	1009	25	" "
"	1800	26.6	93.0	1009	30	" "
9/10	0000	26.8	93.7	1008	30	Tropical Depression
"	0600	26.9	94.0	1007	30	" "
"	1200	27.3	94.2	1005	35	Tropical Storm
"	1800	27.9	94.1	1001	45	" "
9/11	0000	28.4	94.1	1000	50	" "
"	0600	29.0	94.0	997	50	" "
"	1200	29.8	93.8	994	55	" "
"	1800	30.8	93.4	999	40	" "
9/12	0000	31.8	93.2	1004	30	Tropical Depression
"	0600	32.8	92.8	1006	30	" "
"	1200	33.8	92.4	1008	30	" "
"	1800	34.8	91.8	1010	25	" "
9/13	0000	Dissipated				

