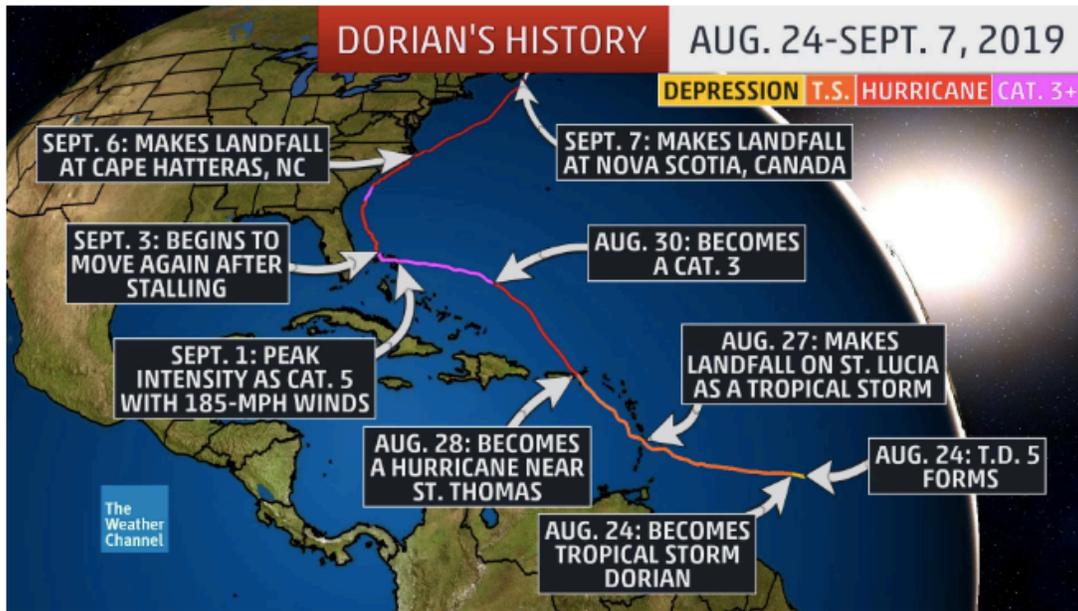


Hurricane Dorian Leaves Behind A Trail of Destruction In Its Wake

By: Meera Dolasia



Hurricane Dorian started as a tropical wave before escalating into a Category 5 hurricane (Credit: Weather.com)

The Atlantic hurricane season, which spans from June 1 to November 30, had been **relatively** calm this year, with just one major storm in July. That changed at the end of August, when Dorian, a Category 5 hurricane, came screaming through, leaving a trail of **destruction** all the way from the US Virgin Islands to the Bahamas and the US and Canadian east coasts.

Dorian started as tropical storm but gained strength as it came closer to Central America. After eight hours over warm waters, the storm went from a tropical storm to a hurricane rather quickly! By the time it made land fall in the US Virgin Islands, it had winds that were blowing up to 111 mph!



Hurricane Dorian stalled over Grand Bahamas, slamming the island for 40 hours (Credit: US Dept. of State)

After downing several trees and cutting power to over 10,000 people across St. Thomas, Dorian continued to **intensify** as it headed towards the Bahamas. By the time it struck the Abaco Islands in the northern Bahamas at 5:00 AM local time on September 1, 2019, Dorian had become a Category 5 hurricane with **sustained** winds of over 150 mph. Things got progressively worse over the next 10 hours. By 2:00 PM, the National Hurricane Center reported that the “**catastrophic** hurricane” boasted winds of 185 mph and a storm surge of “as much as 18 to 23 feet above normal tide levels.”

Dorian **decimated** the Abaco Islands, before moving on to Grand Bahama Island, which lies 87 miles (141 km) away. The eyewall of the hurricane hit the popular tourist **destination** on the night of September 1. However, instead of passing through in the usual six to eight hours, Dorian stayed for **40 hours**, slamming the **pristine** island with catastrophic wind and rains. Meteorologists say the storm's **uncharacteristic** lingering was caused by the absence of upper **atmospheric** winds, which usually push and pull Atlantic hurricanes in different directions and **determine** their next target.



Hurricane Dorian caused widespread damage in the Bahamas (Credit: Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater/Public domain)

On September 3, Dorian finally moved on to North and South Carolina on the US east coast, where it unleashed a **barrage** of tornadoes and caused massive storm surge flooding. The storm, now **downgraded** to a post-tropical cyclone, then continued northward to Canada, where it knocked out power to half a million people in Nova Scotia and the surrounding regions on September 8. On

September 9, the National Hurricane Center gave its final update on Dorian, stating that the weakened storm, now "over the cold waters of the Labrador Sea," would **dissipate** by September 10.

While Dorian may be gone, the **impact** on the Bahamas will be felt for many years. A majority of the structures on the Abaco Islands and Grand Bahama have been destroyed, **rendering** many residents homeless and without jobs. Though British and US aid workers are trying their best, they're finding that food, water, and other essentials remain in short supply. Though the official death count is 45, with hundreds still missing, officials warn the numbers could increase **dramatically** in the coming weeks. The one silver lining in the otherwise **grim** situation is that tourists, who have been vacationing at the islands for years, are returning to help the locals clean up the mess Dorian left behind. Hopefully, the people of the Bahamas will be able to rapidly recover from the disaster and restore the islands back to their full glory.



These two workers started a towel drive at their church in Florida to help residents hit by Hurricane Dorian.

