

NASA satellites watch Tropical Storm Beryl

May 29 2012



This visible image of Tropical Depression Beryl was captured using the MODIS instrument on NASA's Terra satellite on May 28, 2012 at 16:05 UTC (12:05 p.m. EDT) when it was centered over northern Florida. Credit: Credit: NASA MODIS Rapid Response Team

Tropical Storm Beryl formed off the Carolina coast on Friday, May 25 as "System 94L" and later that day became the second tropical storm of the Atlantic Hurricane Season, before the season even started. Over the Memorial Day holiday weekend in the U.S. NASA and NOAA satellites kept track of Beryl, feeding forecasters with valuable data.

NASA's Aqua and Terra satellites and NOAA's GOES-13 satellite have been monitoring the progression of Beryl and continue to provide visible, infrared, rainfall, temperature, and other data to forecasters at the National Hurricane Center, in Miami, Fla.

An animation of [satellite imagery](#) from NOAA's GOES-13 satellite was created at NASA's GOES Project at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md. that shows the birth, landfall and progression of Beryl from May 26 through May 28, 2012.

On May 26 at 1615 UTC (12:15 p.m. EDT), NASA's [Terra satellite](#) passed over Tropical Storm Beryl when it was still off the U.S. East coast. The Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) instrument that flies onboard Terra captured a visible image of the storm that showed its circulation center. To see the image, [visit this page](#).

Later on May 27 at 1835 UTC (2:35 p.m. EDT), NASA's Aqua satellite passed over Beryl and the MODIS instrument on that satellite, like the one on NASA's Terra satellite, captured an image of Beryl over northern Florida. To see that image, [visit this page](#). NASA's [Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission \(TRMM\) satellite](#) was capturing [rainfall data](#) on Beryl over the holiday weekend, and on May 27 saw light to moderate rainfall throughout the system with some areas west of the center dropping heavy rain.

Beryl made landfall near Jacksonville, Florida at 0410 UTC (12:10 a.m. EDT on Monday, May 28). After making landfall, Beryl's winds dropped to 50 mph (85 kph), down from 70 mph. At 7 a.m. on May 28, Beryl's center was 20 miles (30 km) west of Jacksonville, Fla., and just 85 miles (135 km) east-southeast of Valdosta, Georgia. Beryl continued to move west at 8 mph (13 kph), and had a minimum central pressure of 997 millibars.

Northern Florida, eastern Georgia and coastal South Carolina have all been experiencing drought conditions, so Beryl's rainfall is actually helpful. On Tuesday, May 29, the National Hurricane Center forecast indicated that "Beryl is expected to produce total rain accumulations of 5 to 10 inches, with isolated maximum amounts of 15 inches in Northern

Florida and southeastern Georgia. Beryl is expected to produce total rain accumulations of 3 to 6 inches in eastern South Carolina and eastern North Carolina."



This visible image of Tropical Depression Beryl was taken by NOAA's GOES-13 satellite on Tuesday, May 29, 2012. The image was created by the NASA GOES Project. At the time of the image, Beryl's center was within 10 miles of Valdosta, Georgia and was crawling to the north. Credit: NASA/NOAA GOES Project

On Tuesday, May 29 at 5 a.m. EDT (0900 UTC), Beryl was a tropical depression with maximum sustained winds near 30 mph (45 kph). Beryl's center was located just 10 miles from Valdosta, Georgia, near 30.9 North and 83.4 West. Valdosta is famous for being the boyhood home of Dr. John Holliday, the dentist that fought alongside Wyatt Earp in the shootout near the O.K. Corral in Oct. 1881 in Tombstone, Ariz.

Beryl is crawling to the north at 2 mph (4 kph) and is expected to turn to the northeast and speed up as it heads toward the Atlantic coast.

As Beryl continues its slow trek back to its Atlantic Ocean birthplace, it

continues to generate dangerous surf conditions from South Carolina to northern Florida, with rip currents and heavy surf.

Forecasters at the National Hurricane [Center](#) expect Beryl to be close to the coast of South Carolina by early Wednesday morning, May 30, and back into the Atlantic Ocean later on that day. Once Beryl moves closer to the warm waters of the Gulf Stream in the Atlantic, it is expected to strengthen and may once again become a [tropical storm](#).

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

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