

Hermine kills two, ruins beach weekends in northward march

September 4 2016, by Jessica Gresko



In this photo provided by Tyrrell County Sheriff's office shows a tipped over 18-wheeler in Columbia, N.C., on Saturday, Sept. 3, 2016. Tyrrell County Sheriff Darryl Liverman said that high winds tipped over the 18-wheeler, killing

its driver and shutting down the U.S. 64 bridge during Tropical Storm Hermine. (Tyrrell County Sheriff's office via AP)

The once-and-future Hurricane Hermine regained strength Saturday as it moved slowly up the Eastern Seaboard and made a mess of the holiday weekend.

Hermine (her-MEEN) already caused two deaths, damaged properties and left hundreds of thousands without electricity from Florida to Virginia. It spawned a tornado in North Carolina and closed beaches as far north as New York.

"This is not a beach weekend for anyone in the Mid-Atlantic to the northeast," said Eric Blake, a hurricane specialist at the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

Hermine rose up over the Gulf of Mexico and hit Florida on Friday as a Category 1 hurricane before weakening to a [tropical storm](#) across Georgia.

By 5 a.m. Sunday, Hermine's top sustained winds remained at 65 mph (100 kph) as it moved east-northeast at 12 mph (19 kph). The storm, expected to turn northward on Sunday, was centered about 255 miles southeast of Ocean City, Maryland.

Forecasters expected Hermine to regain hurricane force on Sunday as it travels up the coast before weakening again to a tropical storm by Tuesday.

Governors all along the coast announced emergency preparations. Tropical storm warnings were in effect as far north as Connecticut.



Water from Roanoke Sound pounds the Virginia Dare Trail in Manteo, N.C., Saturday, Sept. 3, 2016 as Tropical Storm Hermine passes the Outer Banks. Hermine lost hurricane strength over land but was intensifying Saturday along the Atlantic Coast, threatening heavy rain, wind and storm surges on its northward march. (AP Photo/Tom Copeland)

And since sea levels have risen up to a foot due to global warming, the storm surges pushed by Hermine could be even more damaging, climate scientists say.

Michael Mann at Pennsylvania State University noted that this century's one-foot sea-level rise in New York City meant 25 more square miles flooded during Superstorm Sandy, causing billions more in damage.

"We are already experiencing more and more flooding due to climate change in every storm," said Michael Oppenheimer, a geosciences professor at Princeton University. "And it's only the beginning."

The winds and rain were so strong Saturday in North Carolina that all bridges to the Outer Banks were closed for several hours following a deadly accident over the intracoastal waterway.

Tyrrell County Sheriff Darryl Liverman told the *Virginian-Pilot* that high winds tipped over an 18-wheeler, killing its driver and shutting down the U.S. 64 bridge.



Authorities check on construction material dangling in Virginia Beach, Va., during Tropical Storm Hermine on Saturday, Sept. 3, 2016. The National Hurricane Center says Tropical Storm Hermine could bring 4 to 7 inches of rain to southeastern Virginia and the Atlantic coastal portion of Maryland as well as 1 to 4 inches of rain over southern Delaware, southern and eastern New Jersey and Long Island through Monday morning. (Stephen M. Katz/*The Virginian-Pilot* via AP)

And on Hatteras Island in the Outer Banks, a small tornado spawned by Hermine knocked over two trailers and injured four people, authorities said.

Earlier in Florida, a homeless man died from a falling tree.

Hermine's timing couldn't be worse for coastal communities hoping for revenue from Labor Day events.

"This weekend would normally be a parking lot," said Jim Derrick. His family businesses include a mini golf course, sea shell store, indoor bounce house and ice cream shop in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, where the beach was closed to foot traffic and swimming was prohibited Saturday.

He called the weekend "definitely disappointing," although his bounce house was packed.



A unidentified man watches the rising water from his home in Hatteras, N.C., Saturday, Sept. 3, 2016 after Tropical Storm Hermine passed the Outer Banks. The storm is expected to dump several inches of rain in parts of coastal Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey and New York as the Labor Day weekend continues. (AP Photo/Tom Copeland)

Elsewhere along Hermine's path, people were having decidedly less fun.

In Savannah, Georgia, Bacon Fest was canceled Friday and Saturday's Craft Brew Fest was moved indoors.

In Virginia Beach, the storm forced Bruce Springsteen to move a Saturday night concert to Monday. Swimmers were ordered out of the surf in New York and New Jersey. And Amtrak cancelled or altered some service as the storm approached.

Joyce Harper and her husband, of Berkeley Township, N.J., canceled Monday's family barbecue and took their three young daughters to the Seaside Heights boardwalk to "burn off some energy" ahead of the storm.

"If it's as bad as they expect, then we're all going to be indoors for a couple days. I love my kids, but two days is a long time to be together in close spaces," she said.



Charlie Gregory, center, a local crabber, and his son Zach check their boat as Tropical Storm Hermine approaches Virginia Beach, Va., Saturday, Sept. 3, 2016. The National Hurricane Center says Tropical Storm Hermine could bring 4 to 7 inches of rain to southeastern Virginia and the Atlantic coastal portion of Maryland as well as 1 to 4 inches of rain over southern Delaware, southern and eastern New Jersey and Long Island through Monday morning. (Stephen M. Katz/The Virginian-Pilot via AP)



Pound net fisherman Brian Wilson bails water from one of his boats docked on Saturday, Sept.3, 2016 as Tropical Storm Hermine approaches Virginia Beach, Va. The National Hurricane Center says Tropical Storm Hermine could bring 4 to 7 inches of rain to southeastern Virginia and the Atlantic coastal portion of Maryland as well as 1 to 4 inches of rain over southern Delaware, southern and eastern New Jersey and Long Island through Monday morning. (Stephen M. Katz/The Virginian-Pilot via AP)



Pedestrians brave the wind rushing down Atlantic Ave. in Virginia Beach, Va., on Saturday, Sept. 3, 2016, as Tropical Storm Hermine approaches the region. The National Hurricane Center says Tropical Storm Hermine could bring 4 to 7 inches of rain to southeastern Virginia and the Atlantic coastal portion of Maryland as well as 1 to 4 inches of rain over southern Delaware, southern and eastern New Jersey and Long Island through Monday morning. (Stephen M. Katz/The Virginian-Pilot via AP)



Karen Duer-Potts uses her cellphone to take a photograph of the sunset as the outer band of Hermine, which has weakened to a tropical storm, creeps over the beach at Cape Charles, Va., Friday, Sept. 2, 2016. (Jay Diem/The Daily Times via AP)



Staff members for the MRV Outer Banks Pro surf tournament take down a banner in Nags Head, N.C., Friday, Sept. 2, 2016, as Tropical Storm Hermine heads toward the Outer Banks. (AP Photo/Tom Copeland)



Lee and Gary Moulton walk from their home along what is left of a road that was destroyed by Hurricane Hermine in the Alligator Point community of Franklin County, Fla., Friday, Sept. 2, 2016. (Andrew Wardlow/News Herald via AP)



A tree service company removes a fallen tree from the roof of a damaged home Friday, Sept. 2, 2016, in Valdosta, Ga., in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Hermine. (Curtis Compton/Atlanta Journal-Constitution via AP)



Chris Boland, rear right, whose home just missed a direct hit from a downed pine tree over the power lines, and Julia Tyson look over the aftermath Tropical Storm Hermine Friday, Sept. 2, 2016, in Valdosta, Ga. (Curtis Compton/Atlanta Journal-Constitution via AP)



Teddy Ross of Northampton Fire and Rescue points to a fallen tree limb that dropped a television cable across Rogers Drive in Nassawadox, Va. on Saturday, Sept.3, 2016. Tropical Storm Hermine lost hurricane strength over land but was intensifying Saturday along the Atlantic Coast. (Jay Diem/The Daily Times via AP)



Paul O'Brien of Australia checks the depth of the road near the home he rented for vacation in Rodanthe, N.C., Saturday, Sept. 3, 2016 after Tropical Storm Hermine passed the Outer Banks. The storm is expected to dump several inches of rain in parts of coastal Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey and New York as the Labor Day weekend continues. (AP Photo/Tom Copeland)

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