

Tropical Storm Isaias drives wild weather up Interstate 95

August 4 2020, by Bryan Anderson and Sarah Blake Morgan



People walk Cherry Grove Point at dawn looking at debris scattered by Hurricane Isaias in North Myrtle Beach, S.C. Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2020. (Jason Lee/The Sun News via AP)

At least four people were killed as Tropical Storm Isaias spawned

tornadoes and dumped rain Tuesday along the U.S. East Coast after making landfall as a hurricane in North Carolina, where it caused floods and fires that displaced dozens of people.

Two people died when Isaias spun off a tornado that struck a North Carolina mobile home park. Authorities said two others were killed by falling trees toppled by the [storm](#) in Maryland and New York City.

More than 15 hours after coming ashore, Isaias still had sustained top winds of 65 mph (105 kph). At 2 p.m. EDT Tuesday, [the storm's center](#) was about 65 miles (105 km) west of New York City, where winds forced the Staten Island ferry and outdoor subway lines to shut down.

As Isaias sped northward at 40 mph (56 kph), the National Hurricane Center warned of potentially life-threatening flooding around Philadelphia and other points along the I-95 corridor.

Two people died after a tornado demolished several mobile homes in Windsor, North Carolina. Emergency responders finished searching the wreckage Tuesday afternoon. They found no other casualties, and several people initially feared missing had all been accounted for, said Ron Wesson, chairman of the Bertie County Board of Commissioners. He said about 12 people were hospitalized.



The private Sea Cabins pier is seen damaged following Hurricane Isaias, in North Myrtle Beach, S.C., Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2020. (Jason Lee/The Sun News via AP)

Sharee and Jeffrey Stilwell took shelter in their living room about 1:30 a.m. Tuesday as the tornado tore through Windsor. Sharee Stillwell said their home shook "like a freight train."

"I felt like the house was going to cave in," said Jeffrey Stillwell, 65, though once the storm passed, the couple found only a few damaged shingles and fallen tree branches in the yard.

The mobile home park less than 2 miles (3 kilometers) away wasn't so fortunate. Aerial video by WRAL-TV showed fields of debris where

rescue workers in brightly colored shirts picked through splintered boards and other wreckage. Nearby, a vehicle was flipped onto its roof.

"It doesn't look real; it looks like something on TV. Nothing is there," Bertie County Sheriff John Holley told reporters, saying 10 mobile homes had been destroyed. "All my officers are down there at this time. Pretty much the entire trailer park is gone."



Boats are piled on each other at the Southport Marina following the effects of Hurricane Isaias in Southport, N.C., Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2020. (AP Photo/Gerry Broome)

In New York City, a massive tree fell and crushed a van in the

Briarwood section of Queens, killing a man inside, police said. A woman in Mechanicsville, Maryland, died when a tree crashed onto her car during stormy conditions, said Cpl. Julie Yingling of the St. Mary's County sheriff's office.

Isaias toggled between hurricane and tropical storm strength as it churned toward the East Coast. Fueled by warm ocean waters, the storm got a late burst of strength as a rejuvenated hurricane with top sustained winds of 85 mph (136 km/h) before coming ashore late Monday near Ocean Isle Beach, North Carolina.

Many homes flooded in Ocean Isle Beach, and at least five caught fire, Mayor Debbie Smith told WECT-TV.

Before making landfall late Monday, Isaias killed two people in the Caribbean and battered the Bahamas before brushing past Florida. On Tuesday, forecasters expected it to remain a tropical storm on a path into New England.



Residents survey the damages along the waterfront following the effects of Hurricane Isaias in Southport, N.C., Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2020. (AP Photo/Gerry Broome)

"We don't think there is going to be a whole lot of weakening. We still think there's going to be very strong and gusty winds that will affect much of the mid-Atlantic and the Northeast over the next day or two," hurricane specialist Robbie Berg told The AP.

Tornadoes were confirmed by the National Weather Service in Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey. Power outages also spread as trees fell, with more than 2.8 million customers losing electricity across multiple states, according to PowerOutage.US, which tracks utility reports.

In Suffolk, Virginia, near the coast, multiple homes were damaged by falling trees and city officials received reports of a possible tornado. Motorists in the Philadelphia area had to be rescued as roads suddenly flooded. The New Jersey Turnpike banned car-pulled trailers and motorcycles.



A pier shows damages following the effects of Hurricane Isaias in Southport, N.C., Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2020. (AP Photo/Gerry Broome)

Most of the significant damage Tuesday seemed to be east and north of where the hurricane's eye struck land in North Carolina.

Gov. Roy Cooper said Tuesday that Brunswick, Pender and Onslow

counties along the state's southeast coast were among the hardest hit with storm surge, structure fires and reports of tornadoes.

Deputies on North Carolina's Oak Island had to rescue five adults and three children after the storm hit, causing damage along the beachfront and knocking electricity and sewer facilities offline, authorities said.

In North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, the storm sent waves crashing over the Sea Cabin Pier late Monday, causing a big section to collapse into the water as startled bystanders taking photos from the pier scrambled back to land.

"I'm shocked it's still standing," said Dean Burris, who watched from the balcony of a vacation rental.



A Philadelphia police officer rushes to help a stranded motorist during Tropical Storm Isaias, Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2020, in Philadelphia. The storm spawned tornadoes and dumped rain during an inland march up the U.S. East Coast after making landfall as a hurricane along the North Carolina coast. (AP Photo/Matt Slocum)



Boats are piled on each other at the Southport Marina following the effects of Hurricane Isaias in Southport, N.C., Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2020. (AP Photo/Gerry Broome)



People look over their home in Oak Island, N.C. after Hurricane Isaisas came ashore Tuesday night Aug. 4, 2020 in Brunswick County as a category 1 hurricane. The storm cause damage along all of the southern beaches like Ocean Isle Beach, Holden Beach, Oak Island and Southport. (Ken Blevins/The Star-News via AP)



Several homes in Ocean Isle Beach, N.C. burned as Tropical Storm Isaias came ashore Tuesday Aug. 4, 2020 in Brunswick County. Isaias toggled between hurricane and tropical storm strength as it churned toward the East Coast. Fueled by warm ocean waters, the storm got a late burst of strength as a rejuvenated hurricane with top sustained winds of 85 mph (136 km/h) before coming ashore late Monday near Ocean Isle Beach. (Ken Blevins/Wilmington Star-News via AP)



Residents begin to clean up following the effects of Hurricane Isaias in Southport, N.C., Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2020. (AP Photo/Gerry Broome)



Suffolk Police survey damage to building along Saratoga Street in Suffolk, Va., after Hurricane Isaias moved through the region Tuesday morning, August 4, 2020. (Jonathon Gruenke/The Daily Press via AP)



Royce Potter, a fifth generation seafood farmer, suveys the damage to his fishing vessel following the effects of Hurricane Isaias in Southport, N.C., Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2020. Potter spent the night on his docked boat. (AP Photo/Gerry Broome)



In this aerial photo boats and docks are washed together along the marsh near Southport, N.C. as Tropical Storm Isaias came ashore Tuesday night Aug. 4, 2020 in Brunswick County. The storm caused damage along all of the southern beaches like Ocean Isle Beach, Holden Beach, Oak Island and Southport. (Ken Blevins/Wilmington Star-News via AP)



Crews use chainsaws to cut down fallen trees in the Riverview neighborhood of Suffolk, Va., after Hurricane Isaias moved through the region Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2020. (Jonathon Gruenke/The Daily Press via AP)



Residents survey the damage following the effects of Hurricane Isaias in Southport, N.C., Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2020. (AP Photo/Gerry Broome)



A tree uprooted by high winds lays on a fence in Brooklyn Heights Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2020, in New York as Tropical Storm Isaias is expected to hit the Northeastern U.S. (AP Photo/David Crary)



In this aerial photo boats are stacked on top of each other in the Southport Marina Tuesday Aug. 4, 2020 in Southport N.C. after Tropical Storm Isaias came ashore over night in Brunswick County. (Ken Blevins/Wilmington Star-News via AP)



A person walks along the shoreline as a earthmover prepares sand along the beach Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2020, in Atlantic City, N.J. Tropical Storm Isaias spawned tornadoes and dumped rain during an inland march up the U.S. East Coast, including New Jersey, on Tuesday after making landfall as a hurricane along the North Carolina coast. (AP Photo/Jacqueline Larma)



Joseph Watson gathers a few belongings from a storage shed that was destroyed when a tornado touched down in Windsor, N.C. during the early hours of Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2020. (Stephen M. Katz/The Virginian-Pilot via AP)

The Hurricane Center had warned oceanside dwellers near the North Carolina-South Carolina state line to brace for storm surge up to 5 feet (1.5 meters) and up to 8 inches (20 centimeters) of rain.

Eileen and David Hubler were out early Tuesday cleaning up in North Myrtle Beach, where 4 feet (1.2 meters) of [storm surge](#) flooded cars, unhinged docks and etched a water line into the side of their home.

"When the water started coming, it did not stop," Eileen Hubler said. They had moved most items of value to their second floor, but a mattress and washing machine were unexpected storm casualties.

"We keep thinking we've learned our lesson," she said. "And each time there's a hurricane, we learn a new lesson."

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Citation: Tropical Storm Isaias drives wild weather up Interstate 95 (2020, August 4) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2020-08-tropical-storm-isaias-wild-weather.html>

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