

Hurricane Delta roars ashore on storm-battered US southern coast

October 10 2020, by Leo Mouren



A reporter covers his face as Hurricane Delta makes landfall in Lake Charles, Louisiana on October 9, 2020

Hurricane Delta has made landfall on the Louisiana coast, packing ferocious winds and a "life-threatening" storm surge—and driving out

residents still rebuilding from a devastating storm less than two months ago.

Delta became the 10th significant [storm](#) of the year to make landfall in the United States, which forecasters said was a record.

It roared ashore on Friday near Creole, Louisiana as a Category 2 storm on a scale of five, with winds of 100 miles per hour (160 kilometers per hour), before weakening to a tropical storm early Saturday.

"Damaging winds and a life-threatening [storm surge](#) continue over portions of southern Louisiana," said the Miami-based National Hurricane Center (NHC), adding that one monitoring site was reporting a storm surge of eight feet (2.4 meters) above ground.

Delta—which the NHC said ad weakened to a [tropical storm](#) early Saturday—caused widespread power outages in the state.

In Lake Charles, a city in southwest Louisiana that was hit hard by Hurricane Laura on August 20, the streets were deserted Friday as a steady rain fell ahead of Delta's arrival.

The city is still in disarray from the more powerful Laura, which was a Category 4 and ripped roofs off houses and uprooted trees. Streets are still littered with debris.



Spectators look out towards the Gulf of Mexico as the outer bands of Hurricane Delta reach Galveston, Texas on October 9, 2020

"I don't even know if we'll have a house when we come back," said resident Kimberly Hester.

"I just pray to God every night we can at least have a house to come home to."

Arthur Durham, 56, was finishing covering windows at his home with plywood as protection against flying debris.

"I stayed for the last one. I'm pretty well prepared. I have a generator back-up, tools, equipment... I'm pretty self-sufficient," he told AFP,

adding: "I'm used to this."

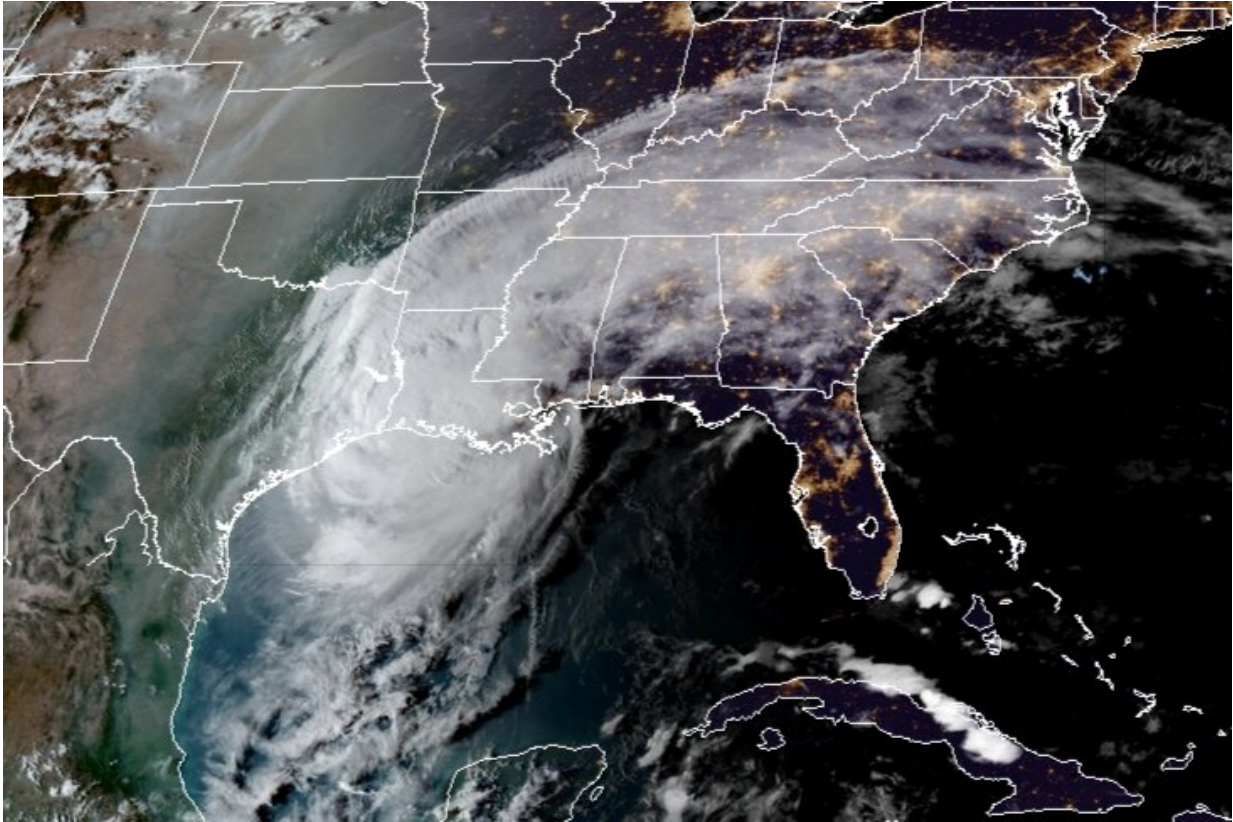
Battered US Gulf

Earlier, Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards announced that 2,400 National Guard personnel had been mobilized to aid locals.

Hurricane Delta will hit "in the area of our state that is least prepared to take it," he said late Thursday.

In Lake Charles, Shannon Fuselier drilled plywood over the windows of a friend's home.

Many neighborhood houses are covered with tarps from previous hurricane damage, and the home Fuselier was working on had already suffered roof damage from a fallen tree and smashed windows during Laura.



This RAMMB/CIRA satellite image shows Hurricane Delta over the US Gulf Coast on October 9, 2020

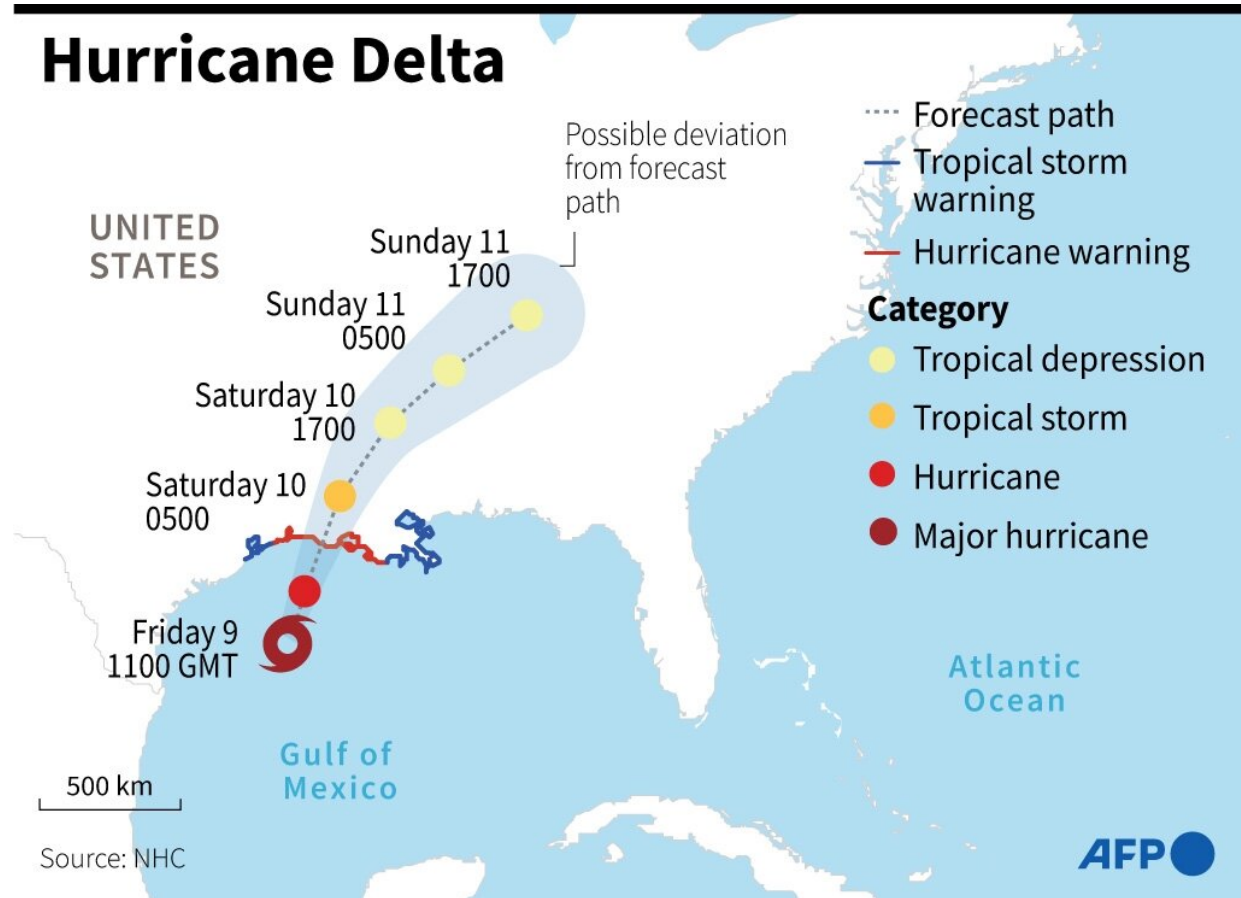
"The branches and leaves don't do that much damage," said Fuselier, 56. "It's [pieces of metal](#), steel, frames of other people's windows, signs from people's stores, nails."

Fuselier said she was staying because she didn't think the storm was strong enough for her to flee.

Edwards has already warned that Delta could sweep up old debris and hurl it like missiles.

Traffic was jammed Thursday as people left Lake Charles.

Terry Lebine evacuated to the town of Alexandria, some 100 miles (150 kilometers) to the north, during the previous hurricane, and was ready to head out again.



Map with the predicted path of Hurricane Delta

"It's exhausting," she told AFP. "I've got my mother, she's 81 years old and not in the best of health. Right after we went back home after Laura, we have to leave again for Delta. We were home a good two to three weeks."

The storm toppled trees and tore down power lines in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula Wednesday as it swept over the western Gulf of Mexico. But the region escaped major destruction and no deaths were reported.



Hurricane Delta earlier swept over the western Gulf of Mexico, but the area escaped widespread damage

Delta is the 26th named storm of an unusually active Atlantic hurricane season.

In September, meteorologists were forced to break out the Greek alphabet to name Atlantic storms for only the second time ever, after the 2020 [hurricane](#) season blew through their usual list, ending on Tropical

Storm Wilfred.

As the ocean surface warms due to climate change, hurricanes become more powerful. Scientists say there will likely be an increase in powerful Category 4 and 5 storms.

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