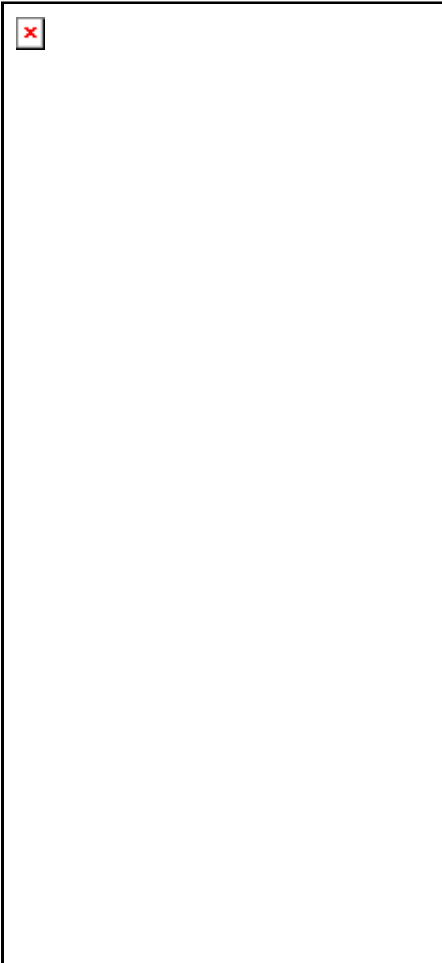


New England hurricanes that hurt

Cape Cod Times

New England Hurricane (1938)

The Great Hurricane of 1938 (or Great New England Hurricane or Long Island Express) was the first major hurricane to strike New England since 1869. The storm formed near the coast of Africa in September, becoming a Category 5 hurricane before making landfall as a Category 3 hurricane on Long Island on Sept. 21. The hurricane storm surge caused immense damage in New England because it hit at high tide. It is the strongest hurricane to hit New England in recorded history.



■ Vacationers waiting in the ferry stand-by line in Vineyard Haven were stranded on Martha's Vineyard when the Steamship Authority canceled ferry service during Hurricane Edouard in 1996. (File photo/Cape Cod Times)

Hurricane Carol (1954)

Carol formed as a tropical storm near the Bahamas and became a hurricane over the next few days. As it

approached the United States, it followed a path similar to that of hurricanes Gloria and Bob, briefly making landfall along the Outer Banks of North

Carolina before directly striking Long Island, N.Y. Both landfalls were near the storm's peak intensity, with winds around 100 mph. The storm swept from

Connecticut through central New England and then north toward the coast. It went as far as Maine before Sept. 1, diminishing as it swept up into Canada.

Hurricane Edna

Edna formed early in September off Barbados. Strengthening slowly, Edna followed the shape of the Caribbean islands, never moving more than 100 miles away from land. Edna was a Category 3 by the time it

took aim at North Carolina's Outer Banks. The hurricane weakened slightly as it moved north over cooler waters. Before striking New England, its eye actually split into two different ones, up to 60 miles apart. It then moved over Cape Code before finally making landfall near Eastport, Maine, with sustained winds around 92 mph.

Hurricane Bob

On Aug. 16, a tropical depression formed 200 miles to the east of the Bahamas. This storm moved slowly to the northwest and intensified.

As Bob became a hurricane, it began to move to the northeast and accelerated. By Aug. 19, the storm was located 30-35 miles to the east of Cape Hatteras, and was at its peak intensity of 115 mph.

As the storm moved quickly northeast, it began to weaken over the colder waters.

The storm made landfall near New Bedford packing 100 mph winds. Coastal communities bore the brunt of the storm, with sustained winds between 75 to 100 mph. Peak wind gusts to 125 mph were recorded on Cape Cod in the towns of Brewster and Truro, as well as in Wethersfield, Conn. The highest sustained wind of 100 mph was recorded in North Truro.

Bob caused a storm surge of 6 to 10 feet (above mean tide) along the Rhode Island shore, but drove a surge of 10 to 15 feet into Buzzards Bay. The Buzzards Bay shore east to Cape Cod was hardest hit. The highest surges, of 12 to 15 feet, were observed in Onset, Bourne, and Wareham, at the head of Buzzards Bay.

Cove Road in Mattapoisett had 29 of 37 homes destroyed, while Angelica Point lost 32 of 35 homes along the shore. Boat damage was significant, as many boats were torn from their moorings. Extensive beach erosion occurred along the shore from Westerly, R. I. eastward.

Some south facing beach locations on Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket lost up to 50 feet of beach to erosion.

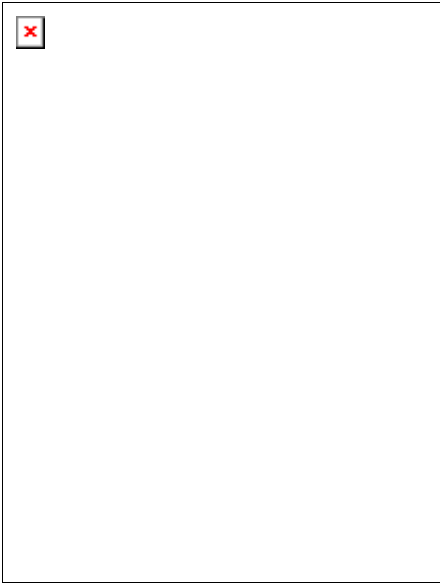
The storm cut a path across Southeastern Massachusetts and then into the Gulf of Maine and continued to weaken. By 10 p.m. on the 19th, the storm made a second landfall in Rockland, Maine, at which time it was downgraded to a tropical storm. The storm proceeded across eastern Maine and New Brunswick and then out to sea on Aug. 29.

Hurricane Edouard (1996) A Cape Verde-type hurricane, Edouard formed near the coast of Africa in the middle of August. It moved west then curved northward, and persisted until early September when it became extratropical to the southeast of New England.

Edouard, originally predicted to strike the Northeast, produced hurricane force gusts to portions of southeastern Massachusetts but it remained offshore. With the threat of Edouard looming over Labor Day weekend, however, traffic backed up from the Sagamore Bridge to the Orleans Rotary.

(Published: July 14, 2006)

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■ Clyde Herlitz and Carolyn Gassmann, both of Bourne, console each other after finding their boat off of Monument Beach.
(Staff file photo by Ron Schloerb)