

# KATE SHOULD BE LAST STORM OF ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON

**Dallas Morning News – November 24 1985**  
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If this year's hurricane season follows the age-old pattern, Hurricane Kate should be the Atlantic's last tropical storm of 1985.

The Atlantic Hurricane Season, which opened June 1, ends November 30, and there's little chance the Atlantic will generate a late December storm.

So what kind of hurricane season was it?

Deadly and expensive.

Preliminary figures compiled by the National Hurricane Forecast Center in Coral Gables, Florida, show this year's hurricanes claimed at least 27 lives, one of the highest death tolls in a decade. Damage along the East and Gulf Coasts surpassed \$4 billion.

For the first time since 1916, eight storms made landfalls on the East and Gulf Coasts. The average is two a year.

Every community from Maine to Texas – with the exception of Brownsville, Texas – had at least one hurricane watch or warning this year, and millions of people were forced to flee their homes. Some frustrated folks in Florida had to head for high ground three times.

For the most part, the deaths and damage this year were caused by three memorable storms: Hurricane Elena, which battered Florida and the Gulf Coast in July; Hurricane Gloria, which slashed Long Island and New England in September; and Hurricane Juan, which inflicted tremendous flooding on Louisiana.

Gloria killed 11 in New York and New England, while Juan drowned eight along the Gulf Coast and Elena caused three Gulf Coast deaths.

Overall, the Atlantic generated 11 tropical storms, including seven that became full-fledged hurricanes.

In an average year, the Atlantic brews 10 tropical storms and six swell to hurricane size. The 1985 Hurricane Season produced only one more storm than the Twentieth Century's annual average.