

November 26, 2021

2021 Hurricane Season: Hurricane Ida Recap

- As if Louisiana wasn't beleaguered enough after enduring three hurricanes in 2020, Hurricane Ida roared ashore on Aug. 29, the 16-year anniversary of Katrina's devastating landfall.
- Ida pushed storm surge flooding of possibly over 10 feet in parts of southeast Louisiana and wrung out up to 16 inches of rain in southern Mississippi.
- Grand Isle, Jean Lafitte, Braithwaite, LaPlace and areas near the lakeshore in New Orleans were inundated.



- Jefferson Parish President Cynthia Lee Sheng said Grand Isle was "uninhabitable" after the storm, with 10 to 12 levee breaks on the Gulf of Mexico side. All of Grand Isle's homes were damaged, and 40% of the homes were "nearly-to-completely destroyed", according to NOAA.
- Winds gusted over 100 mph along the Louisiana coast, including a 172 mph gust on a ship, among the nation's strongest gusts ever recorded in a hurricane.
- Its track brought its strongest winds into New Orleans where winds gusted up to 99 mph.
- These winds downed all eight transmission lines supplying electricity to New Orleans and left some residents without power for nearly a week.
- Outages in Louisiana alone topped 1 million, and hundreds of thousands were without running water.
- Ida's 150 mph Category 4 landfall tied 2020's Laura and the Last Island 1856 hurricane for strongest (by wind speed) to affect the Pelican State. It was the first time on record Category 4 landfalls occurred in Louisiana in back-to-back years.

Northeast

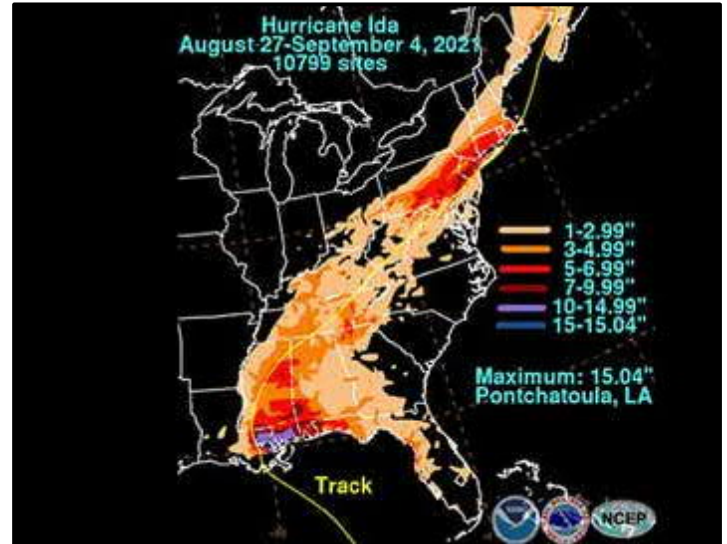
- Ida reminded us of the inland danger of tropical cyclones hundreds of miles away from a reeling Louisiana.
- Even though Ida had been downgraded to a tropical depression its circulation combined with a previously stalled front to wring out up to 11 inches of rain in the Northeast in early September.
- New York City's Central Park picked up 3.15 inches of rainfall in a single hour on the evening of Sept. 1. That was the heaviest one-hour rainfall on record there.
- Newark, New Jersey, picked up 8.41 inches of rain on Sept. 1. That was their record wettest calendar day dating to 1931.
- The torrential rain quickly overwhelmed major infrastructure. Roads turned into rivers that trapped motorists, subways gushed like geysers, water filled buses up to the seats and Newark Airport flooded.

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- Water rapidly flooded basements and ground levels in neighborhoods and apartments, trapping residents. At least 11 people in New York City died in flooded apartments alone.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 53 people died due to drowning in the Northeast from Ida. Twenty-eight of those drowning fatalities were in New Jersey and 18 of those were in New York.
- The Schuylkill River in Philadelphia experienced its worst flood in more than 150 years on Sept. 2. Its crest of 16.35 feet was only topped by an Oct. 4, 1869 flood when the river hit its all-time record stage of 17 feet.
- Twelve river gauges measured record flood crests in eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey. After the rain ended, lingering flooding left parts of New Jersey almost unrecognizable.
- If that wasn't enough, Ida spawned destructive tornadoes. An EF3 in Mullica Hill, New Jersey, was the state's first F/EF3-rated tornado in 31 years.
- NOAA estimated Ida inflicted just under \$65 billion damage in the U.S.
- That's good for the fifth costliest tropical cyclone in U.S. history behind only Katrina, Harvey, Maria and Sandy.



WSP USA Inspection Services Active Disasters

Disaster Number and State	Disaster Type	Number of Counties Declared	Days Since Launch	Registration Deadline
4607 MI	Severe Storms & Flooding	4 Counties	129	11/12/2021
4611 LA	Hurricane	25 Parishes	87	11/29/2021
4614 NJ	Hurricane	12 Counties	80	12/06/2021
4615 NY	Hurricane	9 Counties	80	12/06/2021
4618 PA	Hurricane	8 Counties	75	12/10/2021
4626 MS	Hurricane	8 Counties	31	12/22/2021

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WSP USA INSPECTION SERVICES ACTIVITY

