



## DAMAGE LIGHT AS DIANE PASSES NORTHWARD ACROSS EAST N. C.



Photo Of Carolina Beach, With Boardwalk Damaged By Last Week's Connie, Was Taken Few Days Ago. There Was Not Time To Make Repairs Before Diane Hit

### Tropical Storm Losing Strength Over Land

WILMINGTON (AP)—Hurricane Diane, churning menacingly eight days up from the tropics, hit the North Carolina coast today but did relatively little damage.

She pushed into central North Carolina with falling force. The Weather Bureau shortly before noon (EST) located her 55 miles southeast of Raleigh, N. C., traveling north northwest about 12 miles an hour. At that time her winds had fallen below hurricane force and her eye was becoming disorganized. She was expected to have 60-mile-an-hour winds upon reaching the Raleigh area.

The bureau added that Diane would continue to lose force as she moved on the same course into Virginia tonight.

The most serious development came at Washington, N. C., where high tides from the Pamlico River rose into streets of low areas.

The office of North Carolina Gov. Luther Hodges said scattered and "very preliminary" reports indicated damage along the beaches was "almost miraculously light."

This fourth hurricane of the season made her central landfall at this southeastern North Carolina river port. Her force was blunted as she moved on a northwesterly course over land toward northwestern Virginia.

Even before Diane came to the mainland her one-time 115-mile-an-hour core winds had fallen to gusts of 100. Maximum winds clocked in at 74 m.p.h.

Diane invaded the land only five days after Hurricane Connie had sidestepped northeastern South Carolina, invaded this area and blown out in Pennsylvania. Connie took 43 lives and wrought damage estimated in the millions.

Diane's center passed Wilmington at 5:28 a.m. Nearby beaches suffered heavy soakings. Many beach areas of both Carolinas had been evacuated yesterday.

The Weather Bureau said the storm would move into northwestern Virginia early tomorrow with winds abated to 20 to 30 miles an hour.

At Carolina Beach, N. C., on a peninsula south of Wilmington, waves washed away several feet of the beach and pounded the buildings in the boardwalk.

Water flooded streets and washed across from the ocean to the yacht basin. But observers said the damage there was not as serious as that caused by Connie.

At Atlantic Beach, to the northeast, many houses were seriously damaged by waves.

Hurricane winds, 75 miles or higher, were recorded along the North Carolina coast with gusts up to 95 miles at Southport, N. C.

The all-clear signal was given at Myrtle Beach at 6 a.m. National Guard, Civil Air Patrol and other emergency personnel started moving out.

The most serious damage of the area occurred north of Myrtle Beach, where last night's high tide cut back the beaches by several feet. These beaches also were washed seriously by Hurricane Connie.

About 15,000 of the normal summer population of some 40,000 stayed overnight in Myrtle Beach. The day dawned chilly and overcast, but the skies soon began clearing.

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BACK TO NORMAL  
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Abeyons said there was no wholesale evacuation of the town but many people were leaving their homes because of rising waters from the Pamlico River. In many low areas water had entered the homes.

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### Washington, N. C., Partly Under Water

WASHINGTON, N. C. (AP)—Some areas of this coastal town were 4 to 6 feet under water today as steps were taken to evacuate riverfront areas.

Bill Anonymous, manager of Radio State WERP, said "Many oldtimers tell me this is the worst flood conditions we've had since the flood of 1913."

The edge of the Pamlico River, he said, came within 10 feet of Main St. Some flooded areas reach as far back as 2nd St.

Waters, already high as a result of Hurricane Connie, pushed up again as tides rose under the impact of Hurricane Diane.

SITUATION CRITICAL  
In Raleigh, Gen. Edward F. Griffin, state Civil Defense director, reported that three-fourths of the town was under water. The situation was termed "extremely critical."

After first reports of the flooding were received in Raleigh, Adjutant Gen. John Hall Manning ordered 13 national guard trucks to Washington and called 135 Washington National Guardsmen to active duty.

However, the situation did not become as critical as had been feared, and the trucks and guardsmen stood by to be of help if it became necessary.

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### Many Phones Knocked Out

RALEIGH (AP)—E. A. Clement of Raleigh, district manager for Southern Bell Telephone Co., said preliminary reports from the hurricane area around Wilmington, Southport, Wrightsville and Carolina beaches indicated an estimated 5,000 telephones out of service.

Some 45 long distance circuits were knocked out, but construction crews dispatched during the early morning hours quickly cleared most of these troubles. Clement said he expects all phone trouble will be cleared by tomorrow night.

Southern Bell has crews located throughout the eastern part of the state for emergencies as they may develop, he added.

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### Grand Strand Has Almost No Damage

THE GRAND STRAND — This golden strip of South Carolina beachhead is cast in grey this morning, but it is purely physical. The people of the strand are cheering again.

For the second time in a week, potentially dangerous hurricanes passed up their valued shores.

A survey from East Cherry Grove south to Myrtle Beach shows virtually no damage to the strand.

They can't expect tourists to pour back in the rest of the season, but if they want to, they're ready for them.

Sparingly settled East Cherry Grove took the worst of it last night, but the worst was nothing like hurricane force. It was just an abnormally high tide.

But while the tide was high there, it was only two to three feet above normal at Myrtle.

At East Cherry Grove, six houses were more or less undermined. The undermining started with Hurricane Connie last week and last night's high tides did a little more damage. However, it was not extensive.

Frank Cline of Concord was one of the worried people on the strand today. In the face of a rising tide yesterday afternoon, he and his neighbors at Cherry Grove threw up a temporary sea wall of timber and backed it with sand bags.

By dark last night, it had washed away. By midnight, he had re-See GRAND on page 6-A

### N. C. Beaches Damaged Less Than Last Week

By NOEL YANCEY  
CAROLINA BEACH — An early estimate: Hurricane Diane wrought less damage to beaches of southeastern North Carolina than did her sister, Connie, last week.

Powerful waves pounded this vacation peninsula pretty hard, but no major damage was in evidence before the morning high tides had subsided. Waters washed across several beach roads.

A breakwater at Kure Beach, south of here, stood up nobly before the pounding seas. Workers only late yesterday completed work on the 500-foot long breakwater. They had driven heavy timbers into the beach and braced them on the back side by hauling in loads of sand and soil. The embankment had been reinforced by one-inch metal bars driven in to a depth of 20 feet. The soil bracing these seawalls had been washed away last week by Connie.

One-third of the Kure Beach fishing pier which had survived Connie's furies, but held its footing.

Kure Beach Police Chief William Glover estimated maximum wind velocity in the night at between 35 and 50 miles an hour.

Kure Beach, with a normal mid-summer population of between 2,000 and 4,000 persons, was tented last night by fewer than 100.

Most of them were policemen, firemen, Civil Defense workers and laborers.

### Diane Follows Connie's Pattern

By JULIAN SCHERR  
Charlotte News Staff Writer

CAROLINA BEACH — At 8 a.m. this morning in the eye of Hurricane Diane, the worst of it appears about over.

Last night's symphony of howling winds and blinding rain caused roof damage along the North Carolina coast but low tide saved the coast line from more severe damage.

Right now the wind has lowered here and in the Wrightsville Beach-Wilmington area at high tide which is cutting the threat even further. However, waves are running eight to ten feet high and water damage will be considerable.

But old timers say that Diane is following closely the pattern set by Connie and is doing just

about the same amount of damage with the addition of undying most of last week's repair work. Water covers a great portion of the Carolina Beach sound area and yacht basin just as it has in the past.

Coastal fishing piers apparently are doing all right this time. When the worst winds hit last night the tide was out. Johnny Mercer's large pier at Wrightsville is reported in good shape

as are the piers here and at Kure. All suffered damage in Connie.

There is much uncertainty as to what will happen here next. Right now the area is resting in the eye of the hurricane.

Hurricane-force winds hit the area between midnight and 4 a.m. Then the eye moved in. The storm's erratic pattern changed the bureau's earlier forecast of from two to three inches of rain for the Charlotte area. At noon today, weather men said only scattered afternoon showers are likely here, and that wind should blow no harder than 35 miles per hour.

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