

STORM OPHELIA

On Monday 16th October 2017 Ireland experienced its worst storm in 50 years. The remnants of Hurricane Ophelia made landfall wreaking havoc across the island.

As Ophelia struck land at about 10am, there were outages due to felled power lines in the south and south-west of the country. Power cuts continued throughout the day and by mid-afternoon, 360,000 customers were without electricity. The Irish Republic's Electricity Supply Board warned of further outages throughout the night.

More than 140 flights from Irish airports were cancelled and by 10am, all Dublin Bus routes in the capital were shut down. The city's Luas tram system was also closed over safety fears. Every creche, school, third-level college and university in Ireland was closed. 3 people died as the result of the storm.

By mid-afternoon, Ophelia was hammering Northern Ireland with winds of up to 80mph. By 4.45pm, about 18,000 homes in Northern Ireland were without power due to falling trees knocking down power lines.

Skies across the UK turned a shade of orange during the storm. According to the Met Office, this was caused by winds pulling up Saharan dust and debris from forest fires in Spain and Portugal. This dust was then reflected and refracted in longer wavelengths, giving a red appearance to the sky.

Only 15 hurricanes have passed within 200 nautical miles of the Azores, in the Atlantic Ocean, since scientific monitoring began in 1851.

The reason why it has developed so far east is probably due to a combination of reasons to do with the gulf stream, the jet stream.



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