= Hurricane Marty (2003) =

Hurricane Marty was the deadliest tropical cyclone of the 2003 Pacific hurricane season . Forming on September 18 , it became the 13th tropical storm and fourth hurricane of the year . The storm moved generally northwestward and steadily intensified despite only a marginally favorable environment for development , and became a Category 2 hurricane before making two landfalls on the Baja California peninsula and mainland Mexico .

The hurricane was responsible for significant flooding and storm surges that caused $ 100 million (2003 USD) in damage mostly on the peninsula of Baja California , and resulted in the deaths of 12 people . Marty affected many of the same areas that had been affected by Hurricane Ignacio a month earlier .

= = Meteorological history = =

A tropical wave moved into the Pacific Ocean from Central America on September 10 . Convection along the wave became better organized as it moved westward , and a tropical depression developed on September 18 . The depression moved generally west @-@ northwestward before strengthening into Tropical Storm Marty on September 19 . The storm entrained dry air into its circulation as it curved toward the northwest , disrupting the storm 's convective structure and inhibiting further intensification for the next two days . Eventually , Marty fought off the dry air and intensified , reaching hurricane strength on September 21 .

Marty began moving north @-@ northwestward in response to a high pressure ridge to the west , and continued to strengthen , reaching a peak intensity of 100 mph (155 km / h) early on September 22 . Marty then moved northward at an increased speed before making landfall 10 mi (15 km) northeast of Cabo San Lucas in Baja California Sur later that day . After making landfall , Marty turned back to the north @-@ northwest , moving parallel to the eastern coast of the peninsula , and weakening to a tropical storm on September 23 . Marty then stalled over the Gulf of California after encountering a high pressure system over the U.S. state of Nevada , and further weakened to a tropical depression before making a second landfall near Puerto Peñasco , Sonora , on September 24 . Marty became a remnant low pressure area on September 25 , and moved erratically over the northern Gulf of California for the next two days before drifting southwestward and dissipating over the northern Baja California Peninsula on September 26 .

= = Preparations = =

Fearing a repeat of the damage left by Hurricane Ignacio a month earlier , many residents stocked up on supplies , secured their homes and evacuated to emergency shelters . The government of Mexico issued hurricane warnings for areas of the eastern coast of the Baja California Peninsula and the west coast of the mainland on September 21 . Tropical storm warnings were issued for the Mexican coastline to the Colorado River on September 23 , but were discontinued later that day . Forecasters also predicted that the hurricane might cause 4 ? 6 feet (1 @.@ 2 ? 1 @.@ 8 m) of storm surge , 8 inches (20 @.@ 3 cm) of rain , serious flash flooding , and mudslides . Many schools and tourist destinations were used as emergency shelters and most seaports and airports were closed down . Across the Gulf of California , in the state of Sonora , authorities of the municipality of Empalme monitored the status of the Punta de Agua dam , located 20 mi (30 km) upstream of the municipal seat , which threatened to overtop and flood the city . As a result , 300 residents were evacuated to shelters on higher ground .

= = Impact = =

= = = Baja California Peninsula = = =

About 8 to 11 inches (200 ? 280 mm) of rain fell in areas of the Baja California Peninsula , with the largest 24 @-@ hour rainfall total occurring at Todos Santos , Baja California Sur , where 7 @.@ 77 in (197 @.@ 5 mm) of rain fell . Numerous ships offshore reported tropical storm and hurricane @-@ force winds , and an automated weather station in Cabo San Lucas , Baja California Sur reported sustained winds of 85 mph (140 km / h) with gusts to 115 mph (185 km / h) . Santa Rosalía , Baja California Sur , reported 7 @.@ 8 inches (198 mm) of rain .

Five people drowned after their cars were swept away by floodwaters while trying to cross a flooded stream . The floods also damaged 4 @,@ 000 @-@ 6 @,@ 000 homes and buildings and significantly disrupted water and communications for an extended period of time . The hurricane 's storm surge damaged many boats and yachts in ports along the peninsula 's coast , most of them beyond repair . Minor beach erosion was reported at San Felipe , Baja California . As a result , the Baja California Sur municipalities of La Paz , Los Cabos , Loreto , Comondú , and Mulegé were declared national disaster areas . 6 @,@ 000 people were affected and total damage from the storm was $ 100 million .

Filming for the 2004 film Troy was interrupted when this hurricane moved through Baja California .

= = = Mainland Mexico = = =

On the mainland , the largest daily rainfall total occurred on Sebampo , Sonora , which recorded 6 @.@ 73 in (171 @.@ 0 mm) of rain . Five fishermen drowned when their fishing boat sank in the Gulf of California , off the coast of Sonora . Also in that state , the University of Sonora suspended operations in its Navojoa campus . Two more people died when a tree fell on a car in Sinaloa . Heavy rainfall caused moderate to severe flash flooding in Sonora and Sinaloa , although damage was not as severe or as extensive as on the Baja California peninsula . Los Mochis , Sinaloa , reported sustained winds of 45 mph (70 km / h) on September 22 .

= = = Southwestern United States = = =

The outer bands of Marty brought locally heavy rains to extreme southwestern Arizona , but there were no reports of flooding . The highest rain total was 2 @.@ 25 inches (57 mm) at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Arizona . Rainfall extended eastward into Texas , where a storm peak of 3 @.@ 09 inches (78 mm) of rain occurred in Tankersly .

Because the damage caused by Marty was not extreme , the name of the storm was not retired from the rotating Pacific hurricane name lists , and was used again in the 2009 season .