

= Hurricane Fausto (2008) =

Hurricane Fausto was a strong Category 1 hurricane that had only minor effects on land during its life over the eastern Pacific basin . The seventh tropical depression , sixth named storm , and third hurricane of the 2008 Pacific hurricane season , Fausto formed out of a tropical wave on July 16 . The storm gradually strengthened as it moved towards the west @-@ northwest , becoming a minimal hurricane two days later . On July 19 , Fausto turned towards the northwest as it continued to strengthen . The next day , while passing between the Mexican islands of Clarion and Socorro , the hurricane reached its peak intensity with winds of 90 mph (150 km / h) and a minimum pressure of 977 mbar (hPa ; 28 @.@ 85 inHg) .

Fausto steadily weakened throughout the following two days as it moved over progressively cooler waters . By July 21 , the storm was downgraded to a tropical storm and a tropical depression the next day . Early on July 23 , the depression lacked deep convection and degenerated into a remnant low pressure area . The low persisted for another day before dissipating over open waters . Hurricane Fausto had little effect on land , despite passing close to the islands of Clarion and Socorro where high winds , reaching hurricane @-@ force on Socorro , were recorded . Moderate rainfall from the outer bands of the storm amounted to 1 @.@ 9 in (50 mm) in the Mexican state of Sinaloa .

= Meteorological history =

The origins of Hurricane Fausto were in a westward @-@ traveling tropical wave that moved off the eastern coast of Africa on July 4 . Little development occurred as the wave traversed the Atlantic basin . It entered the eastern Pacific basin on July 12 after crossing Central America and began to show signs of development the next day . The system westward movement became slightly erratic on July 14 as development slowed . The following day , the system became increasingly organized and a tropical depression , which was designated 07 @-@ E , formed about 550 mi (890 km) southeast of Acapulco , Mexico . The depression maintained an area of deep convection around the center of circulation and was located within an area of moderate wind shear . An area of high pressure located over the southwestern United States was forecast to steer the system towards the northwest for most of its existence . A mid @-@ level ridge located to the north of the depression caused it to rapidly travel towards the west at 23 mph (37 km / h) for most of July 16 .

Shortly after being designated as a depression , 17 @-@ E was upgraded to a tropical storm and given the name Fausto . Despite being partially exposed from convection , the system featured several banding features which supported a wind intensity of 40 mph (65 km / h) . As a large cyclone , Fausto slowly intensified , with convection consolidating around the center the next day . The combination of relaxing wind shear and warm sea surface temperatures allowed the storm to intensify . Later that day , the center of Fausto became exposed but a large band of deep convection surrounded the exposed low . Early on July 18 , a banding eye feature began to develop in the southern portion of the storm . Around this time , forward motion slowed as it began to turn towards the northeast . Later that day , a partial eyewall began to develop , indicating that Fausto had strengthened into a hurricane with winds reaching 75 mph (120 km / h) .

Shortly after being declared a hurricane , the eye started to appear on visible satellite imagery . With low wind shear and warm waters , further intensification was anticipated . Very cold cloud tops with temperatures as low as ? 112 ° F (? 80 ° C) surrounded the developing eye allowing the storm to intensify . Strengthening stopped for most of July 19 and the first half of July 20 . That day , Fausto strengthened slightly as a ragged eye formed while the storm passed between the islands of Clarion and Socorro . At this time , the hurricane reached its peak intensity with winds of 90 mph (150 km / h) and a minimum pressure of 977 mbar (hPa ; 28 @.@ 85 inHg) . Operationally , Fausto was assessed to have reached its peak intensity several hours later as a minimal Category 2 hurricane with winds of 100 mph (155 km / h) as the eye became better defined . However , the storm was located over 75 ° F (24 ° C) waters , causing it to gradually weaken along with diminishing convective activity . Later that day , Fausto was downgraded to a tropical storm and

further weakened to a tropical depression the next day . With little or no remaining convection , the system degenerated into a remnant low pressure area as it traveled towards the west @-@ northwest . The remnants of Fausto dissipated on July 24 , while located about 1 @,@ 065 mi (1 @,@ 715 km) west of Cabo San Lucas .

= = Preparations and impact = =

The National Hurricane Center did not forecast Fausto to affect any major land areas during its existence . As such , no tropical cyclone advisories were issued . The outer bands of Fausto produced moderate rainfall over portions of Sinaloa , Mexico , peaking at 1 @.@ 9 in (50 mm) . Several hours before the center of Fausto passed between Clarion Island and Socorro Island , sustained winds on Clarion were recorded at 64 mph (103 km / h) with gusts to 94 mph (151 km / h) . Nearby Socorro recorded sustained winds of 79 mph (129 km / h) with gusts to 109 mph (175 km / h) . Little or no damage was recorded on the islands . The hurricane @-@ force winds reported on Socorro was recorded as Fausto made its closest approach to the island about 115 mi (185 km) to the southwest . However , due to the distance from the center of Fausto , these winds are suspected to be overestimated . Along the coastline of Mexico , waves up to 8 ft (2 @.@ 4 m) were recorded in relation to Fausto .