

= Hurricane Nina (1957) =

Hurricane Nina was the final tropical storm and hurricane of the 1957 Pacific hurricane season and the last storm to form during the active Central Pacific hurricane season this year . This storm was named " Nina " because during this time , hurricanes in this basin were given names from the typhoon naming lists . This storm was the last to form during a series of typhoons to form in the Pacific in November .

Nina never made landfall while active , although some forecasts called for Nina to be the first hurricane to make landfall on Hawaii , but the hurricane veered west before hitting land . However , it came close enough to Hawaii to cause light damage and prompt evacuations . Nina was the first hurricane to affect the island of Kauai at that intensity . This storm was preceded by a winter storm that caused damaging surf along the north coast of Kauai and was both preceded and proceeded by cold fronts sweeping over Hawaii .

= = Meteorological history = =

On November 29 a disturbance in the ITCZ began gaining organization near Palmyra Island , which the ITCZ had been near for a week prior . The weather station on the island reported southwestern surface winds of 50 mph and a pressure of 1002 @. @ 7 mbar and that during the night , the wind velocity peaked at 70 mph . Because of an irregular schedule for reporting , the last report received from the weather station , obtained eighteen hours earlier , had reported only small winds and 1004 @. @ 7 mb pressure . Most noteworthy about this report was the 3 @- @ hour pressure tendency , which reported -3.2 mbar . Post @- @ analysis revealed that this tendency was an indication of tropical cyclone development .

After receiving the second report on the 29th , warnings were immediately put out on the cyclone , which was given the name " Nina " from the typhoon list . For 24 hours , the center of the storm was reported to be stationary as the weather on Palmyra was continuously abnormal , but the next day , an aircraft from the Air Force showed that the storm was 500 miles north of the island and that it had intensified to hurricane strength . After six more hours , Nina 's forward speed had quickly slowed 16 mph while the storm began a northward track , heading towards Kauai , but before reaching the island , the storm turned first to the north @- @ northwest on December 2 and then sharply to the west later that day .

On December 4 Nina had reached its peak intensity of 85 mph . At this time , a polar high pressure system moved off the coast of Japan . The system reached Nina on December 6 and forced the hurricane into a southward path . Twenty hours after the turn , the cold air from the system got trapped inside the circulation of Nina and caused the storm to rapidly dissipate . The last advisory on the system was issued early on December 7 while Nina was at depression strength south of Midway Atoll .

= = Preparations = =

Despite never moving onto land , Nina 's proximity to Hawaii and the forecasts for an imminent landfall resulted in massive evacuations . An estimated 300 people living in Hanapepe and Hanalei were forced to evacuate when the Hanalei River overflowed its banks . An estimated 1 @, @ 500 people on Kauai were evacuated to higher ground , where the Red Cross had established seven evacuation centers for these people to evacuate to . In addition , thirteen members of the United States Coast Guard were evacuated from low @- @ lying islands and harbors when they were threatened by rising tides triggered by the hurricane and the threat of flooding forced 420 military personnel and families in Waikiki 's Ft . Derussy and Ft . Armstrong as well as those living in Ft . Kamehameha , near Pearl Harbor to leave for higher ground . 270 were housed in Tripler Army Hospital and a temporary shelter was opened in Ft . Shafter , both of which were on high ground . In anticipation of Nina , 85 planes were flown away from Barber 's Point Naval Air Base to Midway and several commercial flights were cancelled until the storm had passed . There was also concern for

the residents of the privately owned Niihau , the closest landmass to the center of Nina and 20 miles closer than Kauai . The island 's only communications was by boat and most attempts at reaching the island failed due to high surf .

= = Impact = =

Despite the evacuations , Nina 's closest approach to Hawaii was 120 miles away . However , it came close enough to bring winds and heavy rain to the islands . There were four deaths reported in connection to the storm . The first reported was on Oahu when Herman Palepana , a lineman in the Honolulu street department , was killed when he was electrocuted by a power line downed during Nina 's passing . Soon after , a sampan called the Setsu Maru sent a distress call reporting that the boat was sinking 10 miles east of Niihau . Even though the Navy sent the submarine rescue vessel Couchal and conducted an air @-@ seas search for the vessel , no trace of the sampan or the wreckage had been found . All three people aboard the boat were reported dead as a result . Another person in Hanapepe was injured when a tree came through a window in his house , causing minor forehead cuts . The phone lines to the county seat of Kauai County , Lihue , were broken during the hurricane . The Aloha Theater in Hanapepe had been flooded by up to three feet of water . Reports from the five major islands indicated that less than 50 homes had been damaged during the storm and roughly 12 of them being destroyed on Kauai alone . Another ship disaster occurred when the Greek freighter Margarita Chandris got caught in the storm 's winds while heading to Honolulu from Kobe . A distress call from the ship described the ship as " out of control " . The initial fears were that the winds from Nina would pull the ship closer to its center . These fears were made worse when the ship was found to be cargoless , making it easier to be moved by the waves . A later call said that the crew was unable to steer the ship . Three ships , the Rainier , the United States Coast Guard cutter Winnebago and the cargoliner President Monroe , were sent out to find and guide the Chandris to port . The Monroe finally found the freighter and guided it toward land until the Winnebago caught up . The cutter finally caught up to the Margarita Chandris and relieved the President Monroe and started planning to board and make repairs . Afterward , it was decided that the Margarita Chandris had enough fuel to drift into Honolulu alone . Nina 's proximity also caused heavy rains , with 20 @.@ 42 inches falling in Wainiha in 14 hours . Overall , Hurricane Nina was responsible for \$ 100 @,@ 000 in damages (1957 USD) , mostly from heavy surf , some of which measured 35 feet high .

= = = Records and naming = = =

While Nina was near Honolulu , it caused unusually high winds . When wind gusts of 82 mph were recorded at Honolulu airport during the storm , it set the record for highest wind gust ever recorded in that city . This was the first and last time a Central Pacific hurricane was named " Nina " . The name was not retired , but because of the use of a current naming list using the Hawaiian language , the name " Nina " will likely not be used again .