

= Hurricane Kiko (1989) =

Hurricane Kiko was one of the strongest tropical cyclones to have hit the eastern coast of Mexico 's Baja California peninsula during recorded history . The eleventh named storm of the 1989 Pacific hurricane season , Kiko formed out of a large mesoscale convective system on August 25 . Slowly tracking northwestward , the storm rapidly intensified into a hurricane early the next day . Strengthening continued until early August 27 , when Kiko reached its peak intensity with winds of 120 mph (195 km / h) . The storm turned west at this time , and at around 0600 UTC , the storm made landfall near Punta Arena at the southern tip of Baja California Sur . The hurricane rapidly weakened into a tropical storm later that day and further into a tropical depression by August 28 , shortly after entering the Pacific Ocean . The depression persisted for another day while tracking southward , before being absorbed by nearby Tropical Storm Lorena . Though Kiko made landfall as a Category 3 hurricane , its impact was relatively minor . Press reports indicated that 20 homes were destroyed and numerous highways were flooded by torrential rains .

= = Meteorological history = =

Unlike most other eastern Pacific hurricanes between 1988 and 1990 that began as tropical waves off the western coast of Africa , Hurricane Kiko developed out of a large @-@ scale mesoscale convective system on August 23 on the coast of Sonora . The system slowly tracked southward into the Gulf of California and became increasingly organized . Shower and thunderstorm activity was present around an area of low pressure the following day ; however , insufficient reports from the region hindered the National Hurricane Center 's (NHC) forecasting ability . By August 25 , satellite intensity estimates , using the Dvorak technique , indicated that the low had developed into a tropical depression around 1200 UTC , while the storm was located about 115 miles (185 kilometers) south of Mazatlán , Sinaloa . Operationally , the system was not declared a tropical depression ; instead it was immediately declared Tropical Storm Kiko with winds of 40 mph (65 km / h) . Located within an area with little or no steering current , and situated over warm waters and underneath an upper @-@ level low , conditions were near perfect for rapid intensification , despite the proximity to land . A general northwestward drift was anticipated , and the NHC forecast the storm to reach hurricane intensity within 24 hours .

Convective banding features began to develop late on August 25 as winds around the center reached 50 mph (85 km / h) . With the development of an anticyclone over the storm , Kiko 's outflow become more pronounced . Around 0600 UTC on August 26 , an eye developed within the small circulation , suggesting the cyclone had strengthened into a Category 1 hurricane on the Saffir ? Simpson hurricane wind scale . However , satellite intensity estimates indicated winds of only 40 mph (65 km / h) . Shortly after , Kiko was upgraded to a Category 2 hurricane with winds of 100 mph (155 km / h) . Ships in the vicinity of the hurricane reported tropical storm @-@ force winds extending roughly 50 mi (85 km) from the center . Winds within the eyewall subsequently increased to 115 mph (185 km / h) , making Kiko a minimal Category 3 hurricane . Intensification continued for another six hours , ending around 0000 UTC on August 27 , at which time the storm reached its peak intensity with winds of 120 mph (195 km / h) and a minimum pressure of 955 mbar (hPa ; 28 @. @ 2 inHg) .

Around the time of peak intensity , Dvorak intensity estimates reached T6.0 , equating to a minimal Category 4 hurricane with winds of 135 mph (215 km / h) . A trough located to the north of the hurricane began to weaken , causing the storm to track in a more westward direction . Kiko weakened slightly before making landfall near Punta Arena , on the southern tip of Baja California , with winds of 115 mph (185 mph) . Kiko was thus the second major hurricane to ever make landfall on the Gulf Coast of Baja California since reliable recordkeeping began in 1949 , with the other being 1967 's Hurricane Olivia . Due to the small size and slow movement of the storm , it rapidly weakened , becoming a tropical storm by 1800 UTC . Convection associated with the storm significantly diminished ; the center of circulation became nearly devoid of thunderstorm activity early on August 28 . Shortly after emerging into the Pacific Ocean , Kiko was further downgraded

into a tropical depression , and turned towards the southwest due to interaction with nearby Tropical Storm Lorena . Tropical Depression Kiko dissipated around 1800 UTC on August 29 ; however , its remnants continued southward before being absorbed by Lorena .

= = Preparations and impact = =

Around 2100 UTC on August 25 , the Government of Mexico issued a hurricane warning for the Islas Marías and areas between the southern border of Sonora and El Dorado . A hurricane watch was also issued for areas between Los Burros and the southern tip of Baja California Sur along the Gulf of California . By 0900 UTC the following day , the hurricane watch was upgraded to a warning . Roughly three hours later , the previous hurricane watch issued for Sonora was discontinued as Kiko was no longer forecast to make landfall in the state . The hurricane warning on Baja California was also extended northward to Bahía Concepción . Due to uncertainty in Kiko 's track , a hurricane watch was re - issued for Sonora between El Dorado and Los Mochis . Around 0900 UTC on August 27 , a hurricane warning was issued for areas south of San Carlos on the Pacific coast of Baja California . The hurricane watch for Sonora was then discontinued . By 1800 UTC , the hurricane warnings on the Gulf Coast of Baja California were replaced by a tropical storm warning which was declared for areas between the southern tip of the peninsula and Bahía Concepción . At this time , the hurricane warning for the Pacific coast was revised to a tropical storm warning . Early on August 28 , all watches and warnings were discontinued as Kiko weakened into a tropical depression and moved away from land .

In Baja California Sur , more than 1 @, @ 300 people evacuated to shelters in La Paz . Flights arriving and departing in the region were canceled or diverted to other airports . The Red Cross prepared shelters in schools , hospitals , and other public buildings throughout the city . On the Islas Marías , an unconfirmed report of 54 mph (87 km / h) sustained winds was relayed to the National Hurricane Center . Due to the hurricane 's small size , only areas directly in the path of the storm received precipitation ; however , a monsoonal outer band on the eastern side of the storm produced widespread rainfall in eastern Mexico . In Sonora , over 7 in (180 mm) of rain fell in mountainous areas , while numerous locations recorded at least 1 in (25 mm) . In Baja California , the heaviest rainfall was recorded in Los Cabos , and amounted to 11 @. @ 97 in (304 mm) . Only a small portion of the peninsula received more than 10 in (250 mm) of rain . At least 1 @, @ 000 people were evacuated from heavily damaged areas . Press reports indicated that 20 homes were destroyed by Hurricane Kiko . High winds , gusting over 109 mph (175 km / h) , brought down numerous trees and power lines .

Before Kiko 's eye moved ashore , the airport near Cabo San Lucas reported sustained winds of 47 mph (76 km / h) with gusts up to 63 mph (101 km / h) . Meteorological recordings near the place of landfall were not available as the small system tracked over a sparsely populated region . From La Paz to Cabo San Lucas , power and water supplies were lost . The heavy rains flooded several highways , and the resultant flood waters overturned a bus . Passengers on the bus managed to escape injury and were quickly brought to shelter by the local fire department . The storm 's effects washed out roughly 100 yd (91 m) of the San Antonio ? San Bartolome highway . The Rancho Leonero Resort in Buena Vista sustained severe roof damage and several docked boats were damaged . Several days after Kiko dissipated , remnant moisture from the storm contributed to a complex weather system that produced torrential rainfall throughout the U.S. state of Kansas , unofficially reaching 16 in (410 mm) in localized areas .