

= Tropical Storm Hermine (1980) =

Tropical Storm Hermine caused significant flooding in Mexico during September 1980 . The eleventh tropical cyclone and eight named storm of the 1980 Atlantic hurricane season , Hermine developed from a tropical wave that emerged into the Atlantic from the west coast of Africa on September 11 . After uneventfully crossing the Atlantic Ocean , the system developed a well @-@ defined circulation while in the Caribbean Sea on September 20 and was then classified as a tropical depression . After becoming a tropical cyclone , the depression steadily strengthened as it tracked nearly due westward . By September 21 , it strengthened into Tropical Storm Hermine and brushed the northern coast of Honduras shortly thereafter . It nearly became a hurricane before it made landfall in Belize on September 22 . After weakening over the Yucatan Peninsula , Hermine restrengthened to near @-@ hurricane status again over the Gulf of Mexico before making landfall in the Mexican state of Veracruz . Hermine steadily weakened inland and eventually dissipated on September 26 .

In Belize , the storm knocked out communications , though damage in that country was minimal . Heavy rainfall in Guatemala triggered landslides , causing eight fatalities . Additionally , portions of the Pan @-@ American Highway were shut down due to flooding . In Mexico , many areas reported at least 10 inches (250 mm) of precipitation , while a few locations experience more than 30 inches (760 mm) of rain . At the capital city of Mexico City , ten districts reported significant street flooding . As a result of torrential rainfall , at least 30 fatalities occurred , with dozens more missing , and leaving 25 @, @ 000 homeless . However , no estimates of damage associated with the storm were produced .

= = Meteorological history = =

A tropical wave emerged into the Atlantic from the west coast of Africa on September 11 , though the system lacked a well @-@ defined circulation . The tropical wave tracked westward for several days with minimal development , until reaching near the Lesser Antilles where a low @-@ level cloud banding feature appeared , along with an increase in central convection . This suggested a possible low @-@ level circulation , though an Air Force Reserve Flight on September 17 indicated little evidence of a circulation . On the following day , the system crossed the Lesser Antilles and entered the Caribbean Sea . As it passed near Jamaica on September 20 , a low @-@ level circulation became more apparent on satellite imagery . It is estimated that Tropical Depression Eleven developed at 1200 UTC on that day , while it was centered about 240 miles (385 km) south of Kingston , Jamaica . However , the National Hurricane Center did not initiate advisories until 2200 UTC on September 20 . The depression tracked just north of due west , and by September 21 , it was upgraded to Tropical Storm Hermine .

Later on September 21 , Hermine passed only 5 miles (8 km) offshore of northeast Honduras . An Air Force Reserve flight investigated if landfall occurred , though Hermine had remained offshore . After the storm moved to the northwest away from Honduras , it began to significantly strengthen . By September 22 , maximum sustained winds had increased to 70 mph (110 km / h) . Shortly thereafter , Hermine made landfall near Belize City at the same intensity . The storm weakened somewhat over the Yucatán Peninsula , and sustained winds were 50 mph (80 km / h) when Hermine emerged into the Bay of Campeche on September 23 . The storm quickly began to re @-@ strengthen as it tracked generally westward in the Gulf of Mexico . Although several computer models suggested a northward turn , Hermine drifted southwestward , possibly due to high terrain over Mexico . Hermine attained its peak intensity with winds of 70 mph (110 km / h) and a minimum pressure of 993 mbar (29 @. @ 3 inHg) early on September 24 , as measured by reconnaissance aircraft . After peak intensity , Hermine weakened slightly to a 65 mph (105 km / h) tropical storm . At 1200 UTC on September 24 , the storm made landfall near Coatzacoalcas , Veracruz , Mexico . Hermine steadily weakened inland and by late 1500 UTC on September 25 , it was downgraded to a tropical depression . Later that day , the National Hurricane Center noted that a low @-@ level circulation could no longer be located , and by early on the following day , Hermine dissipated over

the Mexican state of Oaxaca .

= = Impact = =

On September 21 , the government of Belize issued a gale warning , as well as a hurricane watch , for most of the eastern coast of the country . It was canceled after Tropical Storm Hermine had moved inland . In eastern Mexico , an estimated 15 @, @ 000 people evacuated from low @-@ lying areas . Additionally , the Government of Mexico sent " advices " to " interests " in the Yucatan Peninsula . Officials in Mexico urged numerous residents along the southern Gulf of Mexico coast and surrounding states to evacuate prior to the storm 's arrival . Timely warnings were later credited for reducing the loss of life .

While crossing the southern Yucatán Peninsula , Hermine brought locally heavy rains and strong winds to eastern Mexico and much of Belize ? then a colony of the United Kingdom . Between 9 and 10 inches (230 and 250 mm) of rain fell at the Philip S. W. Goldson International Airport . In Quintana Roo , more than 7 in (180 mm) of precipitation fell in localized areas , leading to floods . The storm also temporarily knocked out communication to all of Belize and Chetumal , Mexico . According to officials in the region , little damage took place during Hermine 's passage . Heavy rains in Guatemala triggered landslides , killing at least eight people after crushing a bus . Portions of the Pan American Highway were shut down due to debris .

Tropical Storm Hermine and the remnants caused heavy rainfall across along most of the southern and eastern parts of Mexico . Rainfall totals from Hermine peaked at 31 @. @ 15 in (791 mm) in San Pedro Tapanatepec , Oaxaca . When the remnants of Hermine reached the Pacific coast of Mexico , several inches of rain were recorded . Throughout the country , the hardest hit areas were Veracruz , Oaxaca , Chiapas and Guerrero . More than 30 people were killed by the storm and dozens more left missing . Ten districts in Mexico City were brought to a standstill as flood waters blocked off streets . In the small towns of Cintalapa and Jiquipán , flooding killed eight people and left twenty more missing . In addition to the loss of life , at least 25 @, @ 000 residents were left homeless due to severe flooding . Two small dams broke due to excessive rains near Tuxtla Gutiérrez , prompting the evacuation of 2 @, @ 000 residents in nearby areas . In response to the storm , an estimated 15 @, @ 000 personnel were deployed to assist in relief efforts .