

= Tropical Storm Hazel ( 1965 ) =

Tropical Storm Hazel was a weak East Pacific tropical cyclone that caused heavy damage in Mexico . The costliest storm of the 1965 Pacific hurricane season , it formed from a northward @-@ moving disturbance that originated southeast of Socorro Island . After reaching tropical storm strength on the Saffir ? Simpson Hurricane Scale , the cyclone turned to the east @-@ northeast . The storm made landfall near Mazatlán on September 26 and quickly transitioned an extratropical cyclone . Although fairly weak , the system was responsible for causing heavy damage to the Mexican economy . Flooding in Mazatlán washed out many houses and submerged others in muddy water . At least six people died with damages totaling \$ 10 million ( 1965 USD ) and possibly higher . The name Hazel was retired following this storm .

= = Meteorological history = =

On September 22 , a weak tropical disturbance was first observed southeast of Socorro Island . The disturbance moved northward uneventfully until late on September 23 , when the disturbance became a tropical depression at a distance of 100 mi ( 160 km ) . The next day , the depression intensified into a tropical storm while moving north at 8 mph ( 15 km / h ) . Later on September 24 , satellite imagery suggested winds of up to 50 mph ( 80 km / h ) near the center . Around that time , Tropical Storm Hazel reached its peak pressure of 986 mbar ( 29 @. @ 1 inHg ) . On September 26 , a ship reported peak winds of 60 mph ( 95 km / h ) . The storm then moved towards the east @-@ northeast and made landfall just south of Mazatlán on September 26 and transitioned into an extratropical cyclone shortly thereafter .

= = Preparations , impact , and aftermath = =

Since meteorologists were expecting Hazel to remain away from land , many residents were unprepared for the storm . However , 10 @, @ 000 people fled the low @-@ lying areas of Mazatlán . Substantial damage was recorded in the city Many rivers overflowed its banks , and roughly 5 @, @ 000 people were without shelter . The entire city of Mazatlán was without power and the city water system was damaged . At least 50 boats were damaged or sunk by the storm . The damage from the storm was estimated to be at least \$ 10 million ( 1965 USD ) , making Hazel the costliest tropical cyclone of the season . Three people were reported killed in Mazatlán , two fishermen died when attempted to ride out the storm , and a boy who was electrocuted by a downed power line . Three additional deaths from electrocutions were reported in a rural section of Nayarit . Due to a communications breakdown , no word was received about six vacationers in Mazatlán . The city was only reachable by boat . In addition , several shacks made of wood , tin , and cardboard were either washed away or inundated by up to 6 ft ( 1 @. @ 8 m ) of muddy water while flooding from the storm had washed out bridges and roads throughout the state and some merges were cancelled . The cyclone also had a major impact on the coastal economy since Mazatlán 's shrimp fleet , which makes up the base of the city 's economy . In southern Sinaloa , 55 @, @ 000 acres ( 220 km<sup>2</sup> ) of cotton , corn , and sorghum were lost . There were also reports of heavy losses to livestock .

After the storm , 1 @, @ 000 people were sought shelter in schools ; in the farm areas of Barron and El Wailamo , people were taking refuge on top of trees and homes . Army units and relief agencies rushed to provide aid to coastal cities . The name Hazel was retired ; the name was replaced with Heather in 1969 .