

= Hurricane Waldo (1985) =

Hurricane Waldo was a Pacific hurricane that caused significant flooding in Kansas during October 1985 . After developing into a tropical depression on October 7 , it steadily intensified , becoming a tropical storm within a day . Waldo reached hurricane intensity on October 8 . After peaking as a moderate Category 2 hurricane on the Saffir @-@ Simpson Hurricane Scale , it re @-@ curved to the east , making landfall at peak intensity near Culiacan . Afterward , it rapidly dissipated . In all , Waldo caused moderate damage in Sonora . The remnants of the storm combined with a cold front over the Great Plains . Significant flooding and one death was recorded in Kansas . Many rivers and creeks overflowed its banks .

= = Meteorological history = =

Waldo originated from a developing disturbance first noted by Eastern Pacific Hurricane Center (EPHC) on October 5 based on data from ship reports . By 0000 UTC October 7 , a circulation became evident on satellite imagery . Based on this , the EPHC upgraded the system into a tropical depression about 300 mi (480 km) west of the Mexican coast . Upon becoming a tropical cyclone , the depression began to turn to the northwest in response to a strong upper @-@ level trough over Baja California Peninsula . Passing over 86 ° F (30 ° C) sea surface temperatures , the tropical cyclone intensified into Tropical Storm Waldo about 12 hours after developing . The storm began to intensify rapidly . Meanwhile , the tropical storm passed 92 mi (148 km) east of Socorro Island . Tropical Storm Waldo then began to turn to the north and while located 130 miles (210 km) south of Baja California Sur , Waldo was upgraded into a Category 1 hurricane on the Saffir @-@ Simpson Hurricane Scale .

After reaching hurricane status the strengthening cyclone attained Category 2 hurricane status on October 9 . Shortly thereafter , a ship reported a sea level pressure of 982 mb (29 @. @ 0 inHg) just outside the center of circulation . Meanwhile , Hurricane Waldo reached its peak intensity of 105 mph (165 km / h) . Four hours after Hurricane Waldo 's peak , the storm made landfall near Culiacan . The storm rapidly dissipated during the afternoon of October 9 , while the system was located inland over Mexico . The remnants of Waldo merged with a cold front and produced heavy rains across the Great Plains and Mississippi River Valley .

= = Preparations and impact = =

In parts of Sinaloa , people were evacuated and then granted refuge in shelters . In Los Mochis , the Mexican Army was put on standby in the event the Fuerte River flooded . While no deaths or injuries were reported , much farmland and 600 houses were destroyed . The Juarez River bursts its banks , flooding at least eight neighborhoods in Culiacán . Telephone service in Los Mochis , Guarmuchil , and Guasave was cut when a communications tower was blown over . In Los Mochis , some schools and homes were destroyed and a few trees were uprooted . A total of 10 @, @ 000 people were left homeless across the state . The peak rainfall total in Mexico from Waldo was 9 @. @ 61 inches (244 mm) in Jocuixtita / San Igancio ; heavy rain was also recorded along southern Baja California Sur .

In the United States , heavy rainfall prompted flood watches for most of west Texas . The National Weather Service even noted the possibility of 12 in (300 mm) of rain in some areas across the state . Waldo contributed to rain heavy enough to cause some flash flooding in the Permian Basin area of Texas . Flood waters rose , leaving motorists stranded . One motorist was stranded for 30 minutes before begin rescued by another car . Odessa , Texas received about 2 in (51 mm) in a four and half @-@ hour period . Torrential rainfall was recorded in Texas , but the highest official rainfall total in the United States was 6 @. @ 6 in (170 mm) , recorded in Hobbs , New Mexico . Flash floods affected the southern one ? third of the state from rainfall associated from Waldo . Damage was estimated between \$ 100 @, @ 000 ? \$ 1 million (1985 USD) , mostly to crops , roads , and buildings .

With help from a cold front , Waldo contributed to major flooding in Kansas that forced many rivers and creeks to overflow their banks . A total of 4 @. @ 5 inches (110 mm) of rain fell in some locations . In the rural town of Raymond , a 52 @- @ year @- @ old man died from a heart attack while moving to higher ground due to rising floodwaters . Approximately 15 people were evacuated from their homes in Easton due to the overflow of the nearby Stranger Creek . Some of the evacuated resident slept at the nearby senior center for the night where the American Red Cross delivered items such as blankets , food , and clothes to the victims of the flood . In Kansas City , Waldo produced 1 ft (30 cm) of water on roads , but none of the nearby homes received extensive damage . The Sedgwick County , the county fire department freed 35 trapped people from rising flood waters , six of which were rescued via helicopter . County workers were forced to use sandbags to prevent the dike along Cowskin creek from breaking . The Salt Creek overflowed its banks ; subsequently , Highway 68 closed in Osage County . Within six days after the dissipation of Hurricane Waldo , the remnants had produced heavy rainfall as far north as Michigan with flooding recorded as far north as Iowa . Waldo 's rain were comparable to Atlantic Hurricane Gloria though the wind speeds were much lower .