

= Hurricane Erick (2013) =

Hurricane Erick brought minor impact to the western coastline of Mexico in July 2013 . The fifth tropical cyclone and named storm , as well as the fourth hurricane of the annual hurricane season , Erick originated from a tropical wave that moved off the western coast of Africa on June 18 . The wave tracked swiftly westward with little development , emerging into the eastern Pacific on July 1 . As a result of favorable environmental conditions , the wave developed into a tropical depression on July 4 , and further into Tropical Storm Erick at 0000 UTC on July 5 . Steered generally west @-@ northwest , Erick intensified into a Category 1 hurricane and reached its peak intensity with winds of 80 mph (130 km / h) on July 6 . Its proximity to land and track over increasingly cooler waters caused the storm to deteriorate into a tropical storm the following day , though it remained at such intensity until degenerating into a remnant low early on July 9 . The remnant circulation dissipated a few hours later , southwest of Baja California Sur .

In preparation for the cyclone , numerous tropical cyclone warnings and watches were issued for various portions of the coastline of Mexico . Ports were closed and residents in low @-@ lying areas were asked to evacuate to higher grounds . In addition , shipping by means of boat was suspended . Though the center of Erick remained offshore , the outer bands of the system brought gusty winds and isolated heavy rainfall to Western Mexico . In Guerrero , minor flooding was reported in the cities of Acapulco and Puerto Marques . A river overflowed its banks in Nayarit , flooding several cities in the state . Numerous cars , streets , and homes were damaged by flooding . A woman died as she attempted to flee her house , while a man was killed after being swept away by the river . Hundreds of people were rescued by the Mexican military and Nayarit officials . Across Baja California Sur , the storm produced widespread precipitation , leading to flooding .

= = Meteorological history = =

On June 18 , a tropical wave emerged off the western coastline of Africa and into the eastern Atlantic . Tracking steadily westward , it maintained a small but organized area of convection ? shower and thunderstorm activity ? along its axis for the next several days . The wave crossed the Lesser Antilles on June 24 and Central America on June 29 , emerging into the eastern Pacific shortly thereafter . During the evening of July 1 , the National Hurricane Center (NHC) began monitoring the system , noting that environmental conditions were expected to become favorable for slow development . The wave interacted with a larger area of low pressure on July 2 , leading to an increase in convective coverage and the formation of a broad low @-@ pressure area . Continuing slowly westward , the system acquired enough organization to be declared a tropical depression at 1200 UTC on July 4 , while centered 205 mi (330 km) southeast of Acapulco , Mexico . Despite the initially exposed center of circulation , a byproduct of moderate wind shear , the depression soon began to organize as convective banding increased and gained more curvature . This led to the classification of Tropical Storm Erick at 0000 UTC on July 5 .

Under the influence of a mid @-@ level ridge over the northwestern Caribbean Sea and an upper @-@ level ridge over the southwestern United States , the newly upgraded Erick tracked west @-@ northwest parallel to the coastline of Mexico . A central dense overcast formed by the daylight hours of July 5 , with tight banding noted on satellite . In addition , microwave imagery indicated the formative stages of an eyewall . Initially vertically decoupled , the storm became more vertically aligned throughout the following hours . A ragged eye became intermittently visible on satellite , and Erick was upgraded to Category 1 hurricane status at 0600 UTC , located approximately 105 mi (170 km) west @-@ southwest of Lázaro Cárdenas , Mexico . In conjunction with satellite intensity estimates , it is estimated that Erick attained its peak intensity with maximum sustained winds of 80 mph (130 km / h) and a minimum barometric pressure of 983 mb (hPa ; 29 @. 03 inHg) at 1200 UTC . Shortly thereafter , its proximity to the coastline of Mexico and track over increasingly cooler waters caused the storm to begin a weakening trend . At 1800 UTC on July 7 , Erick weakened to a tropical storm as its associated convective mass warmed and the eye deteriorated . Wind shear caused the center of circulation to become exposed on July 9 as the system passed just south of

Baja California Sur , leading to degeneration into a remnant low @-@ pressure area at 0600 UTC . The remnant vortex persisted for a few more hours , before dissipating over cold sea surface temperatures at 0000 UTC on July 10 .

= = Preparations and impact = =

Following the system 's designation , a tropical storm watch was issued for the southwestern coastline of Mexico stretching from Acapulco to La Fortuna . By 0300 UTC on July 5 , the watch was extended from Acapulco to Manzanillo , while a tropical storm warning was issued from Lázaro Cárdenas to Manzanillo . Several hours later , the watch was discontinued for the coastline stretching from Acapulco to Lázaro Cárdenas and issued from La Fortuna to Cabo Corrientes . Meanwhile , the warning from Lázaro Cárdenas to Manzanillo was discontinued , with a new warning issued from Zihuatanejo to La Fortuna . All tropical storm watches in effect were discontinued by 0300 UTC the following morning , with the warning being extended from Zihuatanejo to Cabo Corrientes . After being upgraded to a hurricane , Erick prompted the issuance of hurricane watches stretching from Punta San Telmo to Cabo Corrientes . At 1500 UTC on July 6 , a tropical storm watch was issued from Santa Fe to La Paz , though this was upgraded to a warning several hours later . Following many other revisions , all tropical cyclone watches and warnings were discontinued after Erick degenerated into a remnant low early on July 9 .

In preparation for the tropical cyclone , an " orange " alert was issued for southern Michoacán , southern Jalisco , and the entire state of Colima , while a " yellow " alert was posted for the rest of the Jalisco coastline . The ports of Acapulco , Zihuatanejo , and Manzanillo were closed . In fear of flash flooding , residents along low @-@ lying areas of Acapulco were urged to evacuate . Meanwhile , the government of Michoacán ordered the suspension of shipping by boat .

Despite remaining offshore , the outer rainbands of the storm affected the southwestern coastline with gusty winds and heavy rainfall , with similar effects farther northwest . In Acapulco and Puerto Marques , the storm was responsible for minor flooding . Elsewhere across the state , damage was minor and mostly due to landslides . Along the coast of Colima , waves up to 9 ft (2 @.@ 7 m) were recorded . Although some flooding was reported across the state , damage was considered minor .

Further north , Erick brought extensive flood damage to Nayarit . A 74 @-@ year @-@ old woman died while trying to escape her flooded house , while dozens of vehicles were damaged and several other streets and homes were flooded . One river overflowed its banks , affecting numerous cities . Officials in Nayarit attempted to rescue hundreds of people affected by Hurricane Erick , many of whom waited on streets to be rescued . Dozens of families were directly affected by the storm . Substantial amounts of debris piled up on streets . Residents reported severe economical losses , especially in Xalisco , where a disaster declaration was necessary . Offshore , a waterspout was reported . In Tepic , Governor Roberto Sandoval ordered a state of emergency . Although the core of the system remained offshore , a " yellow " alert was issued for Baja California Sur . Heavy rain was recorded over much of the peninsula , resulting in flooding . The ports of La Paz , Cabo San Lucas , and San Jose del Cabo were closed due to high waves . Additionally , a " green " alert was issued for Baja California . In all , two people were killed while two others were missing . About 5 @, @ 500 people were homeless in Xalisco .