

= Hurricane Brenda (1973) =

Hurricane Brenda of August 1973 was the first tropical cyclone on record to make landfall in the Mexican Province of Campeche . The tropical wave that spawned Brenda moved off the west coast of Africa on August 9 , and uneventfully traversed the Atlantic . By August 18 , an associated area of low pressure developed sufficient convective activity to be declared a tropical depression . Later that day , the system intensified into a tropical storm before moving inland over the Yucatan Peninsula . Brenda had moved back over water by August 21 and began to quickly intensify , with an eye forming later that day . The storm peaked as an upper @-@ end Category 1 hurricane with winds of 90 mph (140 km / h) before making landfall in Campeche . The hurricane rapidly weakened after moving over land and dissipated the following day .

Brenda made two landfalls in Mexico : first in the Yucatan and later in Campeche . Little damage resulted from the storm throughout the Yucatan Peninsula . However , severe damage took place in areas near Brenda 's second landfall . A total of 10 people were killed by the hurricane and over 2 @, @ 000 more were left homeless . Flooding caused by Brenda was considered to be the worst in over 25 years in some places .

= = Meteorological history = =

Hurricane Brenda originated from a tropical wave that moved off the western coast of Africa on August 9 ; however , the initial wave quickly weakened upon entering the Atlantic Ocean . By August 13 , the wave began to regenerate as it passed through the Lesser Antilles , producing scattered shower and thunderstorm activity . Several days later , convection associated with the system consolidated into a central , organized mass and on August 18 , the system had become sufficiently organized to be declared a tropical depression . Early the next day , the depression strengthened into Tropical Storm Brenda following reports of gale @-@ force winds from ships in the vicinity of the storm . Prior to its first landfall , Brenda suddenly intensified , with the central barometric pressure decreasing to 992 mbar (hPa ; 29 @. @ 29 inHg) and winds reached 65 mph (105 km / h) . The storm moved inland roughly 30 mi (48 km) north of Cozumel at the northern edge of the Yucatan Peninsula on August 19 .

Roughly 24 hours after landfall , the center of Brenda passed directly over the city of Mérida , Yucatán . By this time , a strong ridge over southern Texas and northern Mexico caused the storm to take an unusual southwest turn . Later on August 20 , the center of Brenda moved into the Gulf of Mexico , specifically the Bay of Campeche . Once back over water , Brenda began to quickly intensify , attaining hurricane status later that day . The next day , a well @-@ defined eye had developed and the storm attained its peak intensity as a high @-@ end Category 1 hurricane with winds of 90 mph (140 km / h) and a minimum pressure of 977 mbar (hPa ; 28 @. @ 85 inHg) . Around this time , the tropical storm force winds extended out 150 mi (240 km) to the north and 75 mi (121 km) to the south . The storm made landfall later that day near Ciudad del Carmen , Mexico at this intensity , becoming the first hurricane to strike the region on record . After moving inland , Brenda rapidly weakened to a depression by the morning of August 22 and dissipated later that day .

= = Impact and aftermath = =

The tropical wave that spawned Brenda produced significant amounts of rainfall in the Cayman Islands as it became better organized . Upwards of 4 in (100 mm) was recorded on Grand Cayman on August 17 . Following its first landfall in the northern Yucatan , Brenda produced heavy rainfall and high winds , gusting near 70 mph (110 km / h) . Along the coast , waves were recorded up to 20 ft (6 @. @ 1 m) . Offshore , a freighter with 25 crewman became trapped in the storm after its engines failed . The United States Coast Guard responded to the distress call sent out by the ship once Brenda had moved into the Gulf of Mexico on August 21 .

Already suffering from severe flooding that killed at least 18 people and left 200 @, @ 000 homeless

, Hurricane Brenda worsened the situation with torrential rainfall and additional flooding . Following the damage wrought by Brenda , a large earthquake struck the region , hampering relief efforts and collapsing numerous structures . Winds on land gusted up to 112 mph (180 km / h) , leading to severe wind damage . Brenda caused a total of 10 deaths . Two of the fatalities occurred in Campeche after 80 % of the city was flooded . Two more of these deaths occurred in the coastal city of Veracruz . This was considered to be the worst flooding in the city in over 25 years . According to officials , 452 homes and the local docks were destroyed in the region . An estimated 2 @, @ 000 people were left homeless as a direct result of Brenda throughout Mexico .