

= Hurricane Fausto (2002) =

Hurricane Fausto was a long @-@ lived tropical cyclone that formed during the 2002 Pacific hurricane season . The eighth tropical cyclone and fifth named storm of the season , Fausto developed on August 21 from a tropical wave that had crossed the Atlantic , and entered the Pacific on August 17 . Becoming a tropical depression , the system intensified , and quickly became Tropical Storm Fausto early on August 22 . Fausto rapidly intensified , and was already a hurricane on that same day as becoming a tropical storm . Rapid intensification continued , and the tropical cyclone ultimately peaked as a strong Category 4 hurricane on the Saffir @-@ Simpson Hurricane Scale . At that time , the winds 145 mph (230 km / h) . Fausto began to gradually weaken after attaining peak intensity on August 24 , and was eventually downgraded to a tropical storm two days later . Weakening continued , and Fausto degenerated into a remnant low on August 28 while well northeast of Hawaii .

Passing north of the Hawaiian Islands , the remnants of the hurricane later began to revive , and had re @-@ developed into a tropical depression on August 30 . Additional re @-@ intensification was not significant , although Fausto managed to become a tropical storm again on September 1 . Remaining a minimal tropical storm , no further intensification occurred , and by September 3 , Fausto was absorbed by a frontal system .

= = Origins = =

The origins of Hurricane Fausto were from a tropical wave that emerged into the eastern Atlantic Ocean from the west coast of Africa on August 11 . It crossed the Atlantic and Caribbean Sea uneventfully . The tropical wave ultimately entered the Eastern Pacific Basin on August 17 . Rapidly organizing , the system was classified using the Dvorak technique at 1800 UTC on August 18 . Although a broad closed circulation was present on August 19 , the system became less organized and thus was not immediately classified as a tropical depression .

Over the next two days , however , the system became much more organized . Early on August 21 , the National Hurricane Center had initiated advisories on Tropical Depression Eight @-@ E. After the existence of banding features was noted , the intensity was increased to 40 mph (65 km / h) , indicating that the system had intensified into a tropical storm , which was named Fausto by the National Hurricane Center (NHC) . Although no further strengthening initially occurred , Fausto began to intensify after a burst in convection early on August 22 . Rapid deepening began to occur thereafter , and the NHC noted that Fausto exhibited a classic @-@ type banding feature and also noted that the outflow was increasing . The large size and widespread convection closely resembled a system that would become a major hurricane , Category 3 or higher on the Saffir @-@ Simpson Hurricane Scale . The associated banding features began to wrap completely around the system , and evidence of a developing eye was seen via weather satellite . Simultaneously , satellite estimates made via the Dvorak technique indicated that intensity of Fausto was 75 mph (120 km / h) , and as a result , the NHC upgraded it to a hurricane .

= = Intensification and peak intensity = =

Although the eye feature became obscured and banding features appeared to be dissipating six hours after becoming a hurricane , the NHC predicted rapid intensification . As the eye became visible on satellite imagery early on August 23 , winds increased to 100 mph (155 km / h) , and Fausto became a Category 2 hurricane . Although the convective cloud tops had warmed slightly late that day , wind speeds continued to increase , and intensity estimates made at the University of Wisconsin were as high as 145 mph (230 km / h) , though the National Hurricane Center was in agreement with estimates from all three Dvorak Technique agencies (the Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch (TAFB) , the Satellite Analysis Branch (SAB) , and the Air Force Weather Agency (AFWA)) , which estimated winds at 115 mph (185 km / h) . Based on this , Hurricane Fausto had intensified into a Category 3 on the Saffir @-@ Simpson Hurricane Scale .

The hurricane continued to intensify , although the NHC anticipated strengthening to cease , because the hurricane was expected to move into areas of colder sea surface temperatures . During this period , the winds of the system increased and Fausto became a Category 4 hurricane . Becoming a Category 4 hurricane , Fausto attained its peak intensity , with winds of 145 mph (230 km / h) and a minimum barometric pressure of 936 mbar (hPa ; 27 @. @ 64 inHg) . After attaining peak intensity , the NHC again noted that it was very likely that Fausto attained its peak intensity , as it was nearing a region of sea surface temperatures less than 78 ° F (26 ° C) .

= = Weakening and re @-@ development = =

Deep convection around the eyewall began to diminish , and Fausto then weakened to a Category 3 hurricane . After quickly dropping in strength to a Category 2 hurricane , Fausto weakened at nearly the same rate as it had intensified . Although Fausto held steady as a Category 2 hurricane for 18 hours , it then began to rapidly weaken back into a Category 1 hurricane , then a tropical storm six hours later early on August 26 . Upon weakening into a tropical storm , Forecaster Miles Lawrence at NHC noted " ... there is no longer any deep convection associated with its circulation ... " , although Fausto still remained a tropical cyclone . On August 27 , the NHC issued its final advisory on Fausto , although not for dissipation , but rather that the storm crossed 140 ° W , and had entered the area of responsibility for the Central Pacific Hurricane Center (CPHC) . While post @-@ storm analysis from the CPHC indicated that Fausto was a tropical storm upon emerging into the CPHC 's area of responsibility (AOR) , the storm was operationally classified as a tropical depression upon entering the AOR . With no deep convection remaining , the CPHC downgraded Fausto into a tropical depression at 0000 UTC August 28 . Fausto degenerated into a remnant low while located over 800 mi (1287 km) north of Hilo , Hawaii on August 28 at 1200 UTC .

Although Fausto headed generally northwest while a tropical cyclone , it curved west @-@ northwest after degenerating into a remnant low . Passing several hundred miles north of Hawaii , deep convection began to re @-@ develop as the remnants of Fausto interacted with a tropical upper @-@ tropospheric trough . By 1800 UTC on August 28 , the low had enough deep convection to be reclassified as a tropical depression while located roughly 635 mi (1020 km) north of Oahu . No further re @-@ intensification occurred for almost 48 hours , and then Fausto became a tropical storm again at 1800 UTC September 1 . This regeneration at high latitude was attributed to a temperature anomaly with waters 3 @. @ 4 ° F (2 ° C) above normal and a favorable upper @-@ level atmospheric pattern . Although sea surface temperature anomalies are usually attributed to the development of an El Niño , the El Niño had no effect with atmospheric conditions . A mid @-@ latitude cyclone approached Tropical Storm Fausto and caused the system to accelerate northward . The mid @-@ latitude cyclone eventually absorbed Fausto , and the combined system reached the Aleutian Islands of Alaska shortly thereafter .

Hurricane Fausto 's regeneration north of Hawaii was unusual but not unprecedented . The other time this happened since 1966 was in the 1975 season . That time , another TUTT absorbed the remnant of Hurricane Ilsa , which led to the formation of an unnamed hurricane at high latitude . Other tropical cyclones have strengthened north of Hawaii , but the actual formation of one is rare .

= = Impact = =

Fausto did not have any effect on land , and only one ship named Jo Lonn reported minimal gales on August 24 , and again the next day . No reports of damage or casualties were attributed to Fausto . The mid @-@ latitude cyclone that absorbed Fausto passed over the Aleutian Islands . Impact from the remnants of Fausto in the Aleutian Islands or mainland Alaska is unknown .