

= Hurricane Fefa =

Hurricane Fefa was a major Pacific hurricane of the 1991 Pacific hurricane season that despite causing minimal effects its name was removed from the list of tropical cyclone names . The sixth tropical storm , fourth hurricane , and second major hurricane of the season , the storm developed from a tropical wave on July 29 about 975 miles (1 @, @ 575 km) south @-@ southeast of Cabo San Lucas . It moved west @-@ northwestward , and under generally favorable conditions it strengthened to attain peak winds of 120 mph (195 km / h) on August 2 . Fefa turned to the west towards Hawaii , and slowly weakened until dissipating near the island of Hawaii .

The hurricane produced rough surf , moderate wind gusts , and locally heavy rainfall during its passage over Hawaii . No damages or deaths were reported . Two people were injured in the island of Hawaii due to lightning strikes from the storm .

= = Meteorological history = =

A westward @-@ moving tropical wave exited the coast of Africa on July 17 . It tracked across the unfavorable Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea without development , and after crossing Central America , it entered the eastern Pacific Ocean on July 25 . The cloud pattern and convection began to become better organized on July 28 , and shortly thereafter a mid @-@ level circulation developed . It continued to organize , and subsequent to the development of a low @-@ level circulation it formed into Tropical Depression Seven @-@ E while located about 975 miles (1 @, @ 575 km) south @-@ southeast of Cabo San Lucas on July 29 . Operationally , tropical cyclone advisories were not initiated until visible satellite images confirmed the low @-@ level circulation twelve hours after the depression formed .

Located over warm waters with fair upper level outflow , the depression quickly intensified and attained tropical storm status twelve hours after forming . Upon strengthening into a tropical storm , Fefa developed a curved cloud band over the southern and eastern portion of the center . The storm slowly strengthened as it tracked west @-@ northwestward , a motion due to the presence of a high @-@ pressure ridge to its north . Fefa initially strengthened slowly ; on the day after it became a tropical storm the center was located on the western edge of the deep convection . On July 31 , convection began increasing over the center , and it is estimated it intensified into a hurricane later that day while located about 710 miles (1 @, @ 145 km) southwest of the southern tip of Baja California .

Initially , Fefa was forecast to intensify slightly after reaching hurricane status to reach peak winds of 80 mph (130 km / h) . However , it quickly intensified after a large , ragged eye developed early on August 1 . On August 2 , the eye organized further , and Fefa strengthened to attain a peak intensity of 120 mph (195 km / h) while located about 940 miles (1 @, @ 510 km) west @-@ southwest of Cabo San Lucas . Based on higher Dvorak numbers , the hurricane could have peaked with winds stronger than 120 mph (195 km / h) . Fefa encountered cooler waters shortly after peaking in intensity , and subsequently began to weaken . The hurricane gradually weakened as it turned more to the west , a change in motion due to building high pressures to its north , and on August 3 the winds of Fefa dropped to 85 mph (135 km / h) due to cooler water and dry air .

As Fefa turned more to the west , it paralleled the cooler waters , allowing the eye to remain distinct as the hurricane remained well @-@ organized . Despite moving over marginally warm sea surface temperatures and becoming involved with the Stratocumulus cloud field to its north , the hurricane restrengthened on August 4 to reach a secondary peak intensity of 105 mph (170 km / h) while located about 1 @, @ 265 miles (2 @, @ 070 km) east @-@ southeast of Hilo , Hawai 'i . After maintaining 105 mph (170 km / h) winds for about 18 hours , Fefa weakened slightly due to increasing wind shear from a cold @-@ core trough as it entered the Central Pacific Hurricane Center area of responsibility . As the shear increased , the cyclone weakened more rapidly , and on August 6 it weakened to a tropical storm while located about 650 miles (1 @, @ 060 km) east of the island of Hawaii . Initially , forecasters predicted Fefa to turn to the northwest to the north of the Hawaiian Islands . However , the storm continued moving almost due westward as it steadily

weakened . Aircraft reconnaissance flew into Fefa three times as it neared Hawaii . Late on August 7 , Fefa weakened to a tropical depression a short distance of the island of Hawaii , and early on August 8 the depression began dissipating and degenerated into a tropical wave after moving onshore . The remnants tracked west @-@ northwestward and passed south of the Hawaiian Islands until dissipating on August 9 to the northwest of Kauai .

= = Impact = =

The prolonged westward track of Hurricane Fefa produced swells of up to 15 feet (4 @.@ 5 m) in height . The swells hit eastward facing beaches along the island of Hawaii . The swells washed debris and sea water onto coastal roads near Punaluu Black Sand Beach , resulting in the roads being closed following the storm . Southwestern Maui experienced rough surf , as well . Despite being a weak tropical depression and a tropical wave while moving through the Hawaiian Islands , Fefa produced locally strong wind gusts of up to 50 mph (80 km / h) in the islands of Hawaii and Maui .

Prior to moving across the island of Hawaii , strong thunderstorms developed in the northeastern portion of the remnant circulation of Fefa . The thunderstorms developed further as they moved over the slopes of Mauna Kea and Kohala . The thunderstorms produced heavy rainfall in areas , resulting in flash flooding in Kohala and Hamakua . Hurricane Fefa resulted in no known deaths . Lightning from the storm caused two injuries . A man in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park was hurt when lightning struck where he was walking . A man in Hilo was burnt when lightning moved through telephone wires . The storm resulted in no reported damage .

The name Fefa was removed after this storm and replaced with Felicia in the 1997 season . The reason for the name retirement is unknown , as the storm itself caused little damage . Possible reasons listed for the removal of the name are pronunciation ambiguity , a socially unacceptable meaning in another language , or because the storm name represented a significant human disaster .