

= 1962 Pacific hurricane season =

The 1962 Pacific hurricane season was a moderately active Pacific hurricane season that included two hurricane landfalls . The 1962 Pacific hurricane season officially started on May 15 , 1962 in the eastern Pacific and June 1 , 1962 in the Central Pacific Hurricane Center 's area of responsibility and lasted until November 30 , 1962 in both regions . These dates conventionally delimit the period of each year when most tropical cyclones form in the northeastern Pacific Ocean .

The first of two hurricane landfalls , Hurricane Valerie , struck northwestern Mexico in June . The other , Hurricane Doreen , hit further to the north of Valerie in October . The most impacting storm of the season was Tropical Storm Claudia , after its remnants dropped heavy rainfall in portions of Arizona . The rainfall left damaging flooding across rivers and towns . No people were killed , but damage totaled to \$ 11 million (1962 USD) . Moreover , Tropical Storm Bernie also made landfall along the Baja California peninsula , later providing rain to Arizona . An unusually high number of storms threatened the Palmyra Atoll , where only 1 % of known Pacific tropical cyclones have threatened . In all , a total of 16 storms were observed , which was above average though only two (Valerie and Doreen) reached hurricane intensity .

= = Seasonal summary = =

With 16 named storms , the season was above the 1949 @-@ 2006 average of 13 named storms and was the most active season ever recorded that that time ; however , this record was broken in the 1968 Pacific hurricane season , which saw 18 storms . Despite the activity , only two hurricane were observed and no major hurricanes (Category 3 or higher on the Saffir @-@ Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale) were noted . These totals are well below their long @-@ term averages of seven and three respectively . This season was part of a decade @-@ long absence of major hurricanes ; during the 1960s , only one major hurricane was observed and none were noted from 1960 @-@ 66 . However , it is possible that some storms were missed due to the lack of satellite coverage in the region ; at that time , satellite data was still scarce , and 1962 is still four years shy of the start of the geostationary satellite era , which began in 1966 . Moreover , the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) was in the midst of a cold phase during this time period , which has a tendency to suppress Pacific hurricane activity . During the season , tropical cyclone advisories were issued by the Naval Fleet Warning Central (NFWC) in Alameda , which held responsibility for the basin until 1970 .

= = Storms = =

= = = Hurricane Valerie = = =

The first tropical cyclone of the season ? Hurricane Valerie ? was first observed on June 24 , about 245 mi (400 km) west of Acapulco , Guerrero . It moved northwestward along the coast , producing high seas and strong winds in southwestern Mexico . Valerie was estimated to have attained peak winds of 85 mph (140 km / h) . It turned to the northeast and struck near Mazatlán on June 25 , dissipating early the next day .

= = = Tropical Storm Willa = = =

On July 8 , Tropical Storm Willa developed south of the Baja California peninsula . It maintained a west @-@ northwestward track throughout its duration , remaining a minimal tropical storm . On July 10 , the storm dissipated .

= = = Tropical Storm Ava = = =

In the middle of August , a tropical storm formed off the southwest coast of Mexico . Given the name Ava , it tracked to the northwest before turning more to the north . It dissipated on August 20 .

== Unnamed August tropical storm ==

As the previous storm was dissipating , another tropical storm developed to its west . Lasting only two days , it dissipated on August 22 about halfway between Hawaii and the west coast of Mexico .

== Hurricane " C " ==

On August 24 , satellite imagery indicated a hurricane with a defined eye was located over the central Pacific Ocean . It slowly weakened as it moved over lukewarm waters , and deteriorated more rapidly after wind shear increased . By August 28 , the system consisted of a circulation with only weak associated convection . It weakened to a tropical depression on August 30 , although it remained a tropical cyclone until September 2 . At that time it was last observed about 200 mi (320 km) south of Hilo , Hawaii .

== Tropical Storm Bernice ==

A tropical storm named Bernice developed on September 2 west of Jalisco . After moving northwestward for two days , the storm turned to the north , striking Baja California on September 6 before dissipating . The remnants of the storm later brought moderate rain to Arizona .

== Tropical Storm Claudia ==

Later in the month , another storm similar to Bernice existed . Tropical Storm Claudia formed on September 20 to the southwest of Acapulco . It maintained a general northwest movement for its duration . On September 23 , Claudia crossed over the western portion of the Baja California peninsula , moved over water , and again struck the peninsula before dissipating .

The remnant moisture caused severe flash floods in the vicinity of Tucson , with 5 to 7 inches (130 to 180 mm) of precipitation falling over the headwaters of the washes of Santa Rosa , Jackrabbit , and Brawley during a 14- to 15 @-@ hour period . Over 7 inches (180 mm) of rainfall also fell near the Arizona @-@ Sonora Desert Museum . The ensuing flood of the Santa Cruz River and its tributaries produced a path of destruction about 100 miles (160 km) long and up to 8 miles (13 km) wide . Santa Rosa Wash conveyed 53 @, @ 100 cubic feet per second (1 @, @ 500 m³ / s) at its peak ; Los Robles Wash carried up to 32 @, @ 600 cu ft / s (920 m³ / s) , while the Santa Cruz River proper peaked at 9 @, @ 200 cu ft / s (260 m³ / s) . The washes and rivers reached depths of up to 20 feet (6 @. @ 1 m) , and overflowed its banks in places by 1 to 6 feet (0 @. @ 30 to 1 @. @ 83 m) . Flooding from the storm inundated the towns of Marana and Sells , both in Pima County . Helicopters rescued 27 families from Fort Huachuca . There was one indirect death related to the flooding , due to an ambulance not being able to reach an elderly woman . The flooding also killed many cattle , and damage in Pima and Pinal counties exceeded \$ 11 million (1962 USD) , much of it from crop damage . The flooding prompted a disaster declaration by former governor Paul Fannin , which provided funds for the affected people .

== Unnamed September tropical storm ==

On September 26 , a tropical storm developed off the southwest coast of Mexico . The storm moved to the west @-@ northwest for several days , dissipating on September 30 .

== September and October Central Pacific tropical cyclones ==

In September and October , satellite imagery indicated that there were five tropical storms in the

central Pacific Ocean . The first , designated Tropical Storm " R " , passed about 200 mi (320 km) north of Palmyra Island on September 28 . It represented about 1 % of storms in the basin to directly affect the island , after it produced westerly winds there . Tropical Storm " T " existed on September 29 without affecting land . Similarly , Tropical Storm " X " existed on October 2 over open Pacific waters . The next day , Tropical Storm " Z " passed near Johnston Island during the Operation Dominic I and II nuclear tests , although no impact was reported . Lastly , satellite imagery indicated Tropical Storm " A " on October 27 to the northeast of Palmyra Island .

= = = Hurricane Doreen = = =

The last storm of the season was Hurricane Doreen , which formed on October 1 off the southwest Mexican coast . It moved northwestward before curving to the north , although later it turned again to the northwest . Doreen was estimated to have attained peak winds of 85 mph (140 km / h) . On October 4 , Doreen made its closest approach to the southern tip of the Baja California peninsula as it began a motion to the northeast . Later that day , the hurricane moved over southern Sonora before dissipating on October 5 . Hurricane Doreen was responsible for light rainfall in the U.S. states of Arizona , New Mexico , and West Texas .

= = = Tropical depressions = = =

There were two non @-@ developing tropical depressions during the season .

Surface observations and satellite imagery indicated the formation of a tropical depression about 275 mi (443 km) north of Palmyra Island on July 29 . It moved west @-@ northwestward without developing further , and eventually dissipated on August 2 over the central Pacific .

On August 31 , the Joint Hurricane Warning Center named a tropical depression in the Central Pacific basin as Tropical Depression 63 , following the West Pacific 's numbering . The advisories were discontinued 275 nautical miles (509 km) from the South Point of Big Island , where it was no longer considered a threat to shipping lanes or any land masses .

= = Storm names = =

The following names were used for named storms that formed in the eastern Pacific in 1962 . No names were retired from this list . This is a part of list 1 and list 2 , which was used from 1960 @-@ 1965 . Names that were not assigned are marked in gray .