

= Hurricane Winifred (1992) =

Hurricane Winifred was the last tropical cyclone to make landfall in the busy 1992 Pacific hurricane season . Impacting western Mexico , especially Colima and Michoacán , Hurricane Winifred brought heavy rain and destruction to the area . Rains flooded farms and roads , and caused more than \$ 5 million (1992 USD , \$ 8 @. @ 43 million 2016 USD) in damage and a total of three people were killed .

The last major hurricane of its season , Winifred existed in October 1992 . It formed southeast of Acapulco on October 6 as the twenty @-@ fourth east Pacific tropical cyclone of its season , and recurved as it strengthened . It peaked as a Category 3 hurricane on the Saffir @-@ Simpson Hurricane Scale . It made landfall southeast of Manzanillo , Colima and dissipated inland .

= = Meteorological history = =

On October 1 , a disorganized area of thunderstorms existed south of Panama . It gradually headed west @-@ northwestward , slowly organized , and developed deep and concentrated convection . The disturbed area had become organized enough to be considered a tropical depression . Numbered Twenty @-@ Four @-@ E , the cyclone was located about 460 mi (740 km) south @-@ southeast of Acapulco . It moved towards the west @-@ northwest at a speed of about 12 mph (19 km / h) , and by the time it was located about 550 km (340 mi) south of Zihuatanejo , it had intensified into Tropical Storm Winifred .

Winifred steadily became more organized , and late on October 7 , the National Hurricane Center (NHC) was anticipating Winifred to reach hurricane intensity within the next 36 hours . A large cyclone , Winifred continued to intensify . Its forward speed decreased as it started to turn to the northwest . By October 8 , Winifred become a hurricane while located approximately 340 mi (550 km) south @-@ southeast of Manzanillo . A small eye became evident on satellite imagery , and thus the winds increased to 85 mph (145 km / h) .

Winifred then intensified into a moderate Category 2 hurricane on October 9 . Although the eye briefly disappeared , slight intensification was anticipated . The hurricane was curved north by an upper @-@ level trough . Winifred peaked in intensity as a major hurricane (Category 3 or higher on the Saffir @-@ Simpson Scale) . At this time , Winifred , had central pressure of 960 mb (28 inHg) and winds of 115 mph (185 km / h) . This made Winifred the final hurricane ? major or otherwise ? of the 1992 Pacific hurricane season . However , it was operationally believed to have peaked as a Category 2 hurricane ; the NHC did not issue any advisories with winds any higher than 110 mph (175 km / h) .

Hurricane Winifred re @-@ curved to the north @-@ northeast , increased in forward speed , and slightly weakened as it approached land . On October 9 , it made landfall about east @-@ southeast of Manzanillo . At the time it was a Category 2 hurricane with winds of 110 mph (175 km / h) and a central pressure of 975 mb (28 @. @ 8 inHg) . Hurricane Winifred quickly weakened after landfall , and weakened to a tropical storm less than three hours later , which was early on October 10 . Later on October 10 , Winifred weakened to a tropical depression , before dissipating over the mountains of central Mexico .

= = Preparations and impact = =

Five thousand people were evacuated to emergency shelters as Winifred neared . With the approach of the hurricane , watches and warnings were issued . On October 9 a tropical storm warning was issued from Zihuatanejo to Cabo Corrientes . At the same time , a hurricane watch went into effect in the same area . The watch was later replaced with a hurricane warning 12 hours later . On October 10 , all watches and warnings were dropped .

Starting on October 8 , Hurricane Winifred caused rainfall over an extensive area of Mexico . The highest point maximum reported was of 16 @. @ 7 in (420 mm) at Lázaro Cárdenas , Michoacán , a point to the right of its track . That rain caused flooding , which was blamed for three deaths .

Damage was heaviest in the states of Colima and Michoacán . In areas of the former , utilities were knocked out . Waves flooded portions of Highway 200 between Zihuatenejo , Ixtapa , and Lázaro Cárdenas . Other roads were also flooded . Waves 12 ft (3 @. @ 7 m) forced the closure of Playa de Oro International Airport and port facilities in Manzanillo . Throughout the affected area , trees were blown down on cars , roughly 1 @, @ 500 houses were damaged , as were hotels and restaurants . About 84 @, @ 000 ha (210 @, @ 000 acres) of farmland were damaged , especially those of plantains and corn . Carlos de la Madrid Virgen , the Governor of Colima , estimated that the total damage in his state was 16000 pesos (1992 MXP) or \$ 5 million (1992 USD , \$ 8 @. @ 43 million 2016 USD) . Elsewhere , Winifred forced a temporary closure of the port of Acapulco .