

= Hurricane Dolores (1974) =

Hurricane Dolores was regarded as the worst hurricane to strike Acapulco since 1938 . Developing on June 13 , 1974 , the system rapidly organized into a tropical storm the next day off the southern coast of Mexico . Over the following day , Dolores developed an eye @-@ like feature and attained hurricane status . With peak winds of 80 mph (130 km / h) , the storm made landfall near Acapulco . Once onshore , Dolores rapidly dissipated and was last noted on June 17 .

Across Southwestern Mexico , Hurricane Dolores produced heavy rains that triggered widespread flooding and mudslides . Numerous roads sustained damage , separating communities from surrounding areas . At least 18 people were killed and 32 others were injured by the storm . Additionally , an estimated 173 @, @ 000 people were affected across the country .

= = Meteorological history = =

On June 13 , 1974 , a tropical disturbance was identified several hundred miles south of Mexico . Tracking westward , rapid development ensued the following day and the system was classified a tropical depression around 12 UTC . Shortly thereafter , satellite intensity estimates indicated further strengthening and the storm was upgraded to Tropical Storm Dolores . Development temporarily slowed on June 15 as the structure gradually organized . Enhanced by the Intertropical Convergence Zone , a band of deep convection wrapped into the storm . A banding eye @-@ feature developed later that day , indicating Dolores to be near hurricane strength .

Late on June 15 , Dolores ' forward motion slowed as it turned almost due north towards the Mexican coastline . Around 00 UTC on June 16 , it is estimated that the storm intensified into a hurricane , with sustained winds peaking at 80 mph (130 km / h) . Based on satellite imagery , Dolores is also estimated to have attained a barometric pressure of 973 mbar (hPa ; 28 @. @ 73 inHg) . Roughly 18 hours later , Dolores made landfall near Acapulco . Winds in the area were measured up to 77 mph (124 km / h) . Once onshore , rapid dissipation ensued and Dolores was last noted early on June 17 .

= = Impact = =

Regarded as the worst hurricane since 1938 , Dolores brought torrential rains and high winds to much of Southwestern Mexico . Along the coast , near where Dolores made landfall , 30 homes were destroyed by winds estimated in excess of 75 mph (120 km / h) . Several rivers over @-@ topped their banks , inundating nearby communities . In the low @-@ lying suburbs of Acapulco , nearly 600 people were injured or left homeless . According to the Centro Nacional de Prevención de Desastres (National Center for Prevention of Disasters) , 18 people were killed in the states of Guerrero and Oaxaca ; media reports indicated a higher toll of 22 . Estimated losses from the storm exceeded \$ 4 million . Nine people were killed by landslides in rural mountain communities surrounding Acapulco . The Costa Chica Highway , which runs from Acapulco to Pinotepa , sustained major damage and areas surrounding the roadway were declared disaster areas . Offshore , six people were listed as missing after their trawler , the Peregrine , was caught in the storm . In the storm 's wake , the Mexican Army was deployed in Oaxaca to distribute relief supplies , such as food , medicines , and blankets to an estimated 173 @, @ 000 people affected by the hurricane .