= Hurricane Darby (2004) =

Hurricane Darby was the first Eastern Pacific major hurricane since Hurricane Kenna in 2002 . The sixth tropical cyclone , fourth named storm , and second hurricane of the 2004 Pacific hurricane season , Darby developed from a tropical wave that emerged from the west coast of Africa on July 12 . After crossing into the Eastern Pacific , the storm became a tropical depression on June 26 . The system steadily intensified , and became a hurricane on 000 UTC July 28 . Darby peaked as a Category 3 hurricane on the Saffir @-@ Simpson Hurricane Scale , though it quickly deteriorated due to cooler waters and increasing wind shear . While Darby dissipated on August 1 , the remnants of the tropical cyclone affected the Hawaiian Islands . The system produced high waves and heavy rainfall that led to extensive flash flooding . Numerous roads were closed , while minor landslides and rockslides were reported . Despite the effects , no fatalities or severe damages occurred .

= = Meteorological history = =

A tropical wave emerged from the west coast of Africa on July 12 and entered the Atlantic Ocean . The wave progressed westward , crossing the Atlantic and Caribbean Sea before crossing into the Eastern Pacific on July 20 . The west began to exhibit signs of development on July 23 . The next day , the National Hurricane Center (NHC) noted an associated area of showers and thunderstorms , indicating that gradual development was possible . The system had become better organized and on July 25 , the NHC continued to remark upon the potential for the weak low pressure area ? accompanied by disorganized convective activity ? to develop . On July 26 , the system became better @-@ organized , and under favorable conditions it was upgraded to a tropical depression at 1200 UTC , while located about 760 miles (1 @,@ 220 km) to the south @-@ southwest of Cabo San Lucas , Mexico . Under the steering currents of a subtropical ridge of high pressure , the depression continued moving westward .

Upon becoming a tropical cyclone , the depression contained a somewhat well @-@ defined low @-@ level center of circulation , as well as convective banding . Based on Dvorak classifications , the storm was upgraded to a tropical storm at 0000 UTC on July 27 ; as the fourth tropical storm of the 2004 season , it was named Darby by the NHC . Darby continued to intensify , with established outflow and a well @-@ defined banding feature . Later that day , forecasters predicted the storm to peak as a Category 1 hurricane on the Saffir @-@ Simpson Hurricane Scale . Darby was upgraded to a hurricane at 0000 UTC on July 28 , at which time it began to turn towards the northwest . An eye , embedded within the deep convection , developed later in the day . Darby attained Category 2 intensity at around 1800 UTC , and it rapidly strengthened to Category 3 , becoming the first Eastern Pacific major hurricane since Hurricane Kenna of the 2002 season .

Shortly after peaking in intensity , Darby moved over coolers waters and began to deteriorate . The eye became less well @-@ defined and the associated convection started weakening . Increasingly colder waters and growing wind shear continued to affect Darby , and the cyclone weakened to a tropical storm on July 30 . The low @-@ level center of circulation became exposed from the thunderstorm activity , and the storm quickly degenerated into a swirl of clouds , although it maintained tropical storm strength . On July 31 , it weakened to a tropical depression . Darby soon crossed into the Central Pacific Hurricane Center 's area of responsibility , and it dissipated as a tropical cyclone on August 1 . However , its remnants continued westward under the low @-@ level trade winds , and dropped heavy rainfall on Hawaii several days after the cyclone dissipated .

= = Impact = =

Upon reaching the Hawaiian Islands , the remnants of Darby contributed to heavy rainfall and high winds , prompting the issuance of flash flood watch . Along the eastern shores of Kauai , Oahu , Molokai , Maui , and the Island of Hawaii , the system generated 4 to 8 feet (1 @.@ 2 to 2 @.@ 4 m) swells . The Honolulu Airport reported a daily record of 2 @.@ 92 inches (74 mm) of rainfall , breaking the previous record of 0 @.@ 96 inches (24 mm) set in 1948 . Elsewhere , parts of Maui

reported in excess of 8 inches (200 mm) of precipitation , while 4 @.@ 6 inches (120 mm) fell on Oahu . The rainfall was beneficial in some areas , where dry conditions had persisted . Although crop damage from the storm system was limited , some farming operations were postponed and some coffee and not trees were damaged . Along the eastern shores of several Hawaiian Islands , the storm system triggered surf of 4 to 8 ft (1 @.@ 2 to 2 @.@ 4 m) .

The heavy rainfall resulted in flash flooding throughout several areas . On Oahu , roads and some structures were flooded , and minor landslides were reported . On the island , telephone and electrical service were disrupted . At one location , a large boulder rolled down a hillside and struck a fire hydrant ; firefighters were called to shut it off . On Kauai , the Wailua River exceeded flood stage on August 4 . Small stream and drainage ditch flooding was reported in the Kau District of Hawaii . Excessive runoff around Kailua @-@ Kona resulted in extensive flooding that forced the closure of five schools , submerged several roads , and triggered rockslides . Due to high water , several roads , including part of the Piilani Highway on Maui , were temporarily shut down . A portion of the Kamehameha Highway was also closed after being submerged under waters of up to 1 @.@ 5 feet (0 @.@ 46 m) deep . Despite the flooding , neither Darby nor its remnant moisture caused any casualties or severe property damage .