

= Tropical Storm Kiko ( 2007 ) =

Tropical Storm Kiko was a strong tropical storm that capsized a boat off the western coast of Mexico , killing at least 15 people . The 15th and final tropical cyclone of the 2007 Pacific hurricane season , Kiko developed out of a tropical wave that formed off the coast of Africa on September 26 and traversed the Atlantic . The wave crossed over Central America and entered the Pacific Ocean on October 8 , where it spawned Tropical Depression 15 @-@ E on October 15 . The depression drifted to the south over the next day before briefly being declared Tropical Storm Kiko . It subsequently weakened into a tropical depression , but later reattained tropical storm intensity . By October 18 , Kiko was forecast to make landfall along the western Mexican coastline as a moderate tropical storm . However , the cyclone turned to the west and reached its peak intensity of 70 mph ( 110 km / h ) on October 20 . The tropical storm slowly weakened to a remnant low @-@ pressure area by October 24 and completely dissipated on October 27 without making landfall .

= = Meteorological history = =

A tropical wave exited the western coast of Africa on September 26 , quickly spawning an area of low pressure . Upon the formation of the low , the wave split into two pieces and a second area of low pressure developed along the southern portion of the wave as it traveled west . The northern low quickly developed , spawning Tropical Depression Fourteen on September 28 . The southern low attached to the wave failed to develop and moved away from the intensifying tropical depression . It continued through the Atlantic , entering the Pacific Ocean , after crossing Central America , on October 8 . A broad area of low pressure accompanied by showers and thunderstorms developed along the wave around 275 miles ( 440 kilometres ) south of Acapulco , Mexico . However , the low remained disorganized because of strong upper @-@ level winds . On October 13 , the low became better organized due to a relaxation in the shear . The low developed enough convection late on October 14 to be declared Tropical Depression Fifteen @-@ E while located about 435 mi ( 705 km ) southwest of Colima , Mexico .

The depression was embedded within a broad , low @-@ level cyclone with weak steering currents that caused Fifteen @-@ E to drift southward for the next 30 hours . On October 16 , strong easterly wind shear exposed the center of the depression from shower and thunderstorm activity . However , a curving convective band developed around the system , and satellites detected winds of 40 mph ( 65 km / h ) . This prompted the National Hurricane Center to upgrade the depression to Tropical Storm Kiko as it drifted about 430 mi ( 695 km ) southwest of Manzanillo , Mexico . The intensification was short @-@ lived , and Kiko was downgraded to a tropical depression six hours later when the center separated from diminishing convection . On October 17 , the storm was upgraded to a tropical storm when the low became associated with deep convection . The center remained poorly defined , and winds of tropical storm @-@ force blew only in Kiko 's southwest quadrant . Over the next few days , Kiko moved slowly towards the east @-@ northeast as a minimal tropical storm and was forecast to either brush land or to make landfall along the Mexican coast on October 19 or October 20 . However , early on October 19 , Kiko turned to the northwest when a high @-@ pressure ridge developed over Mexico . Forecasters predicted that the storm would become a strong Category 1 hurricane as it turned away from Mexico and headed to sea .

As the ridge pushed the storm away from the coast , weaker wind shear and warm sea @-@ surface temperatures allowed Kiko to gradually intensify . The storm reached its peak intensity of 70 mph ( 110 km / h ) 991 mbar ( hPa ; 29 @-@ 28 inHg ) late on October 20 while located around 175 mi ( 280 km ) west @-@ southwest of Manzanillo , Mexico . As it moved away from the coast , an eye began to form . Shortly thereafter , shear increased and began to separate the low from the deep convection . By the afternoon of October 21 , the storm was poorly organized and the center was partially exposed . At this time , the weakening system had winds sustained at 50 mph ( 85 km / h ) . Early on October 22 , a brief burst in showers and thunderstorms allowed the storm to maintain its intensity . That evening , Kiko was downgraded to a tropical depression as strong wind shear removed convection from the storm 's center and exposed the low . As the depression moved over a

drier and more hostile area , two inhibiting factors for development of tropical cyclones , it slowly weakened . It lost almost all convection and degenerated to a remnant low @-@ pressure area on October 23 , and the National Hurricane Center issued its final advisory that night . The remnant low moved west before dissipating on October 27 over open waters .

= = Preparations and impact = =

On October 18 , a tropical storm warning was issued along the Mexican coastline from Zihuatanejo , Guerrero to Manzanillo , Colima , and a tropical storm watch extended northward to La Fortuna , Mexico , as Kiko was forecast to make landfall in that region on October 21 . Above @-@ normal tides and dangerous waves were expected along the coast . Rainfall totals of 4 inches ( 100 millimetres ) to 7 in ( 180 mm ) were possible over southwestern Mexico with isolated totals reaching 10 in ( 250 mm ) . As a precaution , port captains shut down shipping and advised residents to avoid low @-@ lying areas that might flood . Civil Defense advised these residents to move to temporary shelters and tourists were told to stay indoors . Emergency procedures were on standby in case conditions became more threatening .

As the storm neared land , a ridge over Mexico prevented Kiko from coming ashore , resulting in far less damage than forecast . As Kiko traveled parallel to the coast , heavy rain affected the region for two days . In Kiko 's rough seas off the coast of Mexico , a ship capsized with twenty @-@ five passengers and crew . Continued effects from Kiko hampered rescue efforts , forcing officials to call off the rescue attempt . Authorities searched the beaches of San Francisco Ixhuatán and San Francisco del Mar for any signs of the ship . Only two people survived ; fifteen bodies were recovered , and nine passengers were never found .