

= Hurricane Naomi (1968) =

Hurricane Naomi was a short @-@ lived Category 1 hurricane that made landfall in Mexico 's Pacific coast during the 1968 Pacific hurricane season . After rapidly intensifying before its landfall in Sinaloa , Naomi caused rainfall throughout northern Mexico and the U.S. state of Texas in association with a frontal system , with the highest measurement occurring in Corpus Christi . Four people perished in Mexico due to Naomi 's effects with ten more missing , all in Sinaloa . The only reported injury in Texas due to the remnants was a factory worker who was injured when the roof of the plant they were working in collapsed due to rainfall .

Naomi was the seventeenth tropical depression , fourteenth tropical storm and the fourth hurricane of the 1968 Pacific hurricane season . Its precipitation on the Mexican Altiplano briefly threatened the unfinished Lázaro Cárdenas dam on the Nazas River . If the dam failed , the twin cities of Gómez Palacio , Durango , and Torreón , Coahuila , would have been inundated . On the other hand , releasing water from the dam would have saved Torreón by submerging Gómez Palacio with the dam 's runoff . From help with satellite imagery , the authorities decided to keep the dam closed ? risking its possible failure ? saving both towns .

= = Meteorological history = =

The disturbance that developed into Hurricane Naomi was reported in the Intertropical Convergence Zone on September 8 at 12 ° N , 98 ° W. At that time , a ship called the Avisfaith reported winds to the south @-@ southwest of force 7 on the Beaufort Scale 30 mi (48 km) south of this position , the equivalent of a strong tropical depression on the Saffir @-@ Simpson Hurricane Scale . On September 9 , six more ships reported winds of 35 mph (56 km / h) from the system , which was at 13 ° N , 101 ° W at the time , and the system was given depression status on the same day . Later that day , satellite pictures clearly showed the vortex and center of the developing cyclone , and on September 10 , the first report of tropical storm force winds were reported south of the low by the ship Builder , which showed winds of 40 mph (64 km / h) . The depression continued to develop at a rapid pace , with large feeder bands which helped to absorb moisture to strengthen the cyclone extending from the center , which was becoming better defined . One of the feeder bands developed near Manzanillo , Colima , which reported winds of 45 mph (72 km / h) from the band prior to daybreak . Towards the end of the day , the Allison Lykes reported 60 mph (97 km / h) winds from the cyclone and , early on September 11 , sufficient evidence that the depression had reached tropical storm status resulted in the cyclone being upgraded and named " Naomi " .

For the next twelve hours , Naomi continued to rapidly intensify , with feeder bands flowing into a tightening spiral structure in the center of the storm . Ship reports around this time showed winds of 60 mph (97 km / h) to 65 mph (105 km / h) . Towards midnight , a computerized mosaic showed a clear eye and Naomi was upgraded to hurricane strength early on September 12 while at 19 @. @ 8 ° N , 106 @. @ 8 ° W based on the mosaic , an intensity that was verified by the Meisei Maru , which reported winds of 75 mph (121 km / h) at 6 : 00 Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) . After being upgraded , the hurricane moved to the north at a pace of 9 mph (14 km / h) before making a slow northeastward turn . The turn had the hurricane passing 30 mi (48 km) ? 40 mi (64 km) west of Mazatlán , Sinaloa . The hurricane then began to accelerate , landfalling on Sinaloa near Punta Piaxtla at 3 : 00 GMT on September 13 . Shortly after landfall , the Sierra Madre Occidental took a toll on the hurricane , causing it to dissipate later that day while midway between Chihuahua , Chih . , and Piedras Negras , Coah . , with the remnants moving over Texas . In total , the hurricane travelled 1 @, @ 100 mi (1 @, @ 800 km) while active .

= = Impact = =

= = = Mexico = = =

A dispatch from the Associated Press to Mexico City reported that 20 @,@ 000 citizens from villages in Durango , Sinaloa , Nayarit , and Jalisco evacuated due to the threat of flooding and high winds from Naomi . The damage from Naomi in Mexico was moderate , although no monetary figures have ever been released . The Associated Press dispatch also reported that Naomi was responsible for knocking out communications over a large area in Mazatlán as well as downing power lines and damaging houses . At least 2000 people were reported homeless in Durango due to the hurricane . The hurricane also caused damage to Highway 15 between Mazatlán and Tepic . Although the highway reopened soon afterward , some areas that were struck by the hurricane were still rough . Naomi 's most notable impact in Mexico involved the Lázaro Cárdenas Dam on the Nazas River , which was not complete by the time the hurricane hit . The dam , upriver from Gómez Palacio and Torreón , was feared to break down from the water being built up behind it , influenced by the hurricane . The two options were to either open the dam , saving Torreón by inundating Gómez Palacio , or risk inundating both towns by keeping the dam closed . The decision was made harder by the fact that , if the dam was released and no rain fell to refill the basin behind the dam , the farms would have insufficient water for agricultural growth . Photography from the Environmental Science Services Administration 's Automatic Picture Transmission based on the ESSA @-@ 6 weather satellite showed that the clouds from Naomi responsible for the rain had almost moved over the area near the dam . Based on the images , the authorities decided to gamble on the dam to successfully hold up , and it managed to hold back the waters without breaking . The hurricane caused four drowning deaths and \$ 16 million in damage in Sinaloa .

= = = Texas = = =

In Texas , the remnants of Naomi coupled with a frontal system resulted in prolonged rains over the state . The hardest hit city was Corpus Christi , which reported over 8 inches (200 mm) of rain in relation to the disturbance as well as funnel clouds to the south and west of the city , resulting in many roads being stopped to traffic . Accumulated rainfall caused the roof of a tortilla plant to collapse , slightly injuring a worker . Although the range of heavy rains was large , only minor rains were reported in Andrews , Crane , Monahans , Kermit , Wink , Stanton , and Pecos . Despite the totals , the rain proved beneficial as well , helping saturate areas of grassland in need of water .

= = = Naming = = =

This was the second time an East Pacific storm was named Naomi and the only time that a storm named Naomi in the basin reached hurricane strength . Because the effects from the hurricane were minor , the name was not retired after this hurricane and was re @-@ used in the 1976 season . However , a name change in 1978 dropped the name Naomi , and the name has not been used since .