

= Tropical Depression Nine (2003) =

Tropical Depression Nine was a weak tropical depression that developed and dissipated in the eastern Caribbean Sea in August 2003 . It formed from a tropical wave on August 21 to the south of Puerto Rico , and was initially forecast to strengthen to tropical storm status , due to the favorable conditions for development in the area . However , wind shear developed over the system , and the depression degenerated to a tropical wave on August 22 . The system produced moderate to heavy rainfall throughout its path . In Puerto Rico , the rains flooded ten houses , while in the Dominican Republic the precipitation led to overflowed rivers and two injuries .

= = Meteorological history = =

A strong tropical wave exited the coast of Africa on August 14 , moved westward as a disorganized system , and passed through the Cape Verde islands on August 15 . On August 17 , a weak area of low pressure developed in the system about 750 miles (1 @, @ 200 km) west @-@ southwest of the Cape Verde islands . Convection increased over the western portion of the wave axis , and the system began to become better organized on August 18 while located about 1 @, @ 250 miles (2 @, @ 000 km) east of the Lesser Antilles . However , convection around the system diminished on August 19 , and later that day it began to move through the Lesser Antilles . Despite favorable upper @-@ level winds and falling atmospheric pressures , there were initially no signs of a circulation at the surface . Convection again increased early on August 20 , and it gradually became better organized . Based on a ship 's wind report of the system , it is estimated the wave developed into Tropical Depression Nine on August 21 while located about 260 miles (415 km) south of San Juan , Puerto Rico .

The depression quickly showed signs of organization with the development of banding features around its blossoming convection . Due to a favorable upper level environment , forecasters predicted the depression to intensify to a 70 mph (110 km / h) tropical storm after making landfall on Haiti and eastern Cuba . Upper @-@ level outflow remained well @-@ defined , though convection waned near the center early on August 22 . The depression appeared to continue organizing , with a well @-@ defined cloud band to its north and east . However , strong southwesterly wind shear unexpectedly increased over the system , and the depression degenerated into a tropical wave late on August 22 , south of the eastern tip of the Dominican Republic . The system retained a well @-@ defined cloud pattern with a vigorous mid @-@ level circulation , and forecasters at the National Hurricane Center indicated regeneration could have occurred at any time . The wave axis moved over the Dominican Republic early on August 23 , and became disorganized over the mountainous terrain of Hispaniola . There existed the potential for redevelopment as it moved into a potentially more favorable area , though the National Hurricane Center ceased monitoring the system on August 25 when redevelopment appeared unlikely .

= = Preparations = =

Coinciding with the issuance of the first advisory on the tropical depression , the government of the Dominican Republic issued a tropical storm watch from Barahona to its border with Haiti , while a tropical storm watch was issued from Haiti 's border with the Dominican Republic westward to Port @-@ au @-@ Prince . The United States ' National Hurricane Center in Miami recommended interests in eastern Cuba to monitor the progress of the storm . When the depression was 205 miles (330 km) south @-@ southeast of Santo Domingo , the Dominican Republic issued a tropical storm warning from Punta Palenque to its border with Haiti . While located 155 miles (250 km) from the coast of Hispaniola , the government of the Dominican Republic extended the tropical storm warning eastward to Isla Saona , while the government of Haiti upgraded its watch area to a tropical storm warning along the coast . The National Hurricane Center also recommended citizens in the Bahamas to monitor the progress of the storm . After the heavy rainfall began in the Dominican Republic , officials evacuated citizens of low @-@ lying areas .

= = Impact = =

Before developing into Tropical Depression Nine , the precursor tropical wave dropped moderate to heavy rainfall across the Lesser Antilles . The depression caused moderate rainfall in Puerto Rico , where two to three inches (50 to 75 mm) of precipitation were recorded . The flooding from the rainfall entered ten houses and left some streets impassable . A mudslide was reported in the eastern portion of the island . A river in northeastern Puerto Rico surpassed its banks from flooding , though it returned to normal levels within hours . Damage in Puerto Rico totaled \$ 20 @, @ 000 (2003 USD , \$ 25 @. @ 7 thousand 2016 USD) .

The depression dropped over 1 inch (25 mm) of precipitation across much of the Dominican Republic ; Santo Domingo reported a peak total of 3 @. @ 9 in (98 mm) . The rainfall led to flooding , primarily east and west of the capital city , while five rivers overflowed their banks . Several roads were inundated , obstructing traffic . The flooding collapsed a sports center and a house , injuring two people inside . Further inland , 160 people had to be evacuated when more than 100 houses were flooded . Crop damage was also reported . In Pedernales , gusty winds uprooted trees , several of which fell on power lines which caused power outages in the town . The rainfall was welcomed in the country , as conditions were dry in the preceding months . Light flooding also occurred in eastern Jamaica , though damage there , if any , is unknown .