

= Tropical Storm Lidia ( 1981 ) =

Tropical Storm Lidia was a deadly , destructive tropical cyclone that occurred during the 1981 Pacific hurricane season . It resulted in more casualties and caused greater damage than Hurricane Norma , which took place later that season . On October 6 , a tropical depression formed and strengthened into a tropical storm six hours later . Lidia brushed the Gulf of California coast of Baja California Sur and made landfall just south of Los Mochis in Sinaloa on October 8 . Tropical Storm Lidia rapidly weakened and dissipated the same day . Lidia killed at least 73 people and caused at least \$ 80 million ( 1981 USD ) which is equivalent to \$ 193 million ( 2010 USD ) in damage . It inflicted heavy rain and flooding throughout parts of northwestern Mexico , especially Sinaloa .

= = Meteorological history = =

A tropical depression formed on October 6 while located 210 mi ( 340 km ) south of Cabo San Lucas . Ahead of a southwesterly flow over Mexico and a front , the depression intensified into Tropical Storm Lidia at 0000 UTC October 7 . Lidia moved generally north , and reached its maximum windspeed of 50 mph ( 85 km / h ) . Despite encountering warm sea surface temperatures , which are generally favorable for intensification , Lidia slowly weakened as it moved towards southern Baja California . The tropical cyclone passed over the southern tip of the Baja California Peninsula on 1700 UTC October 7 ; at the time of the landfall Lidia was located about 67 mi ( 108 km ) northwest of Cabo San Lucas . Two hours later , Lidia entered the Gulf of California , and turned to the northeast . Lidia made landfall on the shores of Sinaloa about 23 mi ( 37 km ) south of Los Mochis on October 8 , with winds of 45 mph ( 75 km / h ) . At 0600 UTC , the Eastern Pacific Hurricane Center ended advisories as the tropical cyclone dissipated inland about 17 mi ( 27 km ) northeast of that same place . The remnants of Lidia continued their northeast track , moving over Mexico , and ultimately emerging into the Southern United States , spurring a new frontal wave .

= = Impact and Aftermath = =

Tropical Storm Lidia caused flash flooding , with highest point point maxima was 20 @.@ 59 inches ( 523 mm ) at El Varejona and Badiraguato in Sinaloa . Heavy rainfall sent water down a dry river bed in Pericos , killing 40 people , mostly children . In the village Bachiulato , ( or perhaps Pericos ) six soldiers died while attempting to save peasants from the flooding . In the northern part of Sinaloa , 42 were confirmed killed and 76 were missing . Around Los Mochis , four people were killed . About 800 houses were also destroyed in that town . In Culiacán , eleven people were killed . Losses to cattle , crops , and fishing vessels were more than \$ 80 million ( 1981 USD ) , equivalent to \$ 193 million ( 2010 USD ) .

Electricity was cut off to two settlements , Guamúchil and Guasave . Telephone service was also cut off to Culiacán . Heavy rain caused flooding that cut off seven towns in Sinaloa from the outside world . It also contaminated the water supply in Culiacán , leaving many without clean drinking water . Almost a hundred villages were flooded , as were two dams . The Rio Fuerte burst its banks and flooded sixty settlements . It also forced evacuations , which were enforced by the Mexican Army . Mexican Federal Highway 15 was closed due to the storm , as was the Pacific Railroad . The highway was reopened shortly after the storm passed . The total death toll from Tropical Storm Lidia was determined to exceed 73 . This was enough to make it the deadliest tropical cyclone of its season , which mostly occurred in rural areas . A few days later , Hurricane Norma struck similar areas as Lidia , also causing devastation .

The remnants of Lidia brought moisture to extreme southeastern Arizona .

During the aftermath of the storm , food and clothing was brought to towns isolated by the storm . In Culiacán , churches , schools , and a baseball stadium served as temporary shelters for displaced persons . Rescue workers also searched for bodies of victims of both Lidia and the subsequent Hurricane Norma , which hit the same area a few days later . Due to the damage wrought by both Lidia and Norma , the Governor of Sinaloa , Antonio Toledo Corro , declared his state a disaster

area . He also asked the Mexican Federal Government for aid .