

= Tropical Storm Andres (1997) =

Tropical Storm Andres was the only tropical cyclone on record to strike El Salvador . The first named storm of the active 1997 Pacific hurricane season , Andres formed on June 1 off the coast of Mexico . It initially moved toward the coast , although a change in steering winds turned the storm toward Mexico and Guatemala . After passing just offshore , Andres again changed direction toward the southeast , gradually weakening in the process . On June 7 , it turned toward and hit El Salvador before dissipating . The storm brought rainfall to coastlines along much of its path , destroying some houses and inflicted damage . Two fishermen were reported missing in Nicaragua due to high seas , and there were four deaths in El Salvador .

= = Meteorological history = =

Tropical Storm Andres was the first of many storms of the season , with above @-@ average activity due to one of the strongest El Niño events on record . In most of May 1997 , strong westerlies extended across the eastern Pacific Ocean , which inhibited tropical cyclogenesis . Toward the end of the month , however , wind shear decreased in the easternmost portion of the basin , which allowed a low @-@ level circulation to develop ; it is possible the system originated from a tropical wave that traversed the Atlantic Ocean in the previous two weeks . Deep convection increased over the circulation on May 31 , prompting classifications with the Dvorak technique . Based on satellite imagery , it is estimated the system developed into Tropical Depression One @-@ E early on June 1 , about 345 miles (555 km) south of the Gulf of Tehuantepec .

The tropical cyclone was never well @-@ organized , and after its formation , the convection became elongated . As the entire system moved northwestward , another circulation developed which eventually became the dominant center , causing the original circulation to dissipate . Midday on June 2 , the depression intensified into Tropical Storm Andres . The next day , steering winds forced the storm east @-@ northeastward , and on June 4 , Andres attained peak winds of 50 mph (85 km / h) . A trough bypassed the storm to the north and changed the steering flow toward the southeast . This produced a track paralleling the Central America coastline ; such a track was considered " unprecedented " by the National Hurricane Center in the database for all eastern Pacific storms . Initially , the storm was expected to continue moving toward Mexico and Guatemala .

Turning southeastward , Tropical Storm Andres passed about 35 miles (55 km) off the coast of Guatemala , before it began weakening due to interaction with the Intertropical Convergence Zone . The convection became amorphous and later shifted to the southeast of the circulation . On June 6 Andres weakened to tropical depression status . It turned northward and moved ashore near San Salvador , El Salvador on June 7 , which was the first recorded landfall in the country . The low @-@ level circulation quickly dissipated over land , although the mid @-@ level circulation persisted across Central America . After the featured reached the western Caribbean Sea , a new surface circulation developed , and initially , tropical cyclone forecast models anticipated the development of a significant storm in the eastern Gulf of Mexico . Instead , the system remained disorganized , bringing rainfall to Cuba , Florida , and the Bahamas before it was absorbed by a weak trough in the Gulf of Mexico .

= = Impact and preparations = =

When Tropical Storm Andres first turned to the northeast , tropical storm warnings were issued from Punta Galera , Mexico to the Mexico / Guatemala border . A tropical storm warning was later issued from Champerico , Guatemala to the Mexican border . All of the warnings were dropped when Andres turned toward the southeast . Later , a tropical storm watch was issued for Guatemala and El Salvador , but it was quickly canceled . Due to the threat of the storm , officials closed ports along the southern Mexican coastline , and also advised for small boats to exercise caution .

Throughout its life , Andres produced rainfall along the coast of Mexico , in Guerrero , Oaxaca , and

Chiapas , as well as through the Yucatán Peninsula . The highest total in the country was 11 @.@ 42 inches (29 cm) in Mazatán , Chiapas . Heavy rainfall and high seas spread across western Central America . In El Salvador and Nicaragua , the storm led to power outages , traffic accidents , and overflowed rivers , as well as destroyed bridges and buildings in Nicaragua . Two fishermen were left missing in Nicaragua , and the storm damaged 91 houses and destroyed 82 more , leaving a total of 1 @,@ 259 people homeless . There were 4 deaths in El Salvador where Andres made landfall . The remnants of Andres brought rainfall to Cuba , Florida , and the Bahamas . In Florida , the system produced a daily record precipitation of 5 @.@ 89 inches (15 cm) at the Miami International Airport ; the rainfall led to street flooding , accidents , and housing damage .