

= Hurricane Rick (1997) =

Hurricane Rick was the second @-@ latest hurricane ever to make landfall in Mexico . The eighteenth named storm , ninth and final hurricane of the 1997 Pacific hurricane season , Rick was a short @-@ lived Category 2 hurricane on the Saffir @-@ Simpson Hurricane Scale that weakened before making landfall in Mexico on November 10 . It hit almost a month after the more powerful Hurricane Pauline made landfall in the same country . Most of the damage associated with Pauline was exacerbated by the weaker Rick , which struck during rebuilding efforts .

Damage from Rick was fairly minor . As Rick was heading towards Mexico , the people on the coastline evacuated due to the impact of Pauline making them more prepared to deal with another hurricane , leading to no casualties .

= = Meteorological history = =

Hurricane Rick 's ultimate origin was a tropical wave that left Africa on October 15 . While crossing the Atlantic , the wave was mainly tracked by continuity due to its lack of organization . After entering the Pacific , part of it developed cloudiness on November 5 when it was south of the Gulf of Tehuantepec . Organization and a circulation developed , and satellite tracking began on November 6 . The disturbance became better organized and formed into Tropical Depression Nineteen @-@ E on November 7 .

At first moving northwest , the depression was turned north by a trough . Around noon on November 8 , when it was about 375 miles (604 km) southwest of Acapulco , the depression was upgraded to Tropical Storm Rick . The storm developed a cold central dense overcast , turned northeast , and became a hurricane on November 9 . An eye appeared that day , accompanied by a well @-@ center visible on Acapulco radar . The hurricane reached its peak intensity of 100 mph (160 km / h) and 973 mbar , making it a low @-@ end Category 2 on the Saffir @-@ Simpson Hurricane Scale ; However , some sources disagree , saying that Rick was a Category 3 major hurricane at its peak . After weakening to 85 mph (137 km / h) , it made landfall on Oaxaca on November 10 . Around the time of landfall , hurricane force winds extended 35 miles (56 km) and tropical storm force winds extended 115 miles (185 km) from the center , respectively . Rick continued to weaken while moving parallel to Mexico 's coast along the Gulf of Tehuantepec before dissipating into a convectionless swirl of clouds over Chiapas on November 11 .

= = Preparations = =

The pre @-@ Rick tropical depression was a threat to Mexico . Hours before upgrading , Mexican officials issued a tropical storm watch for the area between Lázaro Cárdenas , Michoacán and Puerto Escondido , Oaxaca . Three hours before Rick was upgraded to a hurricane , the watch was upgraded to a warning and a hurricane watch was issued and shortly afterward raised to a warning . On November 9 , the hurricane warning was extended to Zihuatanejo and Huatulco ; warnings for areas west of Zihuatanejo and Lázaro Cárdenas were dropped at the same time . However , warnings for areas west of and including Acapulco remained until lifted three hours later . On November 10 , warnings were extended from Punta Maldonado to Tapachula ; all warnings west of Punta Maldonado were dropped at that time . Then , Mexico 's Interior Ministry declared a state of emergency along the Oaxaca coast . Six hours later , the warnings were downgraded to tropical storm warnings . These warnings remained until they were dropped when Rick was downgraded to a depression .

The people in the coastal areas , most of which were already affected by the more catastrophic Pauline a month ago , were ready for Rick . All major ports along the coast were closed ahead of time in preparation , as well as airports in Huatulco and Puerto Escondido where power failures occurred because of Hurricane Rick . One hundred and thirty Red Cross workers , including twenty that were based in Mexico , who were in the area in the aftermath of Pauline , kept in the area to handle the second hurricane . Many people from Puerto Ángel , Huatulco , and Puerto Escondido (

where National Operations Director Bernardino Heredia was overseeing recovery efforts) beach areas were evacuated . During the Puerto Ángel evacuation , helicopters landed carrying soldier and rifles , which one tourist likened to a third @-@ world revolution . In Chiapas , officials watched for flooding along the rivers and upstream river valleys , where the rains from three previous systems caused the ground to saturate and in the state capital of Tuxtla Gutiérrez , families were evacuated due to rising rivers .

= = Impact = =

The damage from Rick was minor in comparison to Pauline . In Oaxaca , the hurricane was responsible for dumping 10 inches (250 mm) of rain onto the state , which in turn resulted in mudslides and flash floods in areas earlier ravaged by Pauline . These rains also resulted in the sea level rising three feet above normal levels due to high waves generated during its passage . The hurricane was also responsible for rendering bridges and roads unpassable in the state , which had only recently been repaired after they were damaged by two prior hurricanes : 1995 's Hurricane Roxanne in the Atlantic and Pauline , which had weakened bridges a month prior , allowing Rick to topple them , including a bridge near Puerto Escondido which left a 15 @-@ foot (4 @.@ 6 m) deep gap in the road . Among the major roads that were cut off were a mountain road from Puerto Angel to Oaxaca City , a route used to link the coast with Mexico City , and a route from Puerto Escondido with Acapulco . A total of 10 @.@ 47 inches (266 mm) of rainfall , the highest total caused by Rick , was recorded in Astata / San Pedro Huameluca , which was near the point where the hurricane made landfall . Telephone communications and traffic were cut off to many villages in the wake of the hurricane .

Although Rick was much weaker than Pauline , there were some areas where Rick 's impact was greater than that of Pauline 's . One such place was the village of El Tomatal , located 10 miles (16 km) southeast of Puerto Escondido . There , eight houses were destroyed and roofs were torn off of many others , which residents attributed to more rain than in Pauline , even though the winds were roughly equal . Although there were no casualties , the hurricane caused more than 2000 people to become homeless . Most of what Pauline had left behind was destroyed by Rick , which one resident said was like " Pauline came to harvest the corn , and Rick came to harvest the peanuts . "

In the United States , Rick had a temporary economic impact when , during its time off the shore of Chiapas and Oaxaca , it caused the price of coffee to rise 4 @.@ 7 percent to \$ 1 @.@ 5685 per pound on the Coffee , Sugar and Cocoa Exchange in New York , the highest total it reached since October 16 . Mexico is the United States 's largest source of coffee imports and Oaxaca and Chiapas are the largest coffee growing regions in Mexico . Like the impact in El Tomatal , Rick 's effects were much worse than Pauline 's because Rick threatened the coffee crop when the beans were more susceptible to winds that could blow them off .

= = Records = =

Rick was one of only eight known hurricanes to form in the East Pacific in November . The others were Nina in 1957 , Tara in 1961 , Iwa in 1982 , Nora in 1991 , Sergio in 2006 , Kenneth in 2011 , and Sandra in 2015 . Rick was the second one of these to make landfall , although it was the third weakest of them , just slightly stronger than Nina and Iwa (Tara 's central pressure is unknown) . Rick is also the second @-@ latest hurricane in official records to have hit either coast of Mexico , behind only Tara .