

= Tropical Storm Larry (2003) =

Tropical Storm Larry was the twelfth tropical storm in the 2003 Atlantic hurricane season . It was one of eight storms to impact Mexico from either the Pacific or Atlantic Oceans in the season , a near @-@ record . Larry formed in early October from an extratropical storm in the Bay of Campeche , and reached a peak intensity of 65 mph (100 km / h) . Due to weak steering currents , the storm moved southward , which resulted in the storm hitting the Tabasco coastline . The storm was the first Tabascan landfall since Tropical Storm Brenda in 1973 .

Larry drifted across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec , dropping heavy rainfall of over 9 in (229 mm) in places . The rainfall led to flooding and mudslides , causing damage to thousands of houses . The flooding killed five people and resulted in \$ 53 @.@ 6 million (2003 USD) in damage . Larry was one of three tropical cyclones to hit Mexico in a short period of time , including Tropical Depression Nora and Tropical Storm Olaf in the eastern Pacific Ocean .

= = Meteorological history = =

A tropical wave moved off the coast of Africa on September 17 . It moved across the shear @-@ ridden Atlantic Ocean without development , and remained disorganized until reaching the western Caribbean Sea on September 26 . There , the wave situated itself beneath an upper @-@ level anticyclone , allowing for favorable upper @-@ level outflow and for deep convection to develop . On the September 27 , a low pressure area developed while the system was located a few hundred miles to the east of the Yucatán Peninsula . The system continued to organize , and nearly developed into a tropical depression before moving ashore on the Yucatán Peninsula on September 29 .

Dry air and land weakened the tropical wave , and when it entered the area of the Bay of Campeche , it merged with a stationary frontal boundary . Cool , dry air around the system caused the system to develop a cold core , and the area organized into an extratropical low on September 30 . A large high pressure system over the northern Gulf of Mexico forced the system southward , where it developed significant convection . The system developed a warm core , and on October 1 the storm organized into Tropical Storm Larry while located 300 mi (483 km) east @-@ southeast of Tampico , Mexico .

Weak steering currents allowed for Larry to drift westward at about two mph (3 km / h) while marginally favorable conditions allowed the storm to strengthen to a peak of 65 mph (105 km / h) on October 3 . A mid @-@ level ridge forced the storm more to the south @-@ southeast , where after remaining a 60 mph (97 km / h) storm for three days , Larry made landfall on Paraíso in the Mexican state of Tabasco on October 5 . It steadily weakened over land , and degenerated into a remnant low on October 6 while mid @-@ way through the Isthmus of Tehuantepec . The remnant low turned to the southwest , and reached the eastern Pacific Ocean on the October 7 . The remnants of Larry re @-@ organized in the eastern Pacific , with the National Hurricane Center indicating for the possibility of redevelopment into a tropical depression on October 9 . However , the convection diminished , and further development was no longer anticipated .

= = Preparations = =

Due to its erratic motion , the Mexican government issued a Tropical Storm Warning and a Hurricane Watch early in Larry 's lifetime from Veracruz to Campeche . The watches and warnings were extended westward to Tuxpan on the 4th and extended eastward to Ciudad del Carmen on October 5 . Due to the threat of the storm , officials closed three Pemex oil ports . The company used its reserves to make sure profits weren 't disrupted . In addition , the storm closed shipping ports in Dos Bocas in Tabasco , Coatzacoalcos in Veracruz , and Cayo Arcas in Campeche . The Mexican government placed six coastal states on maximum alert , while authorities set up 75 evacuation shelters for around 1 @,@ 500 people . Because of the storm , the government declared much of eastern Mexico a state of emergency .

= = Impact = =

Tropical Storm Larry was one of eight storms to hit Mexico from either the Atlantic Ocean or the Pacific Ocean , the highest since the record of nine in 1971 . The National Hurricane Center expected the storm to produce a storm surge of 3 to 5 feet (.9 to 1 @. @ 5 m) , with high waves on top , though no official surge readings were reported . The highest recorded winds on land were 59 mph (95 km / h) in El Alacrán in Tabasco . The worst of Larry 's effects came from its rainfall , peaking at 24 @. @ 77 inches (629 @. @ 2 mm) in Upper Juarez in southeastern Mexico . The highest 24 @- @ hour rainfall total was 9 @. @ 6 inches (245 @. @ 5 mm) in Tortuguero , Chiapas , while several other locations reported over 4 inches (102 mm) in 24 hours .

The flooding damaged more than 21 @, @ 000 houses across Mexico , in combination with the damage from Eastern Pacific Hurricanes Nora and Olaf . Damage was greatest around the Chiapas capital of Tuxtla Gutiérrez , where over 9 @, @ 000 houses were affected . The rainfall caused mudslides across the country , hospitalizing two individuals in central Hidalgo . The flooding also caused severe crop damage along Larry 's path . Strong wind gusts caused outages to telephone and power services . In all , Larry caused five deaths and \$ 53 @. @ 6 million in damage (2003 USD , \$ 59 million 2005 USD) .

In El Salvador , rainfall from the remnants of Larry ? combined with previous rainfall ? caused mudslides and flooding , forcing several thousand people to evacuate in San Salvador . The flooding destroyed or damaged hundreds of houses .

= = Aftermath = =

Tropical Storm Larry hit Mexico at around the same time as two other tropical storms . The Mexican Red Cross provided aid for 6 @, @ 587 families throughout the country , while the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies launched an international appeal for aid . The appeal raised \$ 284 @, @ 472 @. @ 8 (2003 USD) . The Mexican Red Cross distributed 4 @, @ 000 food and hygiene packets to various places , and delivered 2 @, @ 750 family packets and over 4 @, @ 300 mattresses to citizens in Chiapas , as well as 5 @, @ 000 school kits . A total of 38 @, @ 750 people benefited from the operation .