

= Hurricane Ismael =

Hurricane Ismael was a weak , but deadly Pacific hurricane that killed over one hundred people in northern Mexico in September of the 1995 Pacific hurricane season . It developed from a persistent area of deep convection on September 12 , and steadily strengthened as it moved to the north @-@ northwest . Ismael attained hurricane status on September 14 while located 210 miles (340 km) off the coast of Mexico . It continued to the north , and after passing a short distance east of Baja California it made landfall on Topolobampo in the state of Sinaloa with winds of 80 mph (130 km / h) . Ismael rapidly weakened over land , and dissipated on September 16 over northwestern Mexico . The remnants entered the United States and extended eastward into the Mid @-@ Atlantic States .

Offshore , Ismael produced waves of up to 30 feet (9 m) in height . Hundreds of fishermen were unprepared for the hurricane , which was expected to move more slowly , and as a result 52 ships were wrecked , killing 57 fishermen . On land , Ismael caused 59 deaths in mainland Mexico and resulted in \$ 26 million in damage (1995 USD , \$ 40 @. @ 4 million 2016 USD) . The hurricane destroyed thousands of houses , leaving 30 @, @ 000 people homeless . Moisture from the storm extended into the United States , causing heavy rainfall and localized moderate damage in southeastern New Mexico .

= = Meteorological history = =

A poorly organized area of convection persisted about 170 miles (270 km) off the southern coast of Guatemala on September 9 . It moved west @-@ northwestward , and after three days without further organization a circulation developed off the southwest coast of Mexico . The system quickly organized , resulting in Dvorak classifications beginning later that day . Convective banding became better organized , and late on September 12 it developed into Tropical Depression Ten while located about 350 miles (560 km) south @-@ southwest of Manzanillo , Colima . The depression moved to the northwest , and following an increase in deep convection it intensified into Tropical Storm Ismael early on September 13 . Upon attaining tropical storm status , Ismael was located in an area of warm water temperatures with well @-@ established upper @-@ level outflow . Initially the storm moved to the northwest , though in response to the interaction with an upper @-@ level low over Baja California Ismael gradually turned to the north . Such a change in motion was not operationally predicted by forecasters , though they noted uncertainty in Ismael 's track due to the low . Ismael steadily strengthened as it moved northward , though it failed to organize significantly ; early on September 14 the center remained poorly defined despite winds of 70 mph (110 km / h) . However , the outflow remained well @-@ organized as it remained over warm waters . Ismael became better organized , and later on September 14 it intensified into a hurricane while located 210 miles (340 km) west @-@ southwest of Puerto Vallarta .

Ismael quickly developed a poorly defined eye , and six hours after becoming a hurricane it reached a peak intensity of 80 mph (130 km / h) . Steered between a mid- to upper @-@ level trough to its west and a ridge to its east , Ismael accelerated as it moved just west of due north . Late on September 14 Ismael passed 65 miles (100 km) east of Cabo San Lucas . The hurricane maintained its strength as it continued northward , and made landfall on Topolobampo in the state of Sinaloa on September 15 . Ismael rapidly weakened as the circulation crossed the high terrain of the Sierra Madre Occidental , and it dissipated early on September 16 about 55 miles (95 km) south of the Mexico / United States border . The remnants of Ismael continued northward , and moisture from the storm extended over the southwestern United States eastward through the Mid @-@ Atlantic States .

= = Preparations = =

Initially , Hurricane Ismael was predicted to remain over the open waters of the Pacific Ocean . However , when a northward motion became apparent , the government of Mexico issued a tropical storm warning from Manzanillo , Colima , to Cabo Corrientes and for the Islas Marias . Shortly

thereafter , the warning was extended to Los Mochis and issued for the eastern coast of Baja California Sur south of 25 ° N. Ten hours before Ismael made its final landfall , the Mexican government issued a hurricane warning from Mazatlán to Los Mochis . Prior to the arrival of the hurricane , 1 @, @ 572 people evacuated to five emergency shelters .

= = Impact = =

Hurricane Ismael produced 30 foot (9 m) waves over the Gulf of California and coastal waters off of Mexico . The hurricane , which was forecast to move more slowly , left hundreds of fisherman unprepared due to deficient communications between the boats and harbor authorities . As a result , 52 boats were wrecked , of which 20 sank . 57 fishermen died offshore , with dozens washing ashore as the high tides receded . About 150 fishermen survived the storm by waiting on islands , sandbars , or disabled fishing boats . Navy rescue teams and other fishermen searched for days off the Mexican coast to find victims and survivors from the storm .

While moving through northwestern Mexico , Hurricane Ismael dropped moderate to heavy rainfall including a state record of 7 @. @ 76 inches (197 mm) in Sinaloa , resulting in the flooding of four municipalities . In one municipality , the passage of the hurricane destroyed 373 cardboard houses and damaged 4 @, @ 790 others . The passage of the hurricane left 177 houses without drinking water and left four municipalities without power . Damage was heaviest where the hurricane made landfall . In Los Mochis , the winds from Ismael knocked down houses and telephone poles , though no deaths were reported . 59 people were killed in Sinaloa .

Ismael produced heavy rainfall further to the north , peaking at 10 @. @ 9 inches (276 mm) in Sonora . Severe flooding was reported in Huatabampo . The hurricane directly affected 24 @, @ 111 people in 8 municipalities . Throughout Sonora , the strong winds destroyed 4 @, @ 728 houses and removed the roofs of 6 @, @ 827 homes . The hurricane also destroyed 107 schools and 2 health centers in the state . The passage of Hurricane Ismael damaged high @- @ tension power lines and cable lines , causing interruptions to the communication system . The hurricane also weakened 2 @, @ 163 miles (3 @, @ 481 km) of gravel roads and damaged about 100 miles (165 km) of paved highways . 250 people lost their jobs in Sonora due to sunken or damaged fishing boats . In addition , about 83 sq. miles (215 km ²) of crop lands were impacted . Damage in Sonora amounted to \$ 8 @. @ 6 million (1995 USD , \$ 50 million 1995 MXN , \$ 77 @. @ 6 million 2016 USD) .

Throughout Mexico the hurricane left 30 @, @ 000 people homeless . Including offshore casualties , Ismael caused at least 116 deaths and damage totaling to \$ 26 million (1995 USD , \$ 197 million 1995 MXN , \$ 40 @. @ 4 million 2016 USD) .

Moisture from the remnants of Ismael extended into southwestern Arizona and southern New Mexico . The storm dropped heavy precipitation near the New Mexico / Texas border , including a peak total of 8 @. @ 53 inches (217 mm) in Hobbs , New Mexico . In addition , there were unofficial estimates of over 10 inches (250 mm) . The rainfall led to flooding of roads and buildings . Multiple highways and railroads were closed due to washouts . Damaged totaled to \$ 250 @, @ 000 (1995 USD) in New Mexico . In Lubbock , Texas , the rainfall led to flash flooding , closing many intersections and roads . The remnants of Ismael produced over 3 inches (76 mm) of rain in southwestern Oklahoma and northern Arkansas , with moisture extending eastward into the Mid @- @ Atlantic States . There , the rainfall helped to relieve drought conditions .

= = Aftermath = =

Following the passage of the hurricane , reinforcement workers quickly repaired the communication network , and other workers distributed aid to victims in Sonora . The Mexican government allocated about \$ 4 @. @ 5 million (1995 USD , \$ 34 million 1995 MXN , \$ 6 @. @ 99 million 2016 USD) in funds for the restoration of houses and the overall infrastructure . Officials distributed 4 @, @ 800 sheets , 500 cushions , and 1 @, @ 500 blankets to hurricane victims . All sunken ships and drowned bodies were ultimately recovered by divers .

Due to the damage and deaths , the World Meteorological Organization retired the name Ismael with Israel , another Spanish name beginning with the letter " I " set to be used in the 2001 Pacific hurricane season . During the 2001 season , a reporter stationed in Israel felt offended from the name choice , and the president of the Anti @-@ Defamation League felt it was insensitive . Hundreds of people sent e @-@ mails or called the National Hurricane Center , and as a result Max Mayfield called the members of the World Meteorological Organization . The name Israel was replaced with Ivo during the season . Ivo was not retired after the 2001 , 2007 or 2013 seasons ; it will be used next in the 2019 season .