

= Tropical Storm Delia (1973) =

Tropical Storm Delia was the first tropical cyclone on record to make landfall in the same city twice . Forming out of a tropical wave on September 1 , 1973 , Delia gradually strengthened into a tropical storm as it moved north by September 3 . After reaching this strength , the storm turned more westward and further intensified , nearly attaining hurricane status the next day . The storm peaked with winds of 70 mph (110 km / h) and a barometric pressure of 986 mbar (hPa ; 29 @. @ 11 inHg) . Several hours later , Delia made landfall near Freeport , Texas ; however , the storm began to execute a counterclockwise loop , causing it to move back over the Gulf of Mexico . On September 5 , the storm made another landfall in Freeport before weakening to a depression . The remnants of Delia eventually dissipated early on September 7 over northern Mexico .

Due to the erratic movement of the storm along the Texas coastline , significant rainfall fell in areas near the center and in parts of Louisiana . This led to widespread flooding , especially of farmland , that left \$ 6 million in damages . Five people were killed during the storm .

= = Meteorological history = =

Tropical Storm Delia originated from a tropical wave that formed over the central Caribbean Sea in late August 1973 . Tracking towards the west @-@ northwest , convective activity increased and the overall structure of the system improved . By August 31 , a weak area of low pressure formed over the Gulf of Honduras . This system tracked northward and further organized into a tropical depression just off the southeastern coast of the Yucatán Peninsula on September 1 . Gradually intensifying , the depression became a tropical storm on September 3 as it turned towards the west . In accordance with its upgrade , it was given the name Delia . This upgrade followed a reconnaissance mission into the system that found sustained winds of 50 mph (85 km / h) . A complex steering patten formed later that day , resulting in a more hostile environment for the cyclone .

As Delia neared the Texas coastline , it managed to intensify into a strong tropical storm with winds of 70 mph (110 km / h) and reconnaissance reported winds well in excess of hurricane @-@ force in numerous squalls associated with the storm . The lowest pressure was recorded at 986 mbar (hPa ; 29 @. @ 11 inHg) . However , Delia was not classified a hurricane as it had not developed an eyewall around the center of circulation . Delia subsequently made its first landfall at Freeport , Texas late on September 4 . After executing a counterclockwise loop , the storm made its second landfall in Freeport on September 5 . After moving inland , the storm quickly weakened , becoming a depression on September 6 before dissipating early the next day over northern Mexico .

= = Preparations and impact = =

On September 3 , the National Hurricane Center (NHC) issued gale warnings and hurricane watches for areas between Lake Charles , Louisiana and the mouth of the Mississippi . Later that day , they were extended westward to Palacios , Texas and eventually , warnings for areas east of Morgan City , Louisiana were canceled . Due to the unexpected loop taken by Delia , gale warnings were extended as far south as Baffin Bay , Texas . By September 6 , the NHC discontinued all watches and warnings associated with the storm . Around this time , the National Weather Service issued flood warnings , and warned residents about the possibility of tornadoes forming with the weakening tropical cyclone . In Cameron , Louisiana , an estimated 6 @, @ 000 residents were evacuated with memories of Hurricane Audrey , a storm that killed 575 in the city , still fresh .

Due to the erratic track of the storm along the Texas coastline , widespread heavy rains fell in areas near the storm and in Louisiana . Tides up to 6 ft (1 @. @ 8 m) , in addition to rainfall up to 13 @. @ 9 in (350 mm) , caused significant flooding in the Galveston @-@ Freeport area . Up to \$ 3 million was reported in damages to homes due to the flooding . In southern Louisiana , numerous areas received more than 10 in (250 mm) of rain and most of the state recorded at least 3 in (76 mm) . This rainfall led to widespread flooding , particularly in agricultural areas . Damages to crops

amounted to \$ 3 million . In addition to the flooding rains produced by Delia , eight tornadoes also touched down due to the storm , injuring four people . Five people were killed during Delia , two of which were directly related to the storm . Two of the other deaths resulted from a car crash , triggered by slick roads , with the two occupants of a pickup truck being killed . The fifth death resulted occurred while a man was boarding up his home and suffered a stress @-@ induced heart attack . The outer bands of the storm also produced significant rainfall in Arkansas and Oklahoma , peaking at 9 @.@ 72 in (247 mm) and 8 @.@ 22 in (209 mm) respectively .