

= Hurricane Jimena (2003) =

Hurricane Jimena was the tenth named storm and second hurricane of the 2003 Pacific hurricane season . Jimena formed on August 28 in the far Eastern Pacific Ocean as a tropical depression and moved westward where it rapidly became a hurricane the following day . The storm moved westward into the Central Pacific Ocean where it became a Category 2 hurricane on the Saffir ? Simpson Hurricane Scale . After reaching its peak strength as a Category 2 hurricane , the storm began to weaken due to increasing wind shear . Jimena brushed past the Hawaiian Islands before becoming a tropical depression on September 3 . The weakening storm then crossed the international dateline before dissipating on September 5 , becoming one of the few storms to cross both 140°W and International Date Line .

Jimena was the first Pacific hurricane to threaten Hawaii since Hurricane Daniel of the 2000 Pacific hurricane season . However , the storm weakened as it passed south of the islands and the effects from Jimena were minimal ; there were no reported fatalities or injuries from the storm .

= = Meteorological history = =

An area of disturbed weather formed on August 26 , 2003 and drifted westward . The disturbed weather then began to organize and the system became a tropical depression on August 28 . Moving westward over waters greater than 82 ° F (28 ° C) , Tropical Depression Ten @-@ E rapidly strengthened into a tropical storm and was named Jimena by the National Hurricane Center .

Jimena continued to intensify as it moved westward . On August 29 , satellite imagery showed a well defined eye developing in the storm as the storm winds increased to 60 mph (97 km / h) . Jimena then was upgraded to hurricane status later that day . At 1500 UTC , visible satellite imagery showed the storm having a small cloud filled eye and developing banding features south of the storm 's center as Jimena continued to move west northwest . As the hurricane neared the Central Pacific Basin , it winds reached a peak intensity of 105 mph (165 km / h) and the barometric pressure fell to 970 millibars on August 30 . At 0600 UTC , the National Hurricane Center issued its last advisory on Jimena as the storm crossed into the Central Pacific Hurricane Center 's area of responsibility .

On August 31 , Jimena encountered strong southerly wind shear , causing it to quickly weaken back to a tropical storm by September 1 . Jimena then turned west @-@ southwest where the center of the storm passed 105 miles (165 km) south of Hawaii at 1500 UTC . Jimena continued to weaken as wind shear increased and the storm weakened to a tropical depression on September 3 . After weakening back to a depression , Jimena crossed the International Date Line on September 5 at 0600 UTC , where it became the first storm to exist in all three Pacific basins since 1999 's Hurricane Dora . However , Jimena was only tracked briefly by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center , since strong wind shear resulted in the low level circulation to be exposed from the center and at 1727 UTC , the low level had nearly dissipated . At 1800 UTC , the Joint Typhoon Warning Center issued their final advisory on Jimena as the storm dissipated 715 miles (1151 km) southeast of Wake Island .

= = Preparations and impact = =

Forecasters at the Central Pacific Hurricane Center began issuing a Hurricane Watch for the Big Island of Hawaii on August 31 at 0000 UTC ; the following day the Central Pacific Hurricane Center (CPHC) issued a tropical storm warning at 0300 UTC and a flash flood watch . The watches and warnings prompted residents to board up windows and stock up on emergency supplies . The storm 's approach also closed down beaches and prompted officials to cancel outdoor activities as a precaution and the American Red Cross opened shelters and provided emergency services . The preparations for Hurricane Jimena cost the American Red Cross \$ 5 @, @ 000 (2003 USD) .

As Jimena passed south of Hawaii as a weakening tropical storm , it brought high winds and heavy

rainfall to the island . High wind gusts of 53 ? 58 mph (85 ? 93 km / h) were reported in South Point and Kahoolawe . In Honolulu , a weather station reported winds of 36 mph (58 km / h) while a station in Kauai reported winds of 22 mph (35 km / h) . The storm dropped 6 ? 10 inches of rain across the Big Island . In Glenwood , Hawaii , the storm dropped 8 @.@ 43 inches (214 mm) of rain . The rainfall from Jimena helped reduce drought conditions across the Big Island . Coastal sections of the Hawaiian Islands reported high surf ranging from 11 to 15 feet (3 ? 5 meters) high .

High winds from Jimena knocked down trees and damaged power lines , leaving 1 @,@ 300 residents without electricity . Heavy rainfall from the storm also caused minor flooding on the eastern side of the Big Island . Offshore , high surf and strong currents brought by the storm resulted in 350 swimmers being rescued by the United States Coast Guard , residents , and state and local police and fire departments . Overall there were no fatalities or injuries from Hurricane Jimena . The name Jimena was not retired by the World Meteorological Organization in the spring of 2004 and was used in the 2009 season .