

= 1943 Mazatlán hurricane =

The 1943 Mazatlán hurricane was a powerful tropical cyclone (at least Category 4) that lashed the southern coast of Sinaloa on the morning of 9 October 1943 . The hurricane went essentially undetected before it made landfall just south of Mazatlán on 9 October with a pressure below 958 @. @ 6 millibars (28 @. @ 31 inHg) and maximum sustained winds of at least 136 miles per hour (219 km / h) . The hurricane destroyed two small towns and half of Mazatlán , killing at least 106 persons , injuring 102 , and leaving over 1 @, @ 000 homeless . Total damage was estimated at \$ 4 @. @ 5 million (1943 USD , \$ 56 million 2008 USD) . The hurricane was the strongest on record to strike Mazatlán .

= = Meteorological history = =

Sources do not reveal the exact origin of this tropical cyclone . On 8 October , a developing tropical cyclone passed between the Revillagigedo Islands and Islas Marías . It moved rapidly northeastward and arrived on the coast of Sinaloa as an intense hurricane .

Mazatlán Observatory reported that the atmospheric pressure began dropping at 1 : 30 am on 9 October and fell 0 @. @ 827 inches of mercury (28 @. @ 0 hPa) in 8 hours , and reached a minimum of 958 @. @ 6 millibars (28 @. @ 31 inHg) . At 1530 UTC 9 October , the hurricane made landfall just south of Mazatlán . At 9 : 30 am , the observatory reported winds of 134 miles per hour (216 km / h) for a period of 15 minutes , which period ended when the wind blew the anemometer loose . The hurricane ranks as the strongest on record to strike the city .

The storm dropped little precipitation as it passed Mazatlán , but 2 inches (51 mm) fell on the afternoon of 9 October .

As the storm continued inland , it rapidly weakened and apparently dissipated over the Sierra Madre Occidental . The storm apparently passed into Chihuahua and was predicted to continue into the southern United States , though the remainder of its path is unknown .

The cyclone was dissipated over the state of Durango within a day after landfall . Heavy rain developed across parts of Texas on 12 / 13 October 1943 .

= = Effects and aftermath = =

Moving ashore as a powerful hurricane , the storm destroyed the small towns of El Roble , now in Mazatlán Municipality , and Palmillas . The storm partially destroyed Villa Unión (a town now in Mazatlán Municipality) and severely damaged the port at Mazatlán . In these towns , approximately 100 persons lost their lives . Though the storm was reported to have struck " without warning " , most residents in the destroyed cities ably reached safety in higher ground . The hurricane destroyed about half of the buildings in Mazatlán , and near the ocean , the combination of strong waves , high winds , and rainfall heavily damaged many hotels and houses . The storm damaged water systems , leaving people without potable water or sewage systems . In a 50 miles (80 km) portion of the coastline , the storm severely impacted the communication and transportation infrastructure . The airport at Mazatlán sustained damage to its radio tower , and for at least 18 hours , the only communication between the city and the rest of Mexico was through the radio of a plane in the airport . Total damage was estimated at \$ 4 @. @ 5 million (1943 USD , \$ 56 million 2008 USD) .

Of several fishing boats and a small Mexican Navy vessel caught in the storm , no trace reportedly was found ; all persons aboard these vessels apparently died . A small coastal boat arrived in the port of Mazatlán after the storm and reported six crew members missing .

Within two days after the storm , the death toll rose to 18 ; the next day , the Associated Press reported 52 deaths and 102 injuries . Ten days after the storm , military officials reported the death toll rose to 57 , and the number of people left homeless by the storm reached over 1 @, @ 000 .

By 24 hours after the storm , President Manuel Ávila Camacho ordered nurses and doctors on standby , and for military workers in the area to prepare to assist in the aftermath . By five days after

the storm , officials had restored power and communications in the area . Around the same time , the president issued an appeal for public donations for storm victims . Within a week , citizens sent large quantities of food , clothing , and medicine to the worst affected areas . The President of Mexico personally visited Mazatlán with other officials , bringing aid in the form of medicine and clothing .

= = Famous people who witnessed it = =

Walt Disney

= = Comparison = =

Only two other intense hurricanes struck Mazatlan during the period of record : Hurricane Olivia (1975) , which hit the city with winds of 115 miles per hour (185 km / h) , and a storm in 1957 . However , Hurricane Tico (1983) moved ashore very near the city as a major hurricane .