

= Hurricane Odile ( 1984 ) =

Hurricane Odile was the second of three tropical storms to make landfall in Mexico during the 1984 Pacific hurricane season . The fifteenth named storm and twelfth hurricane of the active season , it developed from a tropical disturbance about 185 miles ( 300 km ) south of Acapulco on September 17 . Curving towards the northwest , Odile became a Category 1 hurricane on September 19 . The tropical cyclone reached its peak intensity with winds of 105 mph ( 165 km / h ) two days later ; however , Hurricane Odile began to weaken as moved erratically it encountered less favorable conditions and was downgraded to a tropical storm shortly before making landfall northwest of Zihuatanejo . Over land , the storm rapidly weakened , and dissipated on September 23 . The storm caused significant rainfall accumulations of 24 @.@ 73 inches ( 628 @.@ 1 mm ) in Southern Mexico , resulting in severe damage to tourism resorts . Flooding from Odile resulted in the evacuation of 7 @,@ 000 people , 21 deaths , and the damage of about 900 homes .

= = Meteorological history = =

A tropical disturbance was first noted about 150 mi ( 240 km ) south of Acapulco on September 16 . After tracking over 84 ° F ( 29 ° C ) waters , the disturbance began to strengthen , and became a depression at 1800 UTC on September 17 . The depression began to curve more towards the northwest beneath a narrow ridge located over southern Mexico and south of an upper @-@ level low over northern Mexico . About 24 hours after developing into a tropical cyclone , the Eastern Pacific Hurricane Center ( EPHC ) upgraded the depression to Tropical Storm Odile . By 0000 UTC September 20 , the EPHC reported that Odile had attained hurricane status while turning towards the east between the ridge and an upper @-@ level low .

Late on September 21 , Hurricane Odile reached its peak intensity of 105 mph ( 165 km / h ) ( a Category 2 hurricane on the Saffir @-@ Simpson Hurricane Scale ) as it approached Acapulco . Due to a combination of an upper level trough that moved southward over the Baja California Peninsula and the weakening of the ridge , the hurricane began to turn more northwestward . After maintaining peak intensity for 12 hours , Odile started to weaken , as the storm began to encounter cooler sea surface temperatures . The hurricane rapidly weakened to tropical storm status while approaching the coast of Mexico ; within a six @-@ hour period , the winds diminished from 100 mph ( 160 km / h ) to 60 mph ( 95 km / h ) . By late on September 22 , Odile made landfall about 50 miles ( 80 km ) northwest of Zihuatanejo , with winds of 50 mph ( 80 km / h ) . Less than six hours later , at 0000 UTC on September 23 , Odile ceased to exist as a tropical cyclone . While its surface circulation rapidly weakened over the mountains of western Mexico , the remnants of Odile moved northwest , passing east of Manzanillo before weakening as it re @-@ curved towards Texas .

= = Preparations and impact = =

Heavy rainfall was recorded across Southern Mexico , with the maximum rainfall totals in Costa Azul and Acapulco , where it caused 24 @.@ 73 in ( 628 mm ) of rainfall . In all , Odile and a few other systems brought the heaviest rains to the region since 1978 . Acapulco Mayor Alfonso Arugdin Alcaraz reported that flooding damaged roughly 900 homes , inundated 30 miles ( 50 km ) of highways , triggered an evacuation of 7 @,@ 000 people , and left 20 @,@ 000 families without water service . However , these reports were not confirmed because telephone circuits between Acapulco and Mexico City were down .

Commercial flights in Acapulco were suspended on September 21 , only to be resumed on September 23 , though the airline terminal remained flooded by more than 3 ft ( 910 mm ) of water . Cites such as Zihuatanejo along the coast were left without electricity since the hurricane had knocked down two high @-@ tension towers . A total of 44 riverbanks and 30 @,@ 000 residents were isolated due to flooding . Eighteen passengers and three crewman drowned on the Atoyac River . In addition , tourism resorts in Acapulco and Ixtapa @-@ Zihuatenejo suffered severe damage . Officials estimated that hotels were only 5 % full .

