

= Hurricane Virgil (1992) =

Hurricane Virgil was a late season hurricane of the 1992 Pacific hurricane season that struck southwestern Mexico in October 1992 . Forming from a tropical wave that left Africa on September 13 , it slowly developed into a tropical depression . It soon strengthened into Tropical Storm Virgil , and rapidly intensified into a hurricane on October 2 . Continuing to intensify , the hurricane attained major hurricane strength , and peaked as a Category 4 hurricane off the coast of Mexico . Shortly before landfall , it weakened to a Category 2 hurricane , and it dissipated on October 5 . Damage was generally minimal , though one person was reported missing .

= = Meteorological history = =

Virgil originated from a tropical wave that moved off the coast of Africa on September 13 , 1992 , beginning a westward course through the Atlantic and Caribbean without much development , although there was an increase convection near the Lesser Antilles on the September 20 . However , this was disorganized and suppressed by an upper @-@ level trough during the wave 's passage through the Caribbean Sea . The wave crossed over Panama on September 25 , and convection began to increase when it reached the Eastern Pacific , although it was initially disorganized . The system later became better organized , and on October 1 , the wave organized into a tropical depression . Shortly thereafter , it was upgraded to a tropical storm and was named Virgil .

Upon becoming a tropical storm , the system was expect to move near the coast of Mexico , and forecasters noted that there was some potential for a landfall . The system became a little better organized and over warm water and low wind shear Virgil steadily intensified . Virgil was upgraded to a hurricane the next day ; an eye formed an hour later . During the period of strengthening , Virgil turned more towards the north . Continued strengthening occurred , and it attained major hurricane status on September 2 . At this time , the system was anticipated to make landfall in Mexico as a Category 4 hurricane . The storm had maximum winds of 130 mph (215 km / h) , but shortly thereafter the storm began to weaken .

By 0900 UTC October 2 , the eye started to become less defined . Based on this , the storm was downgraded into a category 3 hurricane . Although an eye was no longer visible on satellite imagery , the storms had displayed very deep convection , thus the NHC initially maintained the intensity at 120 mph (195 km / h) . Virgil 's eye continued to become less defined , and was downgraded to Category 2 intensity at the time of landfall on October 4 . It rapidly weakened over land , and was a dissipating tropical depression by the time it moved offshore .

= = Preparations and Impact = =

Prior to the arrival of the hurricane , several watches and warnings were issued . During the afternoon of October 2 , a hurricane watch was first issued for areas west of Zihuantatenjo . The next day , the watch was upgraded into a hurricane warning . Fifteen hours later the area east of Zihuantatenjo , a tropical storm warning was issued . The watches were gradually dropped over the next few days , and by October 4 . The NHC warned the possibility of mudslides and landslides and 15 in (380 mm) of rain in the high terrain of Mexico .

Due to the sparsely populated area it struck , only minor damage was reported . Heavy rain and flooding were reported , peaking at over 10 inches (25 cm) in one location . One person was reported missing in the state of Colima , and three people were injured in Guerrero . More than 1 @, @ 000 homes were damaged in Guerrero , Michoacán , and Colima , as was 7 @, @ 400 acres (30 km ²) of farmland . A flood on the Atoyac River washed away 500 homes in Guerrero , which prompted the evacuation of 2 @, @ 500 people . A passenger train north of Lázaro Cárdenas , Michoacán , was derailed when it encountered washed @-@ out roadbeds . The storm also caused power outages .