

= Hurricane Carlotta ( 2012 ) =

Hurricane Carlotta was the easternmost tropical cyclone in the Eastern Pacific to make landfall at hurricane intensity since 1966 . The third tropical cyclone and third named storm of the 2012 Pacific hurricane season , Carlotta developed slowly into a tropical depression from a tropical wave southwest of Central America on June 14 . It moved generally west @-@ northwestward and by the following day , strengthened into tropical storm strength . Thereafter , gradual intensification occurred and the storm reached hurricane strength on June 15 . Rapid intensification ensued further , as Carlotta peaked as a 110 mph ( 175 km / h ) Category 2 hurricane on the same day on June 15 . At 0100 UTC the following day , Carlotta made landfall near Puerto Escondido , becoming the easternmost landfalling Pacific hurricane in recorded history . The next day the storm began to weaken as it moved onshore Southwestern Mexico . Carlotta continued to weaken rapidly , eventually dissipating on June 16 .

Throughout Mexico , widespread power outages and wind damage was reported , particularly in Oaxaca . Infrastructural damage was also reported due to winds and rain , as well as damage to crops . Rainfall from Carlotta peaked at 13 @.@ 78 in ( 35 @.@ 0 cm ) in San Juan Bautista Tuxtepec . Numerous mudslides resulted from the heavy rains , which blocked roads and damaged structures . At least 29 @.@ 000 homes and 2 @.@ 500 businesses sustained damage from Carlotta , mostly in Oaxaca . Seven people were killed by Carlotta , and the state of Oaxaca requested MX \$ 1 @.@ 4 billion ( US \$ 107 @.@ 7 million ) for repairs to public infrastructure .

= = Meteorological history = =

On June 12 , a tropical disturbance developed off the west coast of Costa Rica , moved westward and entered the eastern Pacific after crossing Panama . The system became better organized as it tracked to the west @-@ northwest as a westerly Kelvin wave provided favorable conditions for development . Convection increased around a developing low pressure area , and the National Hurricane Center ( NHC ) estimated a 50 % chance of tropical cyclogenesis by late on June 12 . After further organization , the NHC initiated advisories on Tropical Depression Three @-@ E at 0300 UTC on June 14 , while the system was located about 515 mi ( 830 km ) south @-@ southeast of Puerto Ángel , Oaxaca . At the time , the depression was located in an area of low wind shear and warm sea surface temperature conditions that were considered favorable for intensification . In addition , it had a small circulation , which increased the possibility for rapid deepening . The system moved northwestward after forming due to an extended ridge to the northeast . About six hours after forming , the depression intensified into Tropical Storm Carlotta , after rainbands increased around the center .

With continued favorable conditions , Carlotta quickly developed a ragged central dense overcast , or centralized area of convection . An eye feature began developing on June 15 , and later that day Carlotta intensified into a hurricane while approaching southeastern Mexico . A Hurricane Hunters flight late on June 15 indicated Carlotta was rapidly intensifying , observing winds of 110 mph ( 175 km / h ) in the eye and well @-@ established outflow ; the crew also observed flight @-@ level winds of 114 mph ( 183 km / h ) . The NHC initially predicted the hurricane would move along the Mexican coast just offshore , which would have allowed Carlotta to maintain much of its intensity . Shortly after its peak , Hurricane Carlotta weakened slightly as the eye 's began to interact with land . The hurricane made landfall near Puerto Escondido , Oaxaca early on June 16 , with winds estimated at 105 mph ( 165 km / h ) and a minimum pressure of 976 mbar ( 28 @.@ 8 inHg ) shortly after 0100 UTC on June 16 becoming the easternmost tropical cyclone in the Eastern Pacific to make landfall at hurricane intensity since 1966 . Carlotta rapidly weakened while moving inland , and it had deteriorated to tropical depression status by 12 hours after landfall . Although the cloud pattern became disrupted , the storm maintained a large area of thunderstorms . Very early on June 17 , the NHC reported that Carlotta had weakened into a post @-@ tropical remnant low ; the system still had a broad circulation over southwestern Mexico at the time . Later that day , the low degenerated into a trough along the west coast of Mexico .

= = Preparations and impact = =

When the system was first classified as a tropical cyclone on June 14 , the government of Mexico issued hurricane watch and a tropical storm watch for a portion of the Mexican Coast from Barra de Tonala to Punta Maldondo . Later that day , the watch was upgraded into a hurricane warning . Meanwhile , authorities issued an orange alert for most of Oaxaca , the second highest alert , and a yellow alert , the third highest alert , for northern Oaxaca , Chiapas and Guerrero . A green alert was issued for the state of Puebla , and blue alert , the second lowest alert , for southern Veracruz , Tabasco , Tlaxcala , Morelos and Michoacán . In Oaxaca , officials arranged evacuations for residents in low @-@ lying areas to go to schools , halls , and churches . In the fishing port of Puerto Angel , boating access was restricted. and the port of Salina Cruz was closed . To avoid family separations , schools were closed for several states . The government electricity agency channeled 608 electrical workers due to the threat of damage in the states of Oaxaca and Guerrero . A total of 23 plants were moved to provide emergency power supply .

Seven people were killed by the storm . A 56 @-@ year @-@ old woman was killed in a traffic accident that is blamed by the storm 's gusty winds that flipped over her car . In Pluma Hidalgo , Carlotta destroyed a clay house that killed a 13 @-@ year @-@ old girl and her 7 @-@ year @-@ old sister . The hurricane ripped off roofs of houses and caused widespread power outages and small landslides . About 1 @,@ 200 people moved to shelters throughout the city . According to authorities in Oaxaca , some roads were affected by mudslides ; subsequently , they had opened emergency shelters and evacuated many of families from low @-@ lying areas . In Puerto Escondido , near where the storm made landfall , billboards were toppled and windows were shattered . Towns throughout Oaxaca reported damage to roads , bridges , telephone lines , and crops . Rainfall from Carlotta peaked at 13 @.@ 78 in ( 35 @.@ 0 cm ) in San Juan Bautista Tuxtepec . In wake of the storm , the governor of Oaxaca requested the Mexican government to declare his state a disaster area , and requested MX \$ 1 @.@ 44 billion ( US \$ 113 million ) for repairs to public infrastructure . At least 29 @,@ 000 homes and 2 @,@ 500 businesses sustained damage from Carlotta , mostly in Oaxaca . Total insured losses caused by Carlotta were estimated to be about US \$ 12 @.@ 4 million .