

= Tropical Storm Gabrielle (1995) =

Tropical Storm Gabrielle caused moderate flooding in northeastern Mexico and southern Texas in August 1995 . The eighth tropical cyclone and seventh named storm of the 1995 Atlantic hurricane season , Gabrielle developed from a tropical wave in the west @-@ central Gulf of Mexico on August 9 . Initially a tropical depression , the system gradually intensified and by the following day , it became a tropical storm . Favorable conditions caused Gabrielle to continue to strengthen , with the storm nearly reaching hurricane status late on August 11 . However , it soon made landfall near La Pesca , Tamaulipas , thus halting further intensification . Once inland , Gabrielle rapidly weakened and dissipated by early on August 12 .

As Gabrielle was impacting the east coast of Mexico , Hurricane Flossie in the Eastern Pacific was brushing the Baja Peninsula . The storm produced torrential rainfall in northeastern Mexico , totaling to 19 @.@ 44 inches (494 mm) . As a result , numerous reservoirs were filled , forcing dozens in southern Nuevo Leon to evacuate their homes . Additionally , highway infrastructure and streets in the region were affected . Damage in Mexico is unknown , though six fatalities were reported . Rainfall up to 6 inches (150 mm) brought minor flooding to Texas , mainly damaging unharvested cotton . Three days after dissipation , the remnants of Gabrielle also produced heavy thunderstorms in New Mexico on August 15 .

= Meteorological history =

A tropical wave emerged into the Atlantic Ocean off the west coast of Africa during the last week of July . As it tracked across the Atlantic , it remained a well @-@ defined system , but never organized into a tropical cyclone . On August 8 , the system entered the Gulf of Mexico , and by the following day , it developed a weak low @-@ level circulation . The circulation became better defined later that day , and was confirmed by Reconnaissance aircraft that afternoon , when it was declared Tropical Depression Eight while east of Tamaulipas .

From the outset , the cyclone 's motion was altered by Hurricane Flossie off the Pacific coast of Mexico . Initially , deep convection fired up gradually as the depression slowly tracked westward in the Gulf of Mexico . At 1200 UTC on August 10 , the depression strengthened into Tropical Storm Gabrielle , as the storm curved southward . Gabrielle then strengthened slowly over the warm sea surface temperatures in a low wind shear environment , although land interaction slowed the intensification somewhat . The storm shifted once again onto a west @-@ northwest course on August 11 , moving very slowly towards the coast .

The storm made landfall at 2000 UTC on August 11 , just south of La Pesca in the Mexican state of Tamaulipas , about 175 miles (280 km) south of the United States @-@ Mexico border and about 90 miles (145 km) north of Tampico . Simultaneously , Gabrielle attained its peak intensity with a maximum sustained wind speed of 70 mph (110 km / h) and a minimum barometric pressure of 988 mbar (29 @.@ 2 inHg) . After landfall , the storm rapidly weakened , deteriorating to tropical depression status by early on August 12 over northeast Mexico . Six hours later , the surface circulation of Gabrielle dissipated over the mountains of the Sierra Madre Oriental , although its cloud pattern transited Mexico intact , moving into the Gulf of California before it sheared across northwest Mexico on August 15 .

= Preparations and impact =

Starting at 2100 UTC on August 9 , a tropical storm warning was issued from Baffin Bay , Texas to La Pesca , Tamaulipas while Gabrielle was still Tropical Depression Eight . By 0900 UTC on the following day , the warning was expanded to include areas south to Tampico , Tamaulipas and extended further to Tuxpan , Veracruz twelve hours later . As the latter was occurring , the tropical storm warning was discontinued for Texas . Early on August 12 , all the warnings in Mexico were discontinued , as the storm had already moved inland . 800 people were evacuated in Soto la Marina and San Fernando in Tamaulipas . People in poor villages in the Rio Grande Valley were

given sandbags with Tropical Storm Gabrielle approaching .

Overall damage was generally minor . There were no reports of wind damage , although tropical storm @-@ force winds affected the northern coast of Tamaulipas . A newspaper in Mexico reported up to 24 inches (600 mm) of precipitation across much of Tamaulipas and Nuevo Leon ; this figure is in dispute , however , as the rainfall database maintained by Mexico 's National Weather Service shows the maximum amount to lie under 20 inches (508 mm) . The heavy rainfall from the storm filled nearly half the reservoirs in Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas , which were almost empty due to drought conditions in the region . As a result , dozens in southern Nuevo Leon were forced to evacuate their homes . Rains from Gabrielle flooded streets and destroyed bridges and highways in northern Mexico . No storm surge recordings were taken in Mexico , although it is estimated by the National Hurricane Center that a surge of a few feet took place to the north of the track . Six fatalities were reported in Mexico as a result of Gabrielle .

In Texas , rainfall from the storm peaked at 6 @.@ 26 inches (159 mm) in Weslaco , while many other areas in southern Texas reported only 1 to 3 inches (25 to 76 mm) of precipitation . Gabrielle 's rain came after a drought , and some of it soaked in . The rains also damaged unharvested cotton . Otherwise , minor flooding occurred . Brownsville reported up to 4 inches (102 mm) of rain in association with Gabrielle . In extreme southern Texas , minor beach flooding took place at some of the beaches in the region . The remains of Gabrielle produced heavy thunderstorms in New Mexico on August 15 .