

= Hurricane Eugene (1987) =

Hurricane Eugene was the only tropical cyclone to make landfall in Mexico during the 1987 Pacific hurricane season . The eighth tropical cyclone , fifth named storm , and first hurricane of the season , Eugene developed on July 22 from a tropical disturbance centered well offshore of Mexico . Later that day , the system intensified into a tropical storm while moving northwestward . Eugene reached hurricane status on July 24 ; it briefly peaked as a Category 2 hurricane two days later . Hurricane Eugene weakened back to a Category 1 hurricane ; subsequently , the hurricane made landfall near Manzanillo . Shortly after landfall , Eugene rapidly weakened inland , and was only a tropical storm when it re-emerged into open water , where it quickly dissipated . Throughout Mexico , the storm produced high winds , especially in the southwestern portion of the country . The hurricane deluged the southwest Mexican coastline , resulting in the highest rainfall totals from a tropical cyclone in five Mexican states . Over 5 000 people were left homeless , including 60 in Manzanillo . The city's airport control tower was also damaged , thus requiring closure . Elsewhere , 200 to 300 houses were destroyed in Colima . In all , Eugene injured 18 people and caused three fatalities and \$ 142 million (1987 USD) in damage .

= Meteorological history =

Hurricane Eugene originated from a tropical disturbance that formed in the southwest Caribbean Sea on July 18 . Over the next two days , the wave moved across Central America and on July 20 , it was located off the coast of Nicaragua . Over the next few days , the system was steered westward due to easterly flow . By 0000 UTC July 22 , the Eastern Pacific Hurricane Center had classified the system as a tropical depression while centered 745 mi (1 200 km) south of Manzanillo . Subsequently , the depression slowly began curving to the north-northwest , towards a stationary inverted trough over central Mexico . That day , the depression intensified into Tropical Storm Eugene . The storm slowed down on July 24 , and located on the southwest side of an upper-level low , the system turned northwestward . Eugene was upgraded into a hurricane later that day , the first of the season . Further intensification occurred , and Eugene attained its peak intensity of 100 mph (160 km / h) the next day .

Shortly after its peak , the hurricane began to interact with land . The hurricane weakened to a Category 1 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale later that day . At 1200 UTC on July 25 , Eugene made landfall near Manzanillo with winds of 90 mph (145 km / h) , making Hurricane Eugene the only tropical system to move ashore during the season , though one hurricane and one tropical storm came close to land in September and October respectively . Because of the topography of Mexico , the storm weakened rapidly , and Eugene was downgraded to a tropical storm six hours after landfall . After briefly moving inland , Eugene emerged into the southern Gulf of California . However , re-intensification did not occur ; instead , Eugene continued weakening due to its close proximity to land . The weakening system was downgraded to a tropical depression early on July 26 , and Eugene dissipated at 1200 UTC that day .

= Preparations and impact =

When the storm first posed a threat to Mexico on July 24 , several ports such as the port of Zihuatanejo and Manzanillo . In Acapulco , navigation classes were suspended . The Mexican navy was put on alert for a total distance of 945 mi (1 520 km) spanning from Acapulco to Guaymas . The Servicio Meteorológico Nacional issued navigation warnings for three coastal states . Hurricane Eugene caused extremely heavy rains in coastal parts of Mexico . Rainfall peaked at 20 in (525 mm) in Aqualia . The cyclone is responsible for the highest tropical cyclone rainfall in the Mexican states of Aguascalientes , Michoacán , Querétaro , Tlaxcala , and Zacatecas . Waves of 15 ft (4.5 m) were also reported .

Hurricane Eugene brought widespread flooding , heavy rain , and high winds across Mexico , which leveled homes and palm trees . Numerous poorly built homes lost their roofs , though well-built

structures did not sustain any significant damage . In Puerto Vallarta , Hurricane Eugene was responsible for extensive damage to homes and for knocking out power to most of the city , which , along with surrounding areas , was also flooded with 1 @. @ 5 ft (0 @. @ 46 m) of water . In Manzanillo , the storm knocked down trees and beach huts and power was knocked out for most of the city . The Manzanillo Airport was closed for a few days after the airport 's control tower was damaged . A highway from Manzanillo to Colima was closed to thru traffic because of the storm . Throughout the state of Colima , crop damage was severe and 200 @- @ 300 homes were destroyed statewide . Several hundred miles further south , in Tecoman and Pueblo Capos , many homes and public buildings received damage . In Michoacán , the Grande River spilled over its banks , flooding five villages and leaving at least 10 @, @ 000 people without transportation or communication services . Several landslides were reported along a number of main highways , making travel in the area difficult . Overall , crop damage in the state was severe .

The hurricane destroyed about 15 sq. mi (39 km²) of fruit crop . A total of 18 people were injured during the storm . The storm destroyed 3 @, @ 107 acres of mango trees and 5 @, @ 662 acres of bananas were destroyed , with the worst crop damage occurring in Jalisco . Moreover , 540 acres of cocoa , 580 acres of papaya , and at least 382 acres of lemon trees were also destroyed by Eugene . Due to a combination of Eugene and Hurricane Greg , the region registered rainfall amounts for times the average . In addition , three people were killed ; two of the deaths occurred in Michoacán . One man died in Venustiano Carrazano when a palm tree was blown over . Another man perished in Manzanillo when he was struck by a fallen palm tree . Over 5 @, @ 000 people were left homeless (mostly from poor and rural areas) , including 60 people in Manzanillo . Total crop damage amounted to \$ 142 million (1987 USD) ; fruit crop damage alone amounted to more than \$ 2 @. @ 6 million (1987 USD) . Damage to eight beach houses totaled to \$ 120 @, @ 000 .

= = Aftermath = =

During the aftermath of the storm , the navy , army , and local government devised a cleanup plan . Three hundred government employees (with guidance of the military) worked to clear debris . They quickly restored water and power service , and within a few days streets had been cleaned for most of the impacted area . Authorities in Manzanillo asked for medicine , clothing and food from nearby areas while the red cross treated the injured . Many of the displaced were evacuated to government offices . Within a few days after the storm , the ports of Manzanillo , Acapulco , Zihuatanejo and Lazaro Cardenas were reopened . The remnants of the storm later brought rain to the Rockie Mountains and the Southwestern United States . Eugene is one of three known July Pacific hurricane strikes , where hurricane @- @ force winds are estimated over land . The other two hurricanes were Hurricane Calvin in 1993 and a hurricane that struck Baja California Sur in 1954 .