

= Tropical Storm Norman (2000) =

Tropical Storm Norman was a tropical cyclone that hit Mexico in September 2000 . The sixteenth cyclone and fourteenth named storm of the 2000 Pacific hurricane season , Norman originated in a tropical wave that emerged from the coast of Africa on September 4 , and moved westward across the Atlantic Ocean ; the wave entered the Pacific on September 16 . The disturbance organized into a tropical depression on early on September 20 , and later that day the storm reached its peak intensity of 50 mph (85 km / h) , and subsequently made landfall to the west of Lázaro Cárdenas , Michoacán . After weakening to a tropical depression over land , the storm re @-@ emerged over open waters , and made a second landfall before dissipating shortly thereafter . The storm produced heavy rain that resulted in flooding and mudslides , killing about nine people .

= = Meteorological history = =

The origins of Tropical Storm Norman were from the same tropical wave that spawned Atlantic Hurricane Gordon , which emerged off the coast of Africa on September 4 . The wave moved westward , with the southern portion of the wave crossing Central America while Gordon formed in the northwest Caribbean Sea . When the wave reached the eastern Pacific Ocean on September 16 , it interacted with a pre @-@ existing low @-@ level circulation , which produced a large area of disturbed weather . On September 18 , the convection began contracting and organizing , gradually developing a circular area of thunderstorms with well @-@ defined outflow . It is estimated that at 0000 UTC on September 20 , the system developed into Tropical Depression Sixteen @-@ E , about 205 miles (335 km) south @-@ southeast of Manzanillo , Colima .

Upon first becoming a tropical cyclone , the depression was located within an area of weak steering currents . Initially it was forecast to remain offshore ; with warm waters and light wind shear , the depression was forecast to intensify into a strong tropical storm , and possibly attain hurricane status . However , the circulation was difficult to locate , and as such its exact motion was uncertain . Ships in the region confirmed the center of the storm as further northeast than previously thought , but also confirmed tropical storm force winds ; as a result , the National Hurricane Center upgraded the depression to Tropical Storm Norman . Strengthening continued , and Norman attained peak winds of 50 mph (85 km / h) , shortly prior to making landfall west of Lázaro Cárdenas , Michoacán , late on September 20 .

Initially , the storm was forecast to dissipate quickly over land , although the possibility was noted for a westward turn , due to an anticyclone located over central Mexico . About 10 hours after moving ashore , Norman weakened to tropical depression status , and while moving further inland its track turned to the northwest . The center became very ill @-@ defined over the mountainous terrain of southwest Mexico , although stronger rainbands persisted offshore . Late on September 21 , the poorly defined center of Norman emerged into open waters near Puerto Vallarta , Jalisco , and subsequently turned northward . At first , the depression was forecast to re @-@ intensify into a minimal tropical storm ; however , its previous land interaction prevented it from ever re @-@ strengthening . The circulation remained close to the coastline , and at 1500 UTC on September 22 , Norman made landfall near Mazatlán , Sinaloa , as a weak tropical depression . Within a few hours , the cyclone dissipated over land .

= = Impact and preparations = =

In response to Norman 's upgrade into a tropical storm , a tropical storm warning was issued for the coast from Zihuatanejo to Manzanillo on September 20 . The warning was dropped after Norman made landfall the next day . No additional warnings were issued upon Norman 's reemergence over water because it was never expected to restrengthen .

Norman produced heavy rainfall across western Mexico , officially peaking at 14 in (360 mm) at Callejones , Colima . At La Villita , Michoacán , total rainfall reached 9 @.@ 5 in (240 mm) . However , the highest amount was actually at Petacalco / La Union . The rainfall caused severe

flooding and mudslides , which killed about nine people . Additionally , the heavy precipitation flooded streets and homes as well as down trees . Four of the deaths occurred in the State of Chiapas as a result of a mudslide . Two more were swept away by raging rivers in the State of Veracruz , and another two people drowned in the State of Guerrero . In Chiapas , authorities evacuated about 300 families due to the flooding .