= Tropical Storm Norman (2012) =

Tropical Storm Norman brought minor flooding to western Mexico and record rainfall to areas of Texas in September 2012 . The fourteenth tropical cyclone and fourteenth named storm of the 2012 Pacific hurricane season , Norman developed near the southern tip of Baja California early on September 28 . Upon developing into a tropical cyclone on September 28 , Norman attained its peak intensity with maximum sustained winds of 50 mph (85 km / h) . Heading northward into the Gulf of California , the storm began to weaken later that day due to southwesterly wind shear and land interaction . Norman curved northwestward and weakened to a tropical depression early on September 29 . Around that time , it briefly moved inland near Topolobampo , Sinaloa , before re @-@ emerging into the Gulf of California . Later on September 29 , Norman degenerated into a remnant low pressure area .

In anticipation of the storm , a tropical storm warning was issued for a portion of the Pacific coast of Mexico . Additionally , orange , yellow , green , and blue alerts were posted for several states . About 553 shelters were opened , though only 65 people sought refuge in them . Heavy rainfall from Norman was reported in Colima , Jalisco , Nayarit , Sinaloa , Baja California Sur , Durango , and Zacatecas . In Baja California Sur , mudslides and flooding left roads impassable , mainly in the La Paz area . Flooding in Sinola left streets inundated and about 150 families fled their homes . About 24 cars in the area were swept away . The remnants of Norman brought record rainfall totals to some areas of Texas . Local flooding occurred , with a few roads inundated in Wimberley . A woman died after her vehicle was swept off the road .

= = Meteorological history = =

A tropical wave emerged into the Atlantic Ocean from the west coast of Africa on September 12 . The wave moved westward across the Atlantic basin with minimal deep convection . By September 23 , it reached the eastern Pacific Ocean and began increasing in shower and thunderstorm activity over the next few days . While located near Acapulco another burst in convection occurred on September 25 , likely due to interaction with the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) . Around that time , the National Hurricane Center began Tropical Weather Outlooks (TWOs) on the system , which is information issued every six hours on significant areas of disturbed weather and their potential for development out to 48 hours . The tropical wave split on September 26 , with the northern portion moving northwestward near the southwestern coast of Mexico . By September 27 , the system had organized deep convection and was producing tropical storm force winds , but data from scatterometers indicated that it lacked a closed circulation . Although TWOs issued on September 27 predicted a high probability for development , the chances for tropical cyclogenesis was decreased later that day , due to the system 's close proximity to land .

On September 28 , satellite data and ships ' observations indicated a closed circulation . Thus , Tropical Storm Norman developed at 0600 UTC , while located about 115 mi (185 km) southeast of Cabo San Lucas . Initially , the storm was expected to intensify slightly before making landfall on September 29 and then dissipate on the following day . However , upon developing into a tropical cyclone at 1200 UTC on September 28 , Norman attained its peak intensity with maximum sustained winds of 50 mph (85 km / h) . Thereafter , Norman began heading northward between a mid @-@ to upper @-@ level low to its west and a mid @-@ level ridge over the Gulf of Mexico . Later on September 28 , the storm entered the Gulf of California and began weakening due to a significant increase in wind shear and interaction with land . Around that time , the cloud pattern became less organized and convection was being displaced from the circulation . Early on September 29 , the storm curved northwestward and was downgraded to a tropical depression due to difficulty in locating the center of circulation and significant disorganization . Norman made landfall near Topolobampo with winds of 35 mph (55 km / h) at 0500 UTC on September 29 . Shortly thereafter , the storm re @-@ curved west @-@ northwestward and re @-@ emerged into the Gulf of California . Norman degenerated into a remnant low pressure area at 1200 UTC on September 29 . The remnant low moved slowly west @-@ southwestward , before dissipating over Baja California Sur

near Loreto on September 30 .

== Preparations and impact ==

The Government of Mexico issued a tropical storm warning along the Pacific coast of Mexico from La Cruz , Sinaloa to Huatabampo at 1500 UTC on September 28 . Early on the following day , the tropical storm warning was discontinued . An orange alert " (high risk) was issued for parts of the state of Sinaloa , and a yellow alert was in effect for Baja California Sur , and green alert was declared for southern Sonora . A " blue alert " , minimum risk , was issued for north @-@ central Sonora , Durango , Chihuahua and Zacatecas . Officials deployed 400 soldiers in the cities of La Paz and Los Cabos . According to the state director of Civil Protection , Carlos Enriquez Rincon , 500 schools were available to operate as temporary shelters . The shelters have a capacity of around 30 @,@ 000 people , though only 65 people spent the first night of the storm in shelters . Furthermore , a total of 5 @,@ 000 food packages were sent to residents . In the mainland , authorities in the municipality of Culiacán opened 53 shelters , with a total capacity of over 7 @,@ 000 . In addition , classes were suspended in 5 states .

Tropical Storm Norman brought extremely heavy rains to Colima , Jalisco , Nayarit , Sinaloa , Baja California Sur , Durango , and Zacatecas . The ports of Cabo San Lucas and San Jose del Cabo were closed for boats and water activities . In the former , 15 ? 20 ft (4 @.@ 6 ? 6 @.@ 1 m) waves were recorded . Due to mudslides and wash flooding over 24 cars were swept away in La Paz . In Sinaloa , the rains caused by Norman did not represent an important contribution to the 11 dams in the state , with mean water levels rising from 42 @.@ 5 % to 42 @.@ 6 % . Eight fisherman were rescued near the port of Mazatlan when their boat tipped over . Five fisherman were initially reported missing ; however , following the passage of the storm , the missing people were later found alive . Street flooding was also reported . A total of 150 families were evacuated in two fishing villages along the mainland . Following the storm , a state of emergency was declared for the municipalities of Los Cabos , Angostura , and Navolato .

The remnants of Norman brought record rains to Texas . A peak rainfall total of 8 @.@ 4 in (210 mm) fell on La Pryor . At Camp Mabry in Austin , 1 @.@ 38 inches (35 mm) of rain fell in a 24 ? hour period , breaking a daily precipitation record set in 1985 . However , across the central portion of the state , rainfall from the system was less than expected . A few roads in Wimberley were temporarily closed due to flooding . One women was killed in Nacogdoches County after her car was swept off a roadway . A tornado warning was also issued in the Corpus Christi area .