

= Hurricane Ella (1970) =

Hurricane Ella was the second of two major hurricanes to threaten Texas during the 1970 Atlantic hurricane season . The sixth tropical storm and third hurricane of the season , Ella developed on September 8 in the western Caribbean Sea . It moved across the Yucatán Peninsula as a tropical depression before rapidly intensifying into a hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico . Initially the hurricane was forecast to hit southern Texas , which prompted evacuations and hurricane warnings . This occurred about a month after Hurricane Celia caused significant damage across the region . Hurricane Ella ultimately turned to the west and maintained a track that spared Texas from significant impact . On September 12 , it moved ashore in northeastern Mexico in the state of Tamaulipas with winds of 125 mph (201 km / h) . The hurricane left one death due to a destroyed house . Ella weakened while moving inland and dissipated on September 13 .

= Meteorological history =

The origins of Hurricane Ella were from a well @-@ defined trough that extended from the San Andres archipelago to Florida in early September . A tropical depression developed from the system on September 8 near Swan Island off the north coast of Honduras . Moving northwestward , the depression failed to strengthen much before striking the Yucatán Peninsula on September 10 , just south of Cozumel . As it emerged into the Gulf of Mexico , the depression began to intensify significantly . A few hours later , the Hurricane Hunters observed a tropical storm , which prompted the system being named " Ella " . Around that time , the storm started a general curve toward the west , due to a ridge to its north . With an anticyclone aloft providing favorable conditions , Ella rapidly intensified into a hurricane less than 12 hours after emerging from the Yucatán Peninsula .

Initially there was uncertainty in its future track , and the hurricane posed a threat to Texas ; however , Ella turned to the west as its intensification rate slowed . About 24 hours before its final landfall , its center became trackable on radar from Brownsville , Texas . As the ridge to the north weakened , Ella slowed its forward motion markedly and quickly strengthened . In the 12 hours before moving ashore , the winds increased from 100 mph (160 km / h) to 125 mph (201 km / h) , making Ella a major hurricane (Category 3 on the Saffir @-@ Simpson Hurricane Scale) . On September 12 , the hurricane made landfall near La Pesca , Tamaulipas , about 150 mi (220 km) south of the Mexico / United States border , with a barometric pressure of 967 mbar (28 @. 6 inHg) . This made Ella one of eleven major hurricanes to strike the Atlantic coast of Mexico in the period between 1970 and 2008 . It rapidly weakened over land , dissipating early on September 13 over western Nuevo León .

= Preparations and impact =

As the tropical depression that became Ella moved over the Yucatán Peninsula , it produced wind gusts of 55 mph (89 km / h) and a pressure of 1 @, 004 mbar (29 @. 6 inHg) .

When Hurricane Ella was still moving to the west @-@ northwest , the Weather Bureau issued a hurricane watch for the entire Texas coastline . This was later upgraded to a hurricane warning from Brownsville to Port Isabel , with gale warnings extending northward to Port Aransas . Officials issued a mandatory evacuation for low @-@ lying areas around Brownsville , as well as in South Padre Island and Port Isabel . An American Red Cross shelter opened to provide shelter . All residents in mobile homes were also told to leave their homes in the Brownsville area . People in the affected area took extra precautions due to the heavy damage left by Hurricane Celia only weeks before .

The hurricane increased surf along the Texas coast , with wave heights of 7 ft (2 @. 1 m) observed . As a result , small craft were recommended to remain at port . Ultimately there was no reported storm surge in Texas , although the waves crested high along the beaches . Precipitation was light in Texas , peaking at 0 @. 88 in (22 mm) at McAllen . Observations in northeastern Mexico were sparse , although wind gusts from Ella reached 150 mph (240 km / h) . The Brownsville Weather Bureau office noted the potential for 15 in (380 mm) of rainfall to occur in

Mexico along the hurricane 's path , and heavy rainfall occurred in portions of northeastern Mexico . There , the rainfall disrupted post @-@ storm rescue work . The rains prevented the transportation of relief goods , including food and medicine , by helicopters . The hurricane destroyed several houses , and there was one death after a girl was stuck in her destroyed house . Due to the hurricane , the Purification and the San Fernando Rivers crested above flood stage .