

= Hurricane Ramon =

Hurricane Ramon was a very intense Pacific hurricane that generated heavy rains in Southern California . The 19th named storm and final hurricane of the above @-@ average 1987 Pacific hurricane season , Ramon originated from a tropical disturbance formed in early October . On October 5 , a tropical storm had developed several hundred miles southwest of Manzanillo , bypassing the tropical depression stage . Tropical Storm Ramon turned to the west @-@ northwest after initially moving west . It intensified into a hurricane on October 7 . Two days later , Hurricane Ramon peaked in intensity with winds of 140 mph ( 220 km / h ) . After peaking , Ramon turned to the northwest and rapidly weakened over cooler waters . It weakened into a tropical storm on October 11 and a depression on October 12 . Ramon dissipated shortly thereafter . While at sea , Ramon brought light rainfall to the Baja California Peninsula . The remnants of Hurricane Ramon produced heavy rainfall that caused flooding in California , indirectly contributing to five traffic @-@ related fatalities . Rainfall was reported as far inland as Utah .

= = Meteorological history = =

Hurricane Ramon originated from a tropical disturbance that was situated south of a large ridge over Central Mexico . The disturbance became better organized while traversing 84 ° F ( 29 ° C ) waters and at 1800 UTC on October 5 , the Eastern Pacific Hurricane Center ( EPHC ) upgraded the disturbance into a tropical storm while centered about 575 mi ( 925 km ) southwest of Acapulco . Initially , the storm was expected to move west and not affect land ; however , this did not occur . After being named , Tropical Storm Ramon held onto marginal tropical storm intensity for 24 hours . Thereafter , Tropical Storm Ramon turned west @-@ northwestward and began to intensify . At 1200 UTC on October 7 , the EPHC reported that Ramon had intensified into a hurricane . About 24 hours later , the system was upgraded into a Category 2 hurricane on the Saffir @-@ Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale ( SSHWS ) . Rapidly intensifying , Ramon reached major hurricane status on October 8 ( Category 3 or higher on the SSHWS ) . At 0600 UTC on October 9 , Ramon was upgraded into a Category 4 hurricane while reaching its peak intensity of 140 mph ( 220 km / h ) , which it maintained for 24 hours .

After attaining peak intensity , Hurricane Ramon began to weaken . Late on October 10 , Ramon weakened slightly while turning northwest . The following morning , the storm reportedly weakened into a Category 2 . Hurricane Ramon began to rapidly deteriorate due to a combination of jetstream interactions and increasingly cold sea @-@ surface temperatures . At 0600 UTC on October 11 , the storm was downgraded into a Category 1 on the SSHWS after bypassing the Category 2 stage . It weakened into a tropical storm later that day and was further downgraded to a tropical depression on October 12 . Tropical Depression Ramon dissipated on 0600 UTC that day . The remnant moisture of this hurricane later moved into Southern California , resulting in record rains .

= = Preparations and impact = =

Although Hurricane Ramon was far from the state of California at that time , a flash flood watch was issued for southern Orange , San Diego , western San Bernardino and Riverside counties , citing uncertainty in the storm 's path . Additionally , " alerts " were also posted over a wide area that included the Santa Ana Mountains , the Laguna Mountains , Lake Arrowhead , and Joshua Tree National Monument . While still at sea , the storm produced high waves along the Pacific coast in the Baja California Peninsula ; Cabo San Lucas reported waves 3 ft ( 0 @. @ 91 m ) high . The outer rainband 's of Hurricane Ramon brought scattered showers to the region .

The remnants of this storm caused extremely heavy rains across Southern California , peaking at 2 @. @ 14 in ( 54 mm ) in Camp Pendelton . A total of 0 @. @ 5 in ( 13 mm ) of rain was reported in San Diego , resulting in street flooding . Torrential rainfall was recorded in San Diego County , where two people died in separate traffic accidents . Further north , in the city of Los Angeles , three more people perished in separate traffic incidents . Heavy rains extended west and was also

reported in Hemet in Riverside County , where three people were also injured during a car accident . The rains caused a week @-@ long forest fire 16 @,@ 000 acre ( 65 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 m <sup>2</sup> ) on Mt . Palomar to dissolve . Several streets were closed in Orange County and San Diego County . One library 's roof leaked , as such , books had to be covered for protection . Furthermore , the Spring Creek River overflowed its banks . Elsewhere , the moisture spread rains to Nevada , Arizona , Utah , and southwestern Colorado . The tropical moisture also helped end a 37 @-@ day dry spell in Salt Lake City , marking the longest time the city went without rain since 1964 . Nation @-@ wide , Ramon killed five people , all due to road @-@ related incidents .