

= Tropical Storm Gert (2005) =

Tropical Storm Gert was the fourth of seven tropical cyclones (4 hurricanes , two major hurricanes , and four tropical storms) to make landfall in Mexico during 2005 . It formed in July in the Bay of Campeche , becoming the seventh named storm of the 2005 Atlantic hurricane season .

As a tropical wave , Gert crossed Honduras and the Yucatán peninsula before organizing into Tropical Depression Seven on the afternoon of July 23 in the Bay of Campeche . It was upgraded to Tropical Storm Gert early the next day , gaining the record for the earliest formation of a seventh named storm in an Atlantic hurricane season . Gert strengthened little before making landfall south of Tampico , Tamaulipas , late on July 24 , with maximum sustained winds of 45 mph (70 km / h) and a minimum central pressure of 1005 mbar (29 @.@ 68 inHg) . It moved inland over central Mexico before dissipating on the next day . Gert struck in approximately the same area as Hurricane Emily just four days earlier , causing fear of flooding and landslides due to saturated lands . As a precaution , some 1 @,@ 000 people were evacuated from low @-@ lying residences and businesses near the towns of Naranjos Amatlán and Tamiahua .

= = Meteorological history = =

A tropical wave entered the Atlantic Ocean from Africa on July 10 , and the wave developed into an area of low pressure while passing over Cape Verde . Despite the organization , the low failed to develop into a tropical cyclone due to cool waters on the sea surface and wind shear . However , those unfavorable conditions did not completely destroy the wave , as it continued traveling westward through the Lesser Antilles until July 18 . That day , while south of Puerto Rico , the wave split in two ; the northern half moved northwest and developed into Tropical Storm Franklin over the Bahamas , and the southern half continued westward , with its associated thunderstorm activity increasing .

On July 22 , a new low pressure area developed while the tropical wave was located over the Gulf of Honduras . However , this area of disturbed weather was unable to develop further , because the storm quickly moved over the Yucatán Peninsula . After its one @-@ day passage through the peninsula , the system entered the Bay of Campeche , but lacked any deep convection . This time , though , the wave quickly developed the deep convection it needed to become a tropical cyclone . In part , this was due to the Sierra Madre Oriental enhancing large @-@ scale rotation of the disturbance by forcing air to flow parallel to the mountain range , instead of through it . As a result , the National Hurricane Center in Miami , Florida designated it as Tropical Depression Seven , just 255 miles east @-@ southeast of Tuxpan , Mexico . Early on the July 24 , the cyclone was upgraded to a tropical storm with winds of 40 mph (65 km / h) and received the name Gert .

Gert continued to move northwest after becoming a tropical storm , and reached a peak intensity of 45 mph (70 km / h) and a minimum central pressure of 1005 mbar (29 @.@ 68 inHg) . Gert made landfall just 6 miles (10 km) to the southeast of Pánuco , still at peak intensity , at 10 : 00 p.m. CDT (0000 July 25 , UTC) . However , due to its interaction with land , the storm quickly weakened back to a tropical depression strength early on July 25 , and became a remnant low twelve hours after that . Six hours later , just a day after it made landfall , it dissipated over the mountains of central Mexico .

= = Preparations = =

The track of Tropical Storm Gert was slightly more to the north than the National Hurricane Center 's initial predictions , giving the storm more time to develop . As a result , the NHC predicted that Gert could intensify further , but this did not occur . The primary emphasis of the forecasts was on the impact the rainfall from Gert could cause , particularly on this area of Mexico , which had been hit previously in the season by other hurricanes .

On July 23 , the Mexican Servicio Meteorológico Nacional (National Weather Service) issued a tropical storm warning for the eastern Mexican Gulf coast between Palma Sola and Cabo Rojo , as

soon as Tropical Depression Seven formed . At that time , a tropical storm watch was issued from Cabo Rojo northward , until reaching La Cruz . That same day , the government of Veracruz declared a state of emergency in 24 municipalities of the state , making money from the National Disaster Fund available to those affected by the storm . As Gert came closer to the littoral , the tropical storm warning was extended northwards to La Cruz , and then to La Pesca , but it was canceled shortly after landfall .

Tropical Storm Gert struck just south of where Category 3 Hurricane Emily had struck , and where Tropical Storm Bret hit in late June . As a result , there were concerns that serious flooding and mudslides would result due to saturated ground . As a precaution , about 1 @, @ 000 people were evacuated from low @-@ lying residences and businesses near the towns of Naranjos Amatlán and Tamiahua in Veracruz , and about 6 @, @ 000 throughout Tamaulipas .

= = Impact = =

The highest 24 @-@ hour rainfall reports were 214 @.@ 9 mm (8 @.@ 46 in) in Tamuin , San Luis Potosí , and 185 @.@ 2 mm (7 @.@ 29 in) in Tamesi , Tamaulipas . In Veracruz , the highest precipitation reading associated with Gert was 117 mm , (4 @.@ 61 in) in El Higo . However , damage overall was minimal , amounting to \$ 6 million (2005 USD , \$ 60 million 2005 MXN) , and there was only one reported fatality , from a man who was carried away by the La Silla River when he was pushing a stalled car across the flooded stream .

= = = Tamaulipas = = =

According to the government of Tamaulipas , most of the damage in the state was in farmland and in residents ' dwellings , primarily near Matamoros , Valle Hermoso , Reynosa and San Fernando . In Matamoros , part of the city lost power and running water ; in Valle Hermoso , two schools were damaged ; in Reynosa , 180 people were evacuated from low @-@ lying areas in five districts of the city , while in San Fernando , the main highway through the city was closed , and traffic on the bridge over the Conchos River was restricted to one lane .

In Mier , the spillway of the Las Blancas Dam was overtopped , causing a river bridge to be destroyed and electric power to be lost , as well . In Río Bravo , 50 families were evacuated as seven collective farms became hard to reach by road ; approximately 90 % of the residences in the farms were affected by the storm . In Altamira , 200 families were evacuated as well , and relocated to seven shelters . Also , in the municipalities of Burgos , Cruillas , and Méndez there was flooding in collective farms and family dwellings . Overall , the municipalities of Mier , Reynosa , Río Bravo , Valle Hermoso , Matamoros , San Fernando , San Carlos , Burgos , Cruillas , Méndez , Soto la Marina , Mante and Altamira were affected in the state , losing potable water and electricity .

After the storm , the state government promised to take the necessary steps to prevent an outbreak of dengue and West Nile virus ; however , by June 29 , there had already been 187 cases of classic dengue , and 29 of hemorrhagic dengue , up from 8 cases two years before , and none the previous year .

= = = Nuevo León = = =

In Nuevo León , about 6 @, @ 000 residents who lived near the Conchos , Guayalejo , and Grande Rivers were evacuated from their residences across the state . Also , the precipitation from Gert caused about 100 collective farms to become isolated from the rest of the state in the municipality of Montemorelos . In the city , one building was evacuated , as a 100 ft (30 m) fissure appeared on the ground near the structure .

In the municipalities of San Vicente Tancuayalab , Valles and Ebano , 100 people were evacuated .