Hurricane Ileana (2006)

Hurricane Ileana was the fourth of six major hurricanes in the 2006 Pacific hurricane season . Forming from a tropical wave on August 21 , Ileana tracked northwestward off the coast of Mexico throughout its duration . With favorable conditions for intensification , Ileana reached peak winds of 120 mph (195 km / h) within 48 hours of forming . Near peak intensity it passed near Socorro Island , and subsequently began to weaken due to cooler waters . On August 27 Ileana weakened to a remnant low , which dissipated two days later . The hurricane produced heavy rainfall along the Mexican coastline , causing flooding , and one person was killed due to strong waves .

Meteorological history

A tropical wave moved off the coast of Africa on August 8 , which subsequently tracked westward across the Atlantic Ocean with minimal convection . The wave crossed into the eastern Pacific Ocean on August 16 , at which time convection increased along the wave axis . Three days later , a weak low pressure area formed along the wave , and early on August 20 some broad cyclonic turning was evident within the cloud pattern . Gradually , banding features developed around the area of deep convection , and the system was expect to develop further as it moved into an increasingly favorable environment . Convection increased late on August 20 , although it initially remained disorganized ; however , the thunderstorms consolidated near the low , and it is estimated the system developed into a tropical depression by 1200 UTC on August 21 , about 350 mi (560 km) south @-@ southwest of Acapulco , Mexico .
A mid @-@ level ridge over Mexico caused the cyclone to track steadily northwestward . With warm water temperatures and low vertical wind shear , the depression quickly intensified into Tropical Storm Ileana . Convection developed and organized into a central dense overcast , and with abundant low @-@ level moisture , rapid deepening was expected . An eye formed in the center of the convection , and Ileana attained hurricane status late on August 22 . On August 23 , about 48 hours after forming , Ileana reached major hurricane status and a peak intensity of 120 mph (195 km / h) about 60 mi (100 km) southeast of Socorro Island . It also attained an atmospheric pressure of 955 mbar , as well as an eye diameter of 23 mi (37 km) .
Initially , Ileana was forecast to intensify further to reach Category 4 status on the Saffir @-@ Simpson scale . After passing south of Socorro Island , the hurricane began a slow weakening trend due to cooler waters ; as the winds decreased , the eye expanded and the thunderstorms waned . The ridge to its north weakened , causing the storm to slow and turn more to the west @-@ northwest . Early on August 26 , Ileana weakened to tropical storm status . Later that day , convection decreased markedly , and early on August 27 it deteriorated to tropical depression status . By late on August 27 , Ileana had been without deep convection for about 18 hours , and so degenerated into a broad remnant low . It continued slowly westward , dissipating on August 29 about 830 mi (1340 km) west @-@ northwest of Cabo San Lucas .

Preparations and impact

Hurricane Ileana never significantly impacted land , and no tropical cyclone warnings or watches for the storm . While near peak intensity , it passed 60 mi (100 km) south of the unpopulated Socorro Island ; a station on the island recorded sustained winds of 59 mph (95 km / h) , with gusts to 77 mph (125 km / h) . The hurricane dropped heavy rainfall along the Mexican coastline , causing flooding in Nayarit , Jalisco , Colima , Michoacán , and Baja California Sur . High surf from Ileana reached the coast , killing one man near Cabo San Lucas despite warnings not to swim in the ocean .