

Baja watching Tropical Storm Patricia in the latest GOES-11 satellite movie

October 13 2009

The nineteenth tropical cyclone of the Eastern Pacific formed over this past weekend, and strengthened into Tropical Storm Patricia. The GOES-11 satellite captured Patricia from her "birth" several hundred miles south of Baja California, to her track there today, Tuesday, October 13.

The National Hurricane Center has posted a [tropical storm](#) warning for the southern portion of the Baja California peninsula from Buenavista to Agua Blanca, including Cabo San Lucas. A tropical storm warning means that Tropical storm conditions are expected within the warning area, generally within 24 hours.

A tropical storm watch remains in effect for the Baja California peninsula along the east coast from north of Buenavista to La Paz And along the west coast from north of Agua Blanca to Santa Fe. A Tropical storm watch means that tropical storm conditions are possible within the watch area...generally within 36 hours.

Patricia is expected to produce total rainfall accumulations of 1 to 3 inches across the extreme southern portion of Baja California.

On October 13 at 11 a.m. PDT, Patricia had maximum sustained winds near 60 mph with higher gusts and could strengthen a little. Patricia was 120 miles south-southeast of the southern tip of Baja California, near 21.4 North and 109.0 West. She's moving north-northeast near 7 mph, but is expected to turn away from the Baja toward the northwest later

today or tonight. Estimated minimum central pressure is 997 millibars.

As Patricia was approaching the southern tip of Baja California, the [Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite](#) (GOES-11) has been watching her. GOES-12 is operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the NASA's GOES Project, located at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md. created a movie of Patricia's approach to the Baja over the past weekend.

This movie was created using [satellite imagery](#) from Oct. 9-13 from GOES-11. It shows Tropical Storm Patricia forming some 400 miles south of the southern tip of Baja California and tracking north. The movie ends on October 13 at 1500 UTC (9 a.m. PDT) when Patricia's clouds have overspread the southern tip of the Baja.

Patricia looks somewhat disorganized this morning and the overall circulation also appears to be elongated from north to south.

The National Hurricane Center noted that Patricia is currently in a light vertical wind shear environment over warm water...so there remains the possibility of strengthening. The new track brings the center closer to Southern Baja California with the closest approach between 8 p.m. PDT tonight and 8 a.m. PDT Wednesday morning.

Source: JPL/NASA ([news](#) : [web](#))

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