

# NASA paints a panorama of Pacific tropical cyclones

August 9 2013

---



NOAA's GOES-15 satellite captured and image of Hurricane Henriette and two trailing and developing low pressure areas in the Eastern Pacific ocean on Aug. 9 at 1200 UTC (8 a.m. EDT). Credit: NASA GOES Project

The Central and Eastern Pacific Oceans continue to be active on Aug. 9, as Hurricane Henriette weakens and two other low pressure systems continue developing. All three systems were captured on the one panoramic satellite image.

An image from NOAA's GOES-West satellite on Aug. 9 at 1200 UTC (8 a.m. EDT) captured all three tropical systems. The storm farthest west is Hurricane Henriette, followed by System 92E to the east. System 92E is trailed by System 93E even further east. The GOES-West imagery shows that System 92E has a more developed circulation, and the National Hurricane Center gives that low [pressure](#) area a much higher chance to develop in the next couple of days than System 93E. The GOES-West image was created at NASA's GOES Project at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md.

## Henriette Losing its Punch

On Aug. 9 at 1500 UTC (11 a.m. EDT), Hurricane Henriette has been weakening and [maximum sustained winds](#) have dropped to 75 mph/120 kph. Henriette was centered near 16.4 north and 141.4 west, about 930 miles/1,495 km east-southeast of Hilo, Hawaii. Henriette was moving to the west-southwest at 14 mph/22 kph and had a minimum central pressure of 992 millibars.

GOES-West imagery showed that Henriette has become more asymmetric, a sign of weakening. Tropical cyclones need to be circular in shape to maintain strength or strengthen. When they begin losing the circular shape, they start to "spin down" and slow down like a tire going flat. Infrared satellite data showed that the [thunderstorm cloud](#) top temperatures on the southern side of the storm were warming, indicating cloud heights were dropping. Warmer cloud top temperatures indicate lower storms, which means that they don't have as much uplift or strength in them as they did before.

The Central Pacific Hurricane Center noted that Henriette is expected to weaken to tropical storm force later on Aug. 9 and dissipate by Monday, Aug. 12.

## **System 93E a Slow-Developing Storm**

System 93E is not developing as fast as its "sister" low pressure area, System 92E that trails to the east. GOES-West satellite imagery shows that this elongated area of low pressure (trough) is producing disorganized showers and thunderstorms. It is centered about 1,600 miles southwest of the southern tip of Baja California, Mexico. The National Hurricane Center noted that conditions are expected to be marginally conducive for gradual development of this system during the next few days, so the system has a low chance, about 20 percent, of becoming a tropical cyclone during the next two days.

## **System 92E on a Faster Tropical Track**

System 92E is unlike its sister, 93E, and appears to be developing faster. Showers and thunderstorms associated with low pressure System 92E appear much more organized on the GOES-West satellite data. The low is centered about 800 miles southwest of Manzanillo, Mexico, near 10.6 north and 111.4 west. It is moving to the west at 10 to 15 mph. The National Hurricane Center gives System 92E a medium chance, about 50 percent, of becoming a tropical cyclone during the next two days.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

Citation: NASA paints a panorama of Pacific tropical cyclones (2013, August 9) retrieved 20 March 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2013-08-nasa-panorama-pacific-tropical-cyclones.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------