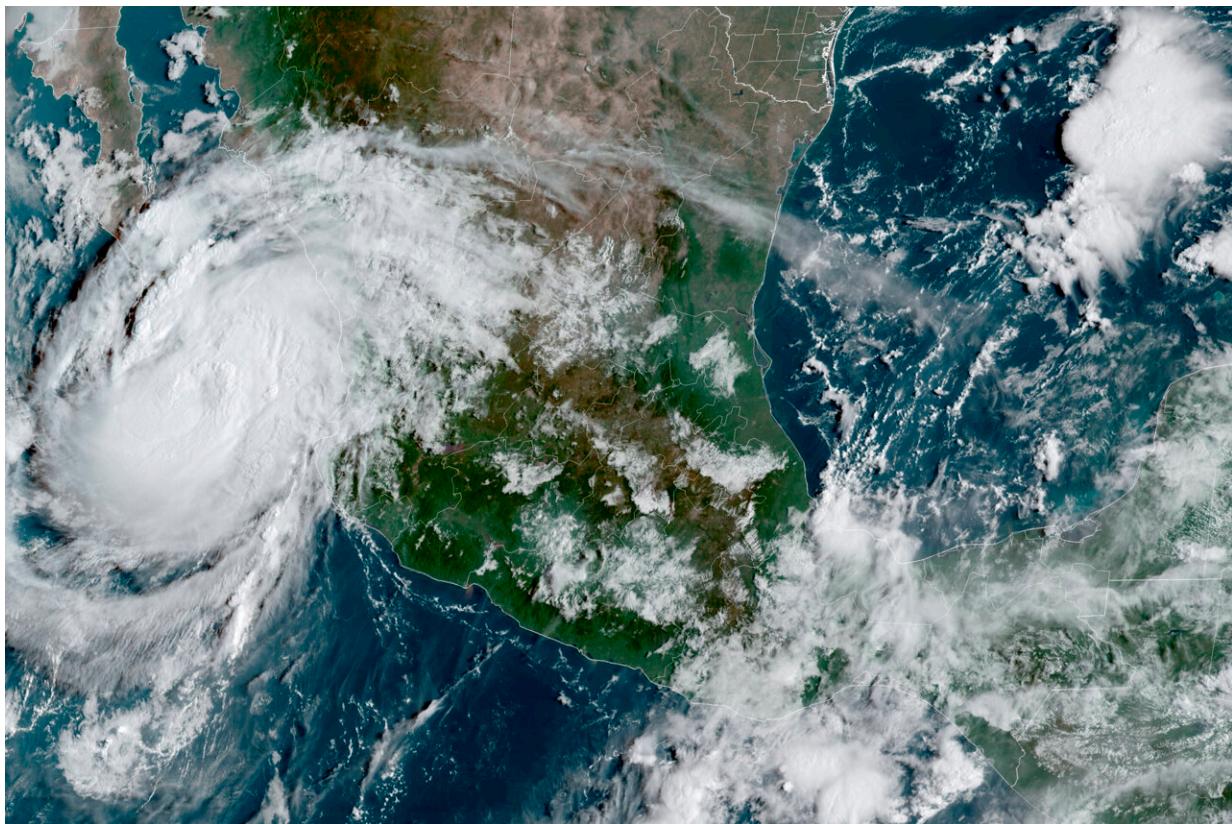


Hurricane Olaf hits Mexico's Los Cabos resorts at Category 2

September 10 2021, by Ignacio Martínez de Jesús



This satellite image provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shows Hurricane Olaf on the Pacific coast of Mexico approaching the Los Cabos resort region at the tip of the Baja California Peninsula, Thursday, Sept. 9, 2021, at 14:30 OZ (10:30am a.m. ET). Credit: NOAA/NESDIS/STAR GOES via AP

Hurricane Olaf slammed into the Los Cabos resorts at the tip of Mexico's Baja California Peninsula and then drenched the region Friday with torrential rains as emergency workers evacuated people from flood-prone areas .

The storm came ashore near San Jose del Cabo late Thursday as a Category 2 hurricane with winds of 100 mph (155 kph), according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center.

Authorities worked to move residents from low-lying neighborhoods to shelters while an estimated 20,000 foreign tourists hunkered down in their hotels.

Early Friday, Baja California Sur Civil Defense Deputy Secretary Carlos Alfredo Godínez said he had received no reports of lives lost.

At least 700 people were in designated shelters. Some hotels experienced minor damage.

As the storm came ashore some motorists were stranded inside their cars in high water. But the Cabo San Lucas Fire Department reported only fallen trees and power lines.

Officials closed ports and schools in the area, suspended COVID-19 vaccinations and told many nonessential workers to stay home. Businesses had boarded up windows and people lined up for last-minute purchases in supermarkets ahead of the storm.

Some roads already had been cut by flooding ahead of the full storm's arrival, according to local news media.

By morning, the storm was centered about 35 miles (55 kilometers) west-southwest of the state capital, La Paz, where a new governor was

scheduled to be inaugurated on Friday. More than 500,000 people live in the La Paz-Los Cabos region.

Maximum sustained winds had slipped to about 80 mph (130 kph) and it was expected to weaken further while grinding along the peninsula's coast during the day and then heading out into the Pacific.

Hurricane-force winds extended as far as 25 miles (35 kilometers) from the center and tropical-storm-force winds extended outward up to 80 miles (130 kilometers).

Lilzi Orcí, president of the Los Cabos Hotels Association, said dozens of domestic and international airline flights were cancelled because of the hurricane.

While COVID-19 pandemic restrictions meant hotels were at less than 40% of capacity, she estimated that 20,000 foreign tourists were in the area.-

The Hurricane Center forecast 5 to 10 inches (12.5 to 25.5 centimeters) of rain on the southern part of the peninsula, with up to 15 inches (38 centimeters) in isolated spots, creating the danger of flash floods and mudslides.

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