

# Hurricane Agatha drenches Mexican beach resorts

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A view of a beach in Huatulco on Mexico's Pacific coast as Hurricane Agatha approached.

Hurricane Agatha, the first of the season, lashed a string of beach resorts on Mexico's Pacific coast as it barreled ashore Monday, bringing strong winds, heavy rain and flood warnings.

Agatha was the strongest [storm](#) to make landfall along Mexico's Pacific coast in May since record keeping began in 1949, the US National Hurricane Center (NHC) said.

The storm had maximum sustained winds of 110 kilometers (68 miles) per hour and was moving at 13 kilometers an hour.

It made landfall near Puerto Angel in the southern state of Oaxaca as a Category Two hurricane—the second lowest on a scale of five—but later weakened to a Category One storm.

"Further weakening is expected, and Agatha is forecast to dissipate over Mexico by Tuesday afternoon," the NHC said.

Small landslides were reported in parts of Oaxaca, civil protection coordinator Oscar Valencia told the Milenio Television channel.

Residents along the coast had stocked up on food and water and boarded up windows of homes and businesses as Agatha approached.

Seaports in the area closed and airlines canceled flights.

Authorities opened around 200 storm shelters with room for up to 26,800 people, while hotels provided refuge to the estimated 5,200 national and foreign tourists in the [danger zone](#).

# Hurricane Agatha



Map of Mexico showing forecast path of Hurricane Agatha.

"We are already on red alert. This is coming and it is coming strong," Roberto Castillo, a civil protection official in Huatulco, told AFP as the storm neared.

A hurricane warning was issued for a stretch of coastline including Puerto Escondido and other surf towns popular with Mexican and foreign tourists, leaving normally busy beaches deserted.

"Storm surge is expected to produce extremely dangerous coastal flooding" and will be accompanied by "large and destructive waves," the NHC said.

"Agatha will produce heavy rains over portions of southern Mexico through Tuesday night," as well as "life-threatening surf and rip current conditions."

In Oaxaca and neighboring Chiapas state, "life-threatening flash flooding and mudslides may occur," the NHC added.

The region is home to several major rivers and Mexico's meteorological service warned of possible overflows and landslides.



Strong winds buffet palm trees in Huatulco in southern Mexico as Hurricane Agatha nears.

Mexico is regularly lashed by [tropical storms](#) on both its Pacific and

Atlantic coasts, generally between the months of May and November.

The deadliest storm to hit Mexico last year was a Category Three hurricane called Grace that killed 11 people in the eastern states of Veracruz and Puebla in August.

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