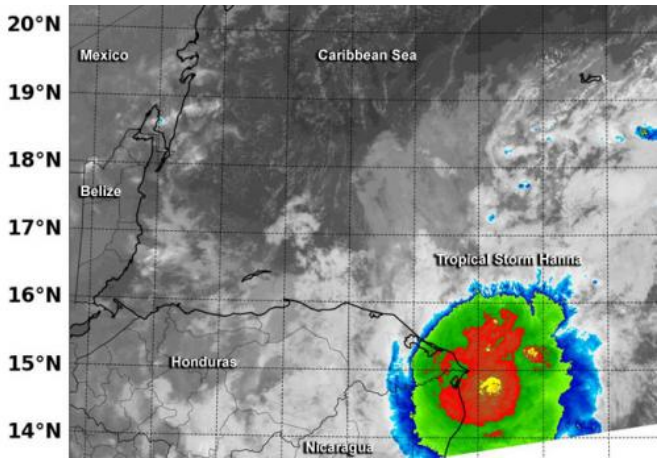
NASA sees a 'Zombie' tropical storm kick off Halloween week

27 October 2014, by Rob Gutro



NASA's Terra satellite passed over Tropical Storm Hanna on Oct. 26 at 11:45 p.m. EDT and saw high thunderstorms (red) around the newly reformed center of circulation with cold cloud top temperatures near -63F/-53C that indicated they were high in the troposphere. Credit: NASA/NRL

NASA's Terra satellite spotted a "zombie" tropical storm as Halloween week kicks off. Tropical Depression 9 made landfall in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula late last week and lingered as a remnant low pressure area on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 25 and 26. Satellite data revealed that those remnants had reformed quickly and jumped up to tropical storm status, where it became "zombie" storm named Tropical Storm Hanna off the coast of Nicaragua. NASA's Terra satellite spotted strong thunderstorms around the zombie storm's center as it passed overhead.

At 9:30 a.m. EDT on Oct. 27, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) issued a tropical storm warning for Punta Patuca, Honduras southward to Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua. A tropical storm warning means that tropical storm conditions are expected somewhere within the warning area...in this case within the next 6 to 12 hours. The National Hurricane Center noted that tropical storm conditions are expected within the warning area through this evening. In addition, Hanna could produce 10 to 12 inches (250 to 300 mm) of rain, with isolated maximum amounts of 15 inches (400 mm), across Honduras and northern Nicaragua. These rainfall Amounts will produce life-threatening flash floods and mudslides.

NASA's Terra satellite passed over Tropical Storm Hanna on Oct. 27 at 03:45 UTC (Oct. 26 at 11:45 p.m. EDT) and the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer or MODIS instrument gathered infrared data on the storm. The MODIS instrument showed high thunderstorms around the newly reformed center of circulation with cold cloud top temperatures near -63F/-53C that indicated they were high in the troposphere. Those strong thunderstorms have the potential to drop heavy rainfall.

Forecaster Berg at NHC noted that Hanna's center is very close to the coast of northeastern Nicaragua and moving to the west-southwest. Hanna is expected to make landfall and move inland over Nicaragua by late today, Oct. 27.

At 10 a.m. EDT, Hanna's center was near 14.5 north latitude and 83.2 west longitude. That's about 35 miles (60 km) north-northeast of Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua, and about 35 miles (55 km) south of Cabo Gracias a Dios on the Nicaragua/Honduras border. Hanna was moving toward the west-southwest near 7 mph (11 kph) and is expected to continue in that direction for the next day or two. Maximum sustained winds were near 40 mph (65 kph) and little change in strength is expected before landfall, followed by weakening as it moves inland.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

APA citation: NASA sees a 'Zombie' tropical storm kick off Halloween week (2014, October 27) retrieved 25 February 2021 from https://phys.org/news/2014-10-nasa-zombie-tropical-storm-halloween.html