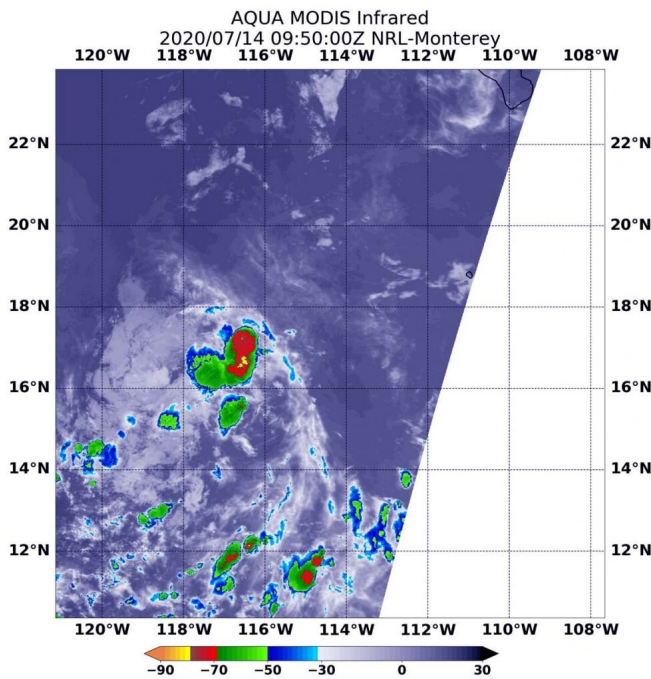


NASA infrared view finds small areas of strength in new depression 6E

14 July 2020



On July 14 at 5:50 a.m. EDT (0950 UTC), the MODIS instrument aboard NASA's Aqua satellite gathered temperature information about Tropical Depression 6E's cloud tops. MODIS found a few small areas of powerful thunderstorms (red) where temperatures were as cold as or colder than minus 70 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 56.6 Celsius). Credit: NASA/NRL

NASA's Aqua satellite used infrared light to identify the strongest storms and coldest cloud top temperatures in Tropical Depression 6E. Aqua found a few small areas of strength but cooler sea surface temperatures are expected to weaken them.

Tropical Depression 6E formed in the Eastern Pacific Ocean by 5 p.m. EDT on July 13 and was located well to the southwest of Baja California Sur, Mexico.

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Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer or MODIS instrument aboard NASA's Aqua satellite analyzed Tropical Depression 6E's cloud tops in [infrared light](#). Infrared data provides [temperature](#) information, and the strongest thunderstorms that reach high into the atmosphere have the coldest cloud top temperatures.

Aqua found the most powerful thunderstorms in several small, fragmented areas northeast, southeast and southwest of the center of circulation, where temperatures were as cold as or colder than minus 70 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 56.6 Celsius). Cloud top temperatures that cold indicate strong storms with the potential to generate heavy rainfall. Cloud top temperatures around the rest of the [depression](#) were warmer, indicating less-powerful storms.

At 11 a.m. EDT (1500 UTC) on July 14, the NHC said the center of Tropical Depression Six-E was located near latitude 18.1 degrees north and longitude 116.6 degrees west. 6E is far from land areas and is about 545 miles (880 km) southwest of the southern tip of Baja California, Mexico. The depression is moving toward the west-northwest near 16 mph (26 kph). A faster motion toward the west-northwest or west is expected during the next day or two. The estimated minimum central pressure is 1008 millibars. Maximum sustained winds are near 30 mph (45 kph) with higher gusts. Little change in strength is forecast during the next day or two.

NHC forecaster Robbie Berg noted that, "The depression is forecast to reach waters colder than 26 degrees Celsius (78 degrees Fahrenheit) in 12 to 24 hours, which should extinguish the remaining deep convection." Tropical cyclones require sea surface temperatures of at least 26.6 degrees Celsius (80 degrees Fahrenheit) to maintain intensity. Therefore, the depression is expected to become a remnant low or dissipate by early Wednesday.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

APA citation: NASA infrared view finds small areas of strength in new depression 6E (2020, July 14)

retrieved 29 September 2020 from <https://phys.org/news/2020-07-nasa-infrared-view-small-areas.html>

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