

## HURRICANE DEAN

# 100-mph Dean makes last landfall

## Residents of the Yucatán marveled at their apparent good fortune, but other areas on Mexico's coast braced for Hurricane Dean's second run.

The Miami Herald  
Aug. 22, 2007

MAJAHUAL, Mexico --

Hurricane Dean restrengthened to Category 2 intensity Wednesday and swept Mexico's Gulf Coast with rain and 100-mph wind as its core slammed into land for the final time.

The second encounter with Mexico came near the town of Tecolutla, just east of Gutierrez Zamora and about 40 miles south-southeast of Tuxpan.

About 135,000 people live in the area around Tuxpan, including 79,000 within the city itself.

Troops and emergency workers already had ushered thousands of residents to inland shelters. More than 100 oil rigs and related facilities had been evacuated.

Widespread flooding and modest damage were reported along the coast.

Officials expressed deep concern, however, about the possibility of flash floods and mudslides inland as Dean's winds weakened again but its still abundant rain worked through Mexico's mountains.

Floods and landslides in that area killed hundreds in 1999.

Floods already covered much of the oil city of Ciudad del Carmen in the Bay's southeastern corner, Campeche state Gov. Jorge Carlos Hurtado told Mexico's Televisa network.

Dean killed at least 13 people in the Caribbean before it reached Mexico, but no new reports of storm-related death or serious injury have emerged, despite the storm's savage attack on the Yucatán Peninsula along the nation's Caribbean coast.

Still, a full assessment of remote areas will take days.

So far, though, the news was surprisingly good, the toll remarkably modest, considering Dean's potentially destructive power.

Dean's core roared into the Yucatán before dawn Tuesday at the port of Costa Maya near Majahual, about 40 miles east-northeast of the city of Chetumal and 150 miles south of Cancún.

It was the most intense storm to make landfall since Andrew steam-rolled South Miami-Dade County in 1992. It also was the third most intense Atlantic basin hurricane to reach land in history.

Some areas flooded and hundreds of structures were damaged or collapsed, especially in Majahual.

But Mexican President Felipe Calderón said he had no reports of storm-related deaths and power should be restored within days.

In neighboring Belize, also hit by the storm, trees fell and debris flew through the air, but, again, no early reports spoke of sweeping damage.

The U.S. Southern Command, based in Miami, dispatched about 25 airmen and soldiers and three helicopters to Belize to help assess the situation there.

Back in Mexico, in a major stroke of luck, the tourist centers of Cancún and Cozumel, well to the north, were spared Dean's worst winds.

"Cozumel is ready to go," said Gustavo Ortega, the tourist-friendly mayor of the popular cruise ship destination.