

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena - August 2017

Location	Date/Time	Deaths & Injuries	Property & Crop Dmg	Event Type and Details
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GULF OF MEXICO

WATERS FROM BAFFIN BAY TO PT MANSFIELD TX EXT FROM 20 TO 60NM COUNTY --- 45.1 ESE S BAFFIN BAY [26.97, -96.69]				
	08/25/17 07:50 CST		0	Marine High Wind (MS 52 kt)
	08/25/17 16:50 CST		0	Source: Buoy

NOAA Buoy 42020 (LLNR 1330, Corpus Christi, TX 60 NM SSE) recorded moderate tropical storm force winds with at least one gust to hurricane force (64 knots). The strong winds unmoored the buoy, which remained adrift into the autumn and eventually stopped recording completely in mid October. The extent of the damage was unknown as of this writing. A Texas A&M experimental research buoy, located very near or within the core eyewall, went offline prior to the arrival of the strongest winds whose value could only be estimated to be sustained hurricane force. Damage to this buoy (56 nm east of the northeast Kenedy County coast) was unknown as of this writing.

Hurricane Harvey moved from 90 nautical miles (nm) east of the mouth of the Rio Grande during the pre-dawn hours of August 25th to 71 nm east of the Cameron/Willacy County line by 7 AM, and finally, approximately 51 nm east of the Baffin Bay area (along the Kenedy/Kleberg County line) by mid afternoon on its way to landfall north of Port Aransas and near the Rockport area by 10 PM. Sustained tropical storm force winds were recorded at several platforms, mainly along and north of Port Mansfield, TX from late morning through afternoon. Hurricane force gusts reached the waters at least 37 nm east of the Kenedy County coast, as the rapidly intensifying hurricane attained Category 3 status in a 20 to 25 nm radius around the eye. Two buoys were knocked offline and may have sustained damage from the hurricane force gusts.

Though no known damage was reported, observations platforms within Laguna Madre north of Port Mansfield (GMZ135) carried sustained tropical storm force winds. Rincon del San Jose, near the land cut in central Kenedy County, reported sustained winds of 34 knots at 12:36 PM CST, and Baffin Bay (along the Kenedy/Nueces Border) reported a prolonged period of tropical storm sustained winds from 12:36 through 9:30 PM, peaking at 44 knots at 4:30 PM.

TEXAS, South

(TX-Z251) KENEDY				
	08/25/17 12:00 CST		0	Tropical Storm
	08/25/17 20:30 CST		0	

Rapidly intensifying Hurricane Harvey moved along the outer edge of the Lower Texas Coastal waters from the pre-dawn hours through the mid afternoon of August 25th. Harvey began the period as a Category 2 storm and was a mid range Category 3 storm as it headed toward the Texas Coastal Bend region, where it would make landfall as a 938 mb Category 4 wrecking ball near Rockport.

The outskirts of Harvey produced tropical storm force gusts measured and estimated at 41 to 46 mph on South Padre Island to the western shoreline of Laguna Madre, in Cameron County, with gusts from 48 to 63 mph along the coast of Kenedy County, including the Laguna Madre shoreline. Here, sustained tropical storm force winds of 39 to 51 mph were reported at shoreline buoys. No damage was reported in these areas, which are vastly unpopulated.

Within the tropical storm force (sustained) wind area, other impacts included nuisance tidal overwash that ran into the dunes on the barrier island (South Padre and the Padre Island National Seashore north of Port Mansfield), with storm surge measured at 1.77 feet above predicted tide. At Baffin Bay, the tide level peaked at 1.77 feet above Mean Sea Level, which likely equated to 2 feet of storm surge (based on similar reports farther south). No damage or beach erosion was reported at the Cameron County public and resort areas of South Padre, but there may have been minor erosion along the Kenedy County coast. Backside northwest to west flow during the evening of the 25th, well after Harvey had passed north of the Lower Texas coast, trapped or enhanced water levels for one final high tide cycle during the evening especially along west-facing shores of Laguna Madre.

The heaviest rainfall spared most of the Lower Texas coast, with the highest reported at the cooperative site 7 miles east of Sarita (northeast Kenedy) with only 2.27 inches. Bias corrected radar indicated a sliver of 3 to 4 inches near Baffin Bay and the Gulf intersection at the northeast tip of Kenedy County, which was absorbed easily on sandy soil.