



Tropical Cyclone Report for 2015's Hurricane Patricia released

NOAA's National Hurricane Center has released its Tropical Cyclone Report (TCR) on Hurricane Patricia, a major hurricane over the eastern North Pacific Ocean in October 2015.

Highlights include:

Patricia was a category 5 hurricane (on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale). Its maximum sustained winds are estimated to have reached a peak intensity of 185 kt (215 mph) near 1200 UTC on October 23rd while centered about 130 nautical miles southwest of Manzanillo, Mexico. This makes Patricia the strongest hurricane on record in the eastern North Pacific, surpassing Hurricane Linda in 1997, and is also stronger than any Atlantic basin hurricane on record. It is important to note, however, that records for the most intense eastern North Pacific hurricanes are particularly uncertain prior to 1988. Records for the most extreme Atlantic hurricanes are considered reliable beginning in the early 1970s.

The analyzed minimum central pressure of 872 millibars (25.75 inches) represents the lowest tropical cyclone pressure on record in the western Hemisphere and the second lowest globally (behind only the 870 millibar pressure for 1979's Typhoon Tip).

Patricia's explosive deepening from October 22 to 23 was remarkable. Over the 24-hour period ending at 0600 UTC on October 23rd, the pressure is estimated to have fallen 100 millibars and the wind to have increased from 75 knots to 180 knots. The 1-day intensification of 105 knots exceeds a 95-knot increase for Hurricane Wilma in 2005 while over the western Caribbean Sea.

Patricia weakened substantially before making landfall along a sparsely populated part of the coast of southwestern Mexico as a category 4 hurricane, with an estimated landfall intensity of 130 kt (150 mph) and an estimated landfall pressure of 932 millibars. This makes Patricia the strongest hurricane on record to make landfall in Mexico, eclipsing the October 1959 Manzanillo hurricane (recently reassessed to have made landfall at category 4 intensity), and Hurricane Madeline in 1976. It should be noted, however, that the reliable record for extreme landfalling Mexican hurricanes extends back only to 1988.

Here is the link to the complete Tropical Cyclone Report regarding Hurricane Patricia:

http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/data/tcr/EP202015_Patricia.pdf

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