

Preliminary Report
Tropical Storm Erick
1-8 August 1995

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1 February 1996

Erick was an uneventful tropical cyclone over the eastern north Pacific Ocean.

a. Synoptic History

A tropical wave that crossed from the west coast of Africa to the eastern tropical Atlantic Ocean on 17 July was the precursor to Erick. This system showed some semblance of organization on satellite images over the eastern Atlantic on 18-19 July, but convection diminished during the ensuing three days, making the system difficult to track on satellite pictures. Rawinsonde data at 700 mb indicated that the wave entered the extreme eastern Caribbean Sea on 23 July, and the associated shower activity increased slightly that day over the Windward Islands. The system continued westward over the Caribbean, and thunderstorms increased over the western Caribbean on the 26th. Surface observations showed a wind shift in the Caribbean in the vicinity of 81°W, presumably related to this wave.

On the 27th, the wave crossed Central America. Over the next two days, a disorganized area of deep convection, associated with the wave, moved westward over the Pacific waters just to the south of Mexico. The cloudiness and thunderstorms became more consolidated a couple hundred miles south of Manzanillo on 30 July, and Dvorak classifications on the system were initiated at 0900 UTC 31 July. By 1800 UTC on 1 August, visible satellite pictures showed distinct evidence of low-level rotation, and it is estimated that a tropical depression (Six-E) formed at that time, about 450 n mi south of the southern tip of Baja California (Table 1). Figure 1 shows the overall track of this system.

After formation, the tropical cyclone moved generally southwestward for about 24 hours and then turned to a northwestward heading. Easterly shearing was occurring over the area, and strengthening proceeded at a slow pace. It was not until 0600 UTC 4 August that satellite analysis indicated that the cyclone had reached tropical storm strength. After becoming a storm, Erick moved west-northwestward with gradual intensification; the cyclone continued to be influenced by modest easterly shear. The intensity plateaued near 55 knots by 0000 UTC on the 5th and a weakening trend was underway by 1200 UTC that day. The mid-tropospheric ridge to the north of the storm began to break down, and Erick gradually turned northward, toward cooler water, while steadily weakening. By 1200 UTC on the 6th, the system had weakened to a depression. After drifting east-northeastward, Erick dissipated around 0600 UTC 8 August.

b. Meteorological Statistics

The post-analysis best track intensities for Erick are listed in Table 1 and displayed in Figs. 2 and 3, which show the estimated minimum central pressure and maximum one-minute wind speed, respectively, versus time. These intensity estimates were derived mainly from analyses of satellite images, using the Dvorak technique, performed by meteorologists at the Synoptic Analysis Branch (SAB), the Tropical Analysis and Forecast Branch (TAFB; formerly the Tropical Satellite Analysis and Forecast unit, TSAF, as in the figures), and the Air Force Global Weather Central (AFGWC).

c. Casualty and Damage Statistics

No reports of casualties or damage have been received at the NHC.

d. Forecast and Warning Critique

Erick was a tropical storm for only 48 hours, so there were only a few forecasts to verify. In general, Erick moved to the right of the official track forecasts and did not strengthen as much as was predicted by the official forecasts.

Erick remained well out at sea and warnings were not required.

Table 1. Post-analysis best track, Tropical Storm Erick,
1-8 August, 1995.

Date/Time (UTC)	Position		Pressure (mb)	Wind Speed (kt)	Stage
	Lat. (°N)	Lon. (°W)			
01/1800	15.4	110.8	1008	25	Tropical Depression
02/0000	14.9	112.0	1008	25	" "
0600	14.5	112.6	1008	25	" "
1200	14.1	112.9	1007	25	" "
1800	13.8	113.2	1006	25	" "
03/0000	13.8	113.7	1006	30	" "
0600	14.1	114.1	1005	30	" "
1200	14.6	114.5	1005	30	" "
1800	15.3	115.1	1005	30	" "
04/0000	15.9	115.9	1005	30	" "
0600	16.2	116.8	1004	35	Tropical Storm
1200	16.5	117.7	1000	45	" "
1800	16.8	118.5	997	50	" "
05/0000	17.2	119.2	994	55	" "
0600	17.6	119.9	994	55	" "
1200	18.1	120.3	997	50	" "
1800	18.6	120.7	1000	45	" "
06/0000	18.9	121.0	1002	40	" "
0600	19.2	121.3	1004	35	" "
1200	19.4	121.3	1004	30	Tropical Depression
1800	19.6	121.2	1004	30	" "
07/0000	19.9	121.2	1004	30	" "
0600	20.3	121.1	1004	30	" "
1200	20.5	121.0	1004	25	" "
1800	20.6	120.8	1005	25	" "
08/0000	20.7	120.6	1006	25	" "
0600					Dissipated

05/0000	17.2	119.2	994	55	Minimum Pressure

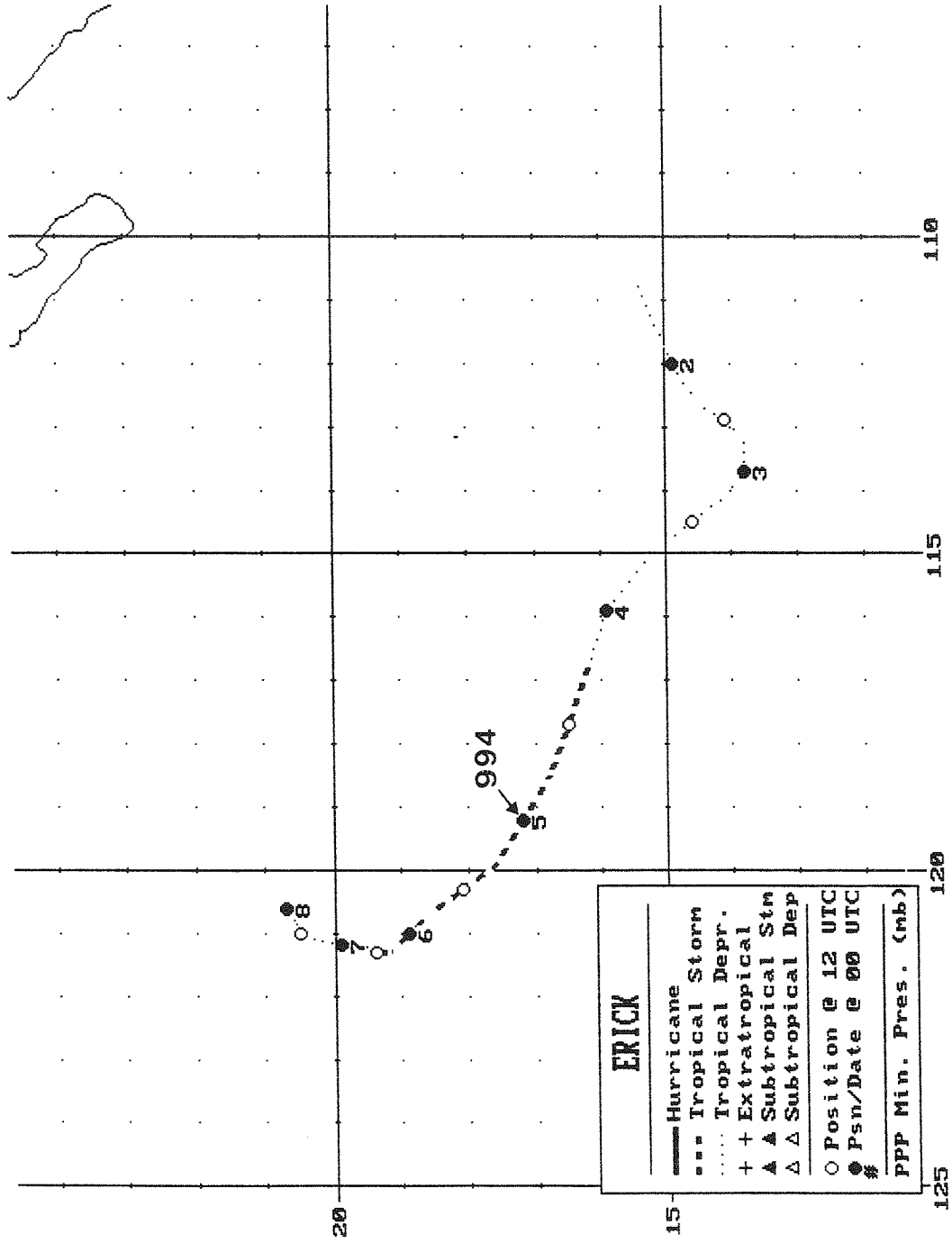


Figure 1. Post-analysis best track positions for Tropical Storm Erick, 1-8 August, 1995.

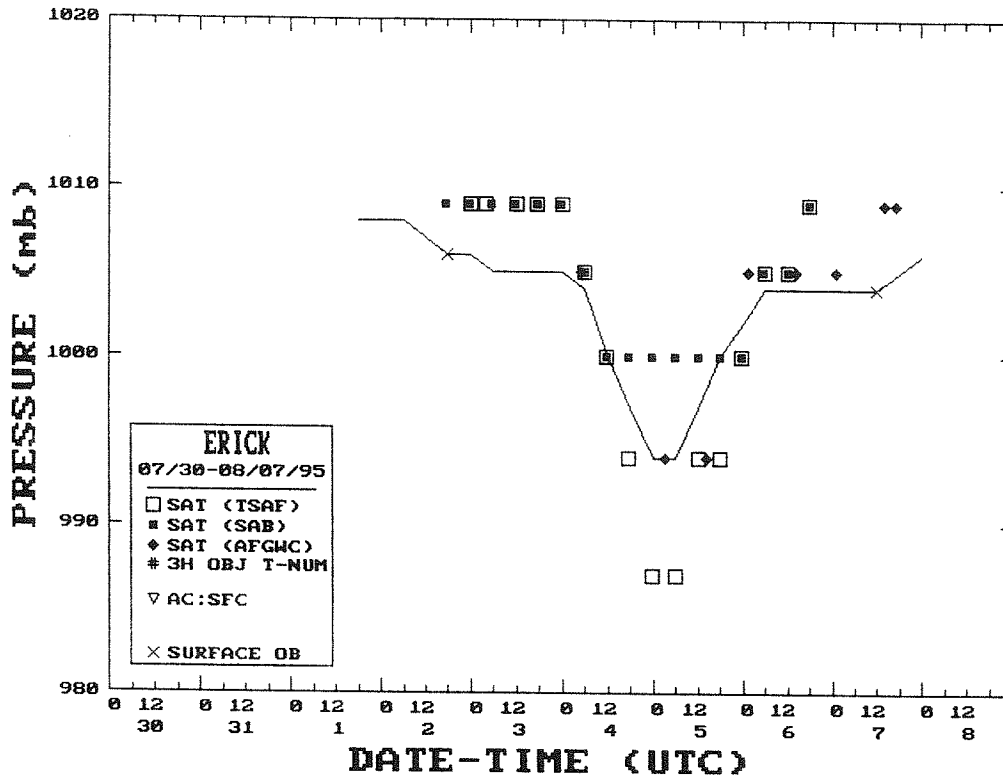


Figure 2. Best track minimum central pressure curve for Tropical Storm Erick, 1995.

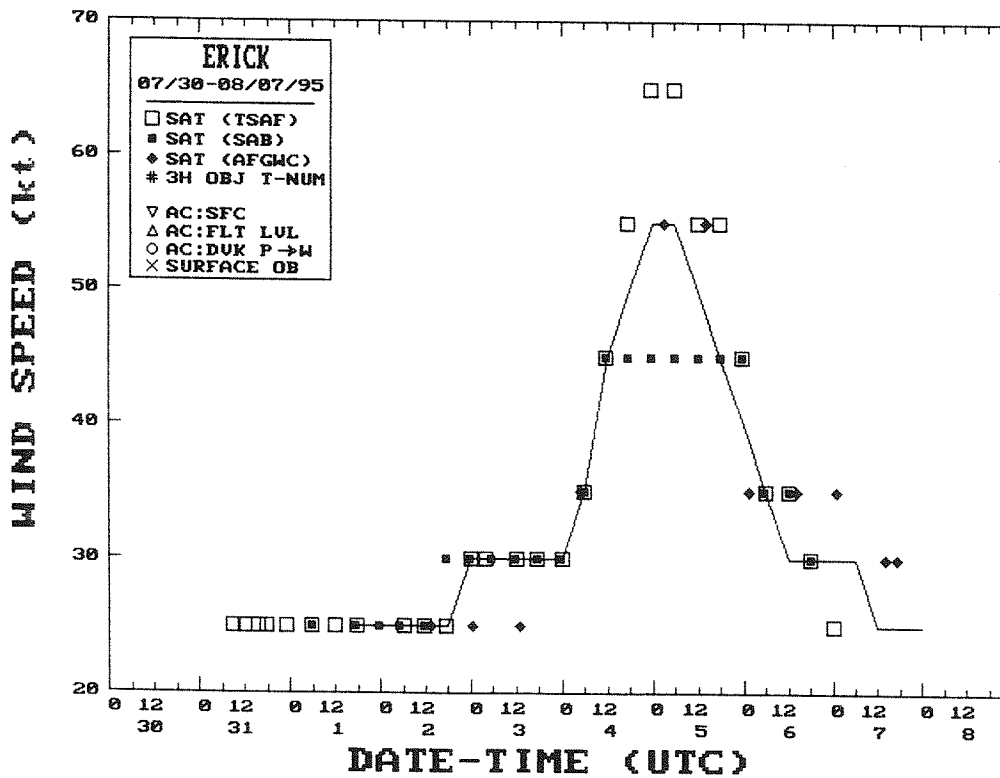


Figure 3. Best track maximum one-minute wind speed curve for Tropical Storm Erick, 1995.