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Information Bulletin

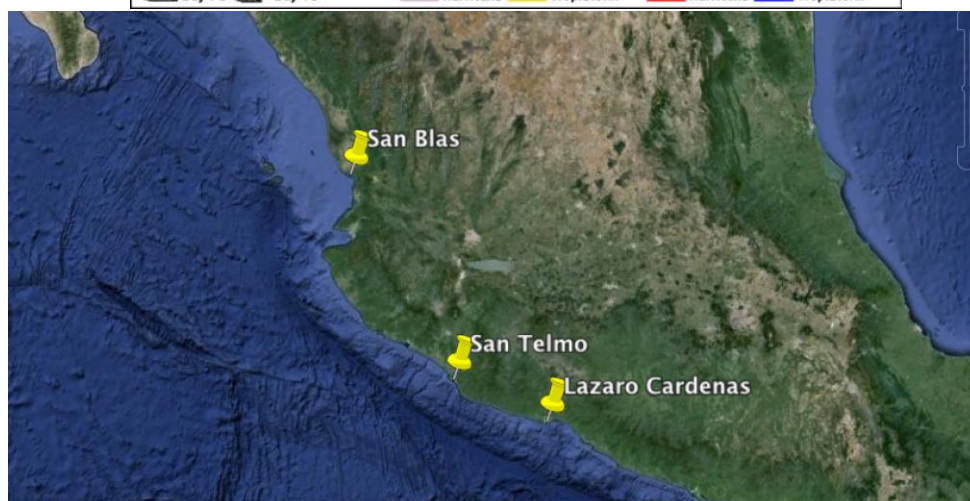
Mexico: Hurricane Patricia

 International Federation
 of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Information Bulletin No. 1	
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National Society: Mexican Red Cross	

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and it reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Mexican Red Cross has been conducting preparedness activities in the state of Jalisco, and it is in communication with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Disaster and Crisis Management Unit- Pan-American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU).

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Hurricane Patricia, a category 5 hurricane impact trajectory.

The situation

Hurricane Patricia is expected to make landfall as "an extremely dangerous major"¹ category 5 near a major shipping port and the tourist resort of Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. The storm, which became a hurricane on 22 October, had maximum sustained winds of 260km/h as it moved towards the northwest at just under 20km/h. Patricia was last located about 320km southwest of the port of Manzanillo, where a hurricane warning was issued. A hurricane warning was also in effect for the tourist resort of Puerto Vallarta. Forecasts report torrential rain in the states of Jalisco, Colima, Michoacán and Nayarit, especially today and Saturday, 24 October. All municipalities in the state of Jalisco are on alert. As per the 2010 census, there were more than 7.3 million inhabitants in Jalisco state and more than 255,000 in Puerto Vallarta municipality. There were more than 650,000 in Colima state, and more than 161,000 in Manzanillo.

According to the National Hurricane Centre, Patricia is the strongest Eastern North Pacific hurricane on record, heading for potentially catastrophic landfall in South-western Mexico later today. A Hurricane Warning is in effect from San Blas to Punta San Telmo. A Hurricane Watch is in effect east of Punta San Telmo to Lazaro Cardenas, and a Tropical Storm Warning is in effect east of Punta San Telmo to Lazaro Cardenas. See map above.

The Civil Protection national coordinator notified the public through the media that approximately 50,000 people have been evacuated along the coasts of Jalisco, Nayarit and Colima. The Navy Secretary is supporting these activities. Additionally, 782 evacuation centres have the capacity to shelter 258,000 people. The Navy Secretary activated the preventive phase of the Navy Plan, deploying 4,000 marines along the states of Jalisco, Colima, Nayarit, Michoacan, Guerrero and Oaxaca along with vehicles, ships and aircrafts.



The Mexican Red Cross branch in Jalisco dispatching relief items to Puerto Vallarta to prepare for Hurricane Patricia's impact.
Source: Mexican Red Cross

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since 22 October, the Mexican Red Cross has been preparing for Hurricane Patricia's impact with contingency activities at the headquarters and branch levels. A team from the headquarters, including the Mexican Red Cross relief director, have deployed to the expected impact area, and it has been conducting evacuation and alert activities. Additionally, the Mexican Red Cross dispatched a truck from headquarters with 30,000 kilos of humanitarian aid (3,500 food kits) to pre-position in the state of Colima to support the people that might be affected by Hurricane Patricia. Medical supplies and logistical procedures are in place in order to be ready to respond.

¹ National Hurricane Center, National Weather Service of the United States of America.
<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/text/refresh/MIATCDEP5+shtml/231449.shtml>

More than 500 volunteers are prepared to support the people through the distribution of relief items. The branches from Jalisco, Nayarit and Colima are on high alert in case additional support is needed. The Jalisco branch prepared and will dispatch a truck with relief aid to pre-position in Puerto Vallarta. Additionally, two intervention teams are prepared to deploy to the impact zone in Puerto Vallarta and Cihuatlan.

In Tomatlan, the Jalisco branch is in contact with the Electric Federal Commission in order to provide electrical support during the impact. The Electric Federal Commission has dispatched 2,500 workers, 152 cranes, 15 all-terrain vehicles, 4 helicopters and 84 emergency generators to Jalisco, Michoacan, Colima and Nayarit to prepare for Hurricane Patricia's impact.

Key messages have been posted on the Mexican Red Cross Jalisco branch's Facebook page alerting the public about the hurricane and providing information on what to do when a hurricane strikes. A family emergency plan is also available to prepare better the public. Click [here](#) to view the family emergency plan.

IFRC actions

The IFRC regional disaster coordinator for Central America and Mexico has been in communication with the Mexican Red Cross in order to obtain information on the preparedness activities conducted by the National Society. The IFRC Communications Unit is also in contact with the Mexican Red Cross's Communication Department to respond to the international media. An informational Regional Intervention Team (RIT) alert has been issued and a yellow alert has been emitted at the institutional level. The IFRC PADRU coordinator has been sharing information with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and the European Commission's Humanitarian aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO). A second information bulletin will be published after the impact of Hurricane Patricia to provide information on any damages and the level of impact.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this emergency please contact:

- **Mexican Red Cross:** Isaac Oxenhaut Gruszko, National Relief Director; ioxenhaut@cruzrojamexicana.org.mx
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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.