

## Hurricane strikes blow at Mexican resort city

ACAPULCO, Mexico (AP) — Hurricane Pauline struck Mexico's most famous tourist resort with devastating fury Thursday, unleashing deadly torrents that swept people, cars and giant boulders toward storm-ravaged Pacific beaches.

At least 59 people died along hundreds of miles of coast pummeled by Pauline's 100-mph winds — 40 of those deaths in badly battered Acapulco, a glittering resort of 2.9 million people that dawned a disaster zone.

"This is a very sad day," said Gov. Angel Aguirre of Guerrero state, home to Acapulco, where Pauline sent torrents of rainwater raging through streets. Aguirre said at least five other people were killed elsewhere in the state, adding, "We don't recall a hurricane ever having caused such damage."

In neighboring Oaxaca state, where Pauline first struck with 115-mph winds a day earlier, state government spokesman Leandro Hernandez confirmed 14 deaths, 15 people missing and thousands of homeless.

"The figure could still rise," said Hernandez, speaking with The Associated Press by telephone from the state, where powerful Pauline ripped makeshift homes away and badly damaged such resorts as Puerto Angel.

Fueled by the warm El Niño ocean currents, Pauline powered towering waves — 30 feet tall on exposed — that pounded Acapulco's pristine beaches to a maelstrom of trash and twisted lounge chairs.

Heavy rains turned streets into roaring rivers of debris. Water swept boulders the size of cars down the hills and flipped vehicles like toys, catching some with lights still on, their doors underwater. A coastal highway skirting the famed beaches teemed with raging water, and one man's body stuck from the mud, arms outstretched and mouth agape.

The U.S. Hurricane Center in Miami extended a hurricane warning hundreds of miles up the coast, from Acapulco to the resort city of Puerto Vallarta, as satellite images showed Pauline moving roughly parallel to the shore.

At 4 p.m., Pauline was off the coast near the port of Lazaro Cardenas, but its 100-mph winds had weakened to 85 mph — still a big worry because of threats of more flash floods and large waves.

"If Pauline survives, it could become a potential threat to the Gulf of California and adjacent areas within the next day or two," hurricane center forecaster Max Mayfield said.

President Ernesto Zedillo, on a state visit to Germany, ordered army troops into stricken areas along a long stretch of coast. Troops in Humvees poured into Acapulco by the hundreds to secure areas around homes wrecked by raging floods.

TV footage showed bodies mired in the mud. Jaime Hernandez, 40, who lives in the hills near Acapulco, said police took away at least seven bodies after mud and water came rushing down before dawn.

# Accreditation report results please, challenge chancellor

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Chancellor James Moeser said he was "very pleased" by the report, which contained no surprises for administrators.

"Every concern that's mentioned calls attention to an area that we are already aware of and already working on," Moeser said.

He noted that, after the evaluation team left last spring, UNL reallocated funds for information technology and recruiting women into senior university positions.

Several women were appointed to top administrative positions this summer, he said, although more women are needed as college deans and as department chairwomen.

He also recently made two administrators accountable for extending gender-equity goals at the university.

But Moeser said the report's demand for better evaluation of student academic achievement was a perplexing issue for the university.

"Very few institutions have really cracked this nut," he said, and the team couldn't suggest an appropriate model for UNL to follow and improve its academic assessment.

Moeser said improved social survey research will be the key to a better evaluation in this area by 2000. UNL will begin by asking more alumni, five years after their graduation, how certain courses and colleges added to their collegiate education, he said.

Moeser said he was most pleased the report notes "the generally high morale of faculty" and faculty's significant role in campus planning.

"I took a great deal of heart from that, because I think it says a lot about the spirit of the place," he said.

Despite high morale, the report notes faculty salaries at UNL were 5.8 percent lower than those at the university's peer institutions. As a result, "there are some problems in retaining highly productive senior faculty," the report states.

Moeser said UNL's lack of competition in the area must change if it is to continue recruiting top-notch faculty from across the nation and the world.

He plans to make increasing faculty salaries a priority campaign during the next legislative session, he said, and hopes the report will persuade the NU Board of Regents and state senators to support him.

The report also states students'

morale is high, which Moeser called "a critical success."

Although the report noted evaluation team members' conversations with some women faculty and staff who said the university isn't strongly committed to gender equity, Moeser said the Report of the Gender Equity Task Force showed many inequities were perceived rather than actual.

For instance, the task force report listed results of a faculty poll showing women faculty thought they were less likely to receive tenure than male faculty members. But university statistics prove the opposite is true.

In its report, the commission also said:

■ The university manages its financial resources well and has contributed millions of dollars to Nebraska's economy through continued research in agriculture and distance education.

■ The university remains flexible in developing new cross-disciplinary programs, which is "uncharacteristic of some large public universities."

■ The university maintains a strong library system, although it suffers from a lack of space and funding for acquisitions.



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