



National Weather Service Forecast Office Tucson, Arizona



Cyclone: Tropical Storm Octave
Date it affected AZ: September 29 to October 3, 1983
Affected Arizona as...: Remnants (dissipated west of Baja California)

Tropical Storm Octave is the one of most disastrous tropical systems to ever affect Arizona. Three to eleven inches of rain fell over the eastern two-thirds of Arizona, and every major river basin in the state experienced at least some flooding. The storm itself dissipated well to the west of Baja on October 2nd, and had only briefly been a tropical storm during its life cycle. But like several other storms that have affected Arizona, a strong storm system dropping down the west coast captured her remnants and fed them into the region. Numerous rainfall and flood records were broken. Damage totaled \$500 million in Arizona's single costliest natural disaster (which translates to a little over \$1 billion in 2008 dollars). Fourteen people were killed, with over 10,000 people evacuated and major highways cut, including Interstate 19 between Tucson and Nogales.

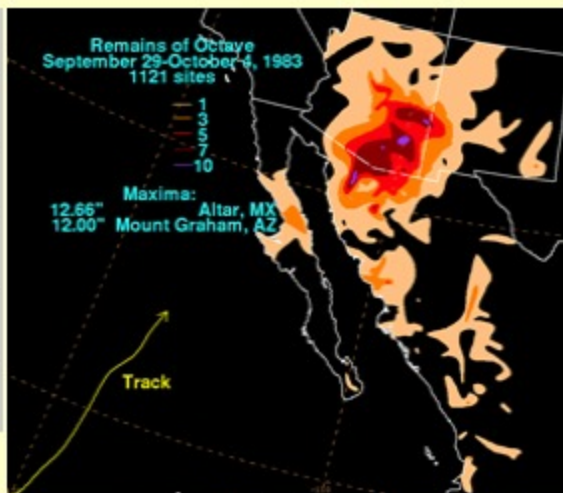


Image courtesy of Hydrometeorological Prediction Center (<http://www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov>)