

## **Rosa weakens to tropical storm on way to Baja, Southwest US**

01/10/2018 09:27 by admin

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### **Hurricane Rosa is shown from a National Oceanic and Atmospheric (NOAA) GOES East satellite over the eastern Pacific Ocean on September 27. (Reuters)**

**Mexico City:** Hurricane Rosa weakened into a tropical storm Sunday as it headed toward northwest Mexico and parts of the US Southwest, prompting storm warnings for the Baja California coast and flash-flood watches for parts of four US states.

The US National Hurricane Center said Rosa should hit the Baja California Peninsula and Sonora state late Monday as a tropical storm with flooding rains.

Itâ€™s then expected to move quickly northwestward as it weakens, bringing 2 to 4 inches (5-10 centimeters) of rain to the Mogollon Rim of Arizona and 1 to 2 inches (2.5-5 centimeters) to the rest of the desert Southwest, Central Rockies and Great Basin. Some isolated areas might be more.

Rosa had maximum sustained winds of 70 mph (110 kph) Sunday evening and was centered about 235 miles (380 kilometers) southwest of Punta Eugenia in Mexico. It was heading north-northeast at 12 mph (19 kph).

The National Weather Service announced flash flood watches through Wednesday for areas including southern Nevada, southeastern California, southwestern and central Utah and the western two-thirds of Arizona.

Forecasts call for heavy rainfall in the watch areas, which include Las Vegas, Phoenix and Salt Lake City, with possible flooding in slot canyons and normally dry washes and a potential for landslides and debris flows from recent wildfire burn scars.

Meanwhile, Tropical Storm Sergio was growing in the Pacific and could become a hurricane force late Sunday night or early Monday, though it posed no immediate threat to land.

Sergio had winds of 65 mph (100 kph) Sunday afternoon and was centered about 535 miles (860 kilometers) south-southwest of Manzanillo, Mexico. The storm was moving west at 13 mph (20 kph).

- AP