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**Hurricane Amanda strengthens in Pacific, still no threat**

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The hurricane's maximum sustained winds were hitting 120 mph Tuesday morning, making it a Category 3 storm. But the U.S. National Hurricane Center said weakening is expected to resume and Amanda should become a tropical storm by Thursday.

The hurricane was centered about 585 miles south-southwest of the southern tip of Mexico's Baja California peninsula and is moving north-northwest near 6 mph.

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Over the weekend, Amanda became the strongest May eastern Pacific hurricane on record as peak winds roared to 155 mph Sunday morning, AccuWeather reported.

That made it a strong Category 4 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale of hurricane intensity. Amanda is also the earliest Category 4 hurricane in the eastern Pacific.

Though they seldom affect land, eastern Pacific hurricanes sometimes hit the west coast of Mexico. Very few have ever had any impact on the USA.

*Contributing: Doyle Rice, USA TODAY*