

Huge waves flood Havana's coastline neighborhoods



Havana, December 22 (RHC)-- Strong winds and intense swells associated with a storm, which formed in Texas and moved towards the Gulf of Mexico Friday, left floods in Havana and the coastlines of western Cuba.

Despite the sun and clear skies in Havana on Friday, waves of four and five meters broke in the city's coastline, and the sea advanced hundreds of meters inland in the neighborhoods of Vedado and Miramar, where electricity was interrupted.

The surge was due to an 'extratropical storm' that caused sustained winds of up to 22 miles per hour with maximum gusts of up to 57 miles per hour, according to the Cuban Institute of Meteorology. Several low-lying communities were evacuated

Cuban authorities activated the country's early warning system in a timely manner, requesting that residents in areas prone to flooding exercise caution and take preventive measures in buildings.

The Cuban Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bruno Rodriguez, shared images on Twitter showing water from the sea covering the entrances of the ministry's headquarters, that is located some meters from the Malecon, Havana's seafront drive.

"The sea water has reached the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at the moment there are no damages, all the preventive measures were taken, a group of our workers remains in the center and is helping the neighbors," Rodriguez wrote.

So far, no victims have been reported.

Flooding on the northern and southern coasts of the island persisted into late Friday. According to the national weather authority forecast, sea water should begin to gradually withdraw on Saturday.

Havana suffered the effects of another major disaster, in Sep. 2017, when Hurricane Irma caused flooding to the capital's Malecon and large portions of downtown's neighborhoods, and El Vedado, causing significant damage.

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