

# Weather 101

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Chief Meteorologist



## El Paso's rain story is being rewritten by once Hurricane Polo

El Paso is accustomed to measuring our rain in tenths of an inch. We have already had an unusually wet September, and as Hurricane Polo's remnants move out, the numbers continued to climb.

That total, however, should not be attributed entirely to Polo. El Paso had already experienced a very active late-monsoon period, including substantial rainfall earlier in the month. What Polo is doing is taking an already moisture-rich atmosphere and adding another major source of tropical moisture.

The timing matters. The rain associated with Polo arrived after weeks in which parts of the region have already received heavy precipitation. Saturated ground means that rainfall which might ordinarily soak into the desert can instead run quickly into arroyos, washes and drainage systems.

So, where does that leave El Paso's rainfall total right now? Officially, the last completed climate observation gives us 4.21 inches through Sept. 29. That puts us 9.64" for the year so far and just over 2.5" above the average so far this year.

And that is perhaps the most interesting part of this storm's story. Polo isn't simply bringing another rainy day to El Paso. It arrived at the end of an already unusually wet September while adding that extra push of rain as we complete our 2026 monsoon.

### Weather Trivia:

**Question:** What was the highest category Hurricane Polo reached?

- A) Category 3
- B) Category 4
- C) Category 5
- D) Category 2

**Correct answer: C) Category 5** 🌪️

Polo reached Category 5 strength with maximum sustained winds of **180 mph** at one point.

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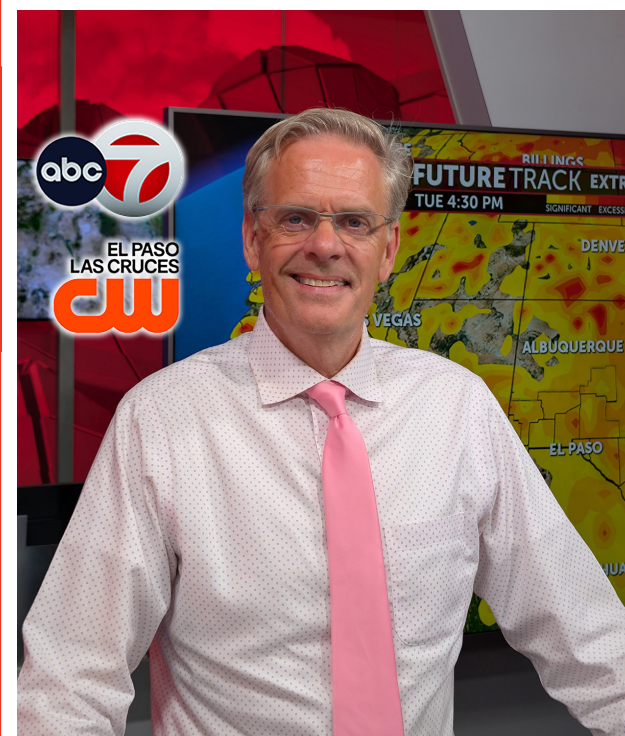
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"Doppler" Dave Speelman is the chief meteorologist at KVIATV in El Paso. You can watch his forecasts at 4, 5, 6 and 10 pm on ABC-7(channel 6 cable). If you would like Doppler Dave to address (explain) any weather issues you can email him at [Dopplerdave@kvia.com](mailto:Dopplerdave@kvia.com).