

= Typhoon Ewinar (2006) =

Typhoon Ewinar , known in the Philippines as Typhoon Ester , was the third named storm of the 2006 Pacific typhoon season and one that lasted for twelve days as a tropical cyclone , moving on a generally northward track . During its lifespan , it affected Palau , Yap , eastern China , the Ryūkyū Islands of Japan , South Korea as well as North Korea , briefly threatening to make landfall in North Korea before doing so in South Korea . Ewinar is responsible for at least 181 deaths . However , an unofficial report stated that up to 10 @, @ 000 people had been killed by flooding in North Korea , with 4 @, @ 000 people missing .

= = Meteorological history = =

On June 29 , a persistent tropical disturbance was classified as a tropical depression by the JTWC while east of Palau . The depression moved northwestward and was upgraded to Tropical Storm 04W by the JTWC the next day on June 30 , while the JMA named the storm Tropical Storm Ewinar at around the same time . The name " Ewinar " was submitted by the Federated States of Micronesia , and refers to a traditional storm god of Chuuk .

Ewinar moved west @-@ northwestward over the next two days , bringing heavy rain and localized flooding to the Yap Islands . Ewinar turned to the northwest and reached its peak intensity of 130 knots (240 km / h or 150 mph) on the U.S. method of measuring windspeeds by one @-@ minute averages , or 100 knots (185 km / h or 115 mph) on the international method of measuring windspeeds by ten @-@ minute averages , and its minimum pressure of 930 hPa (mbar) . Ewinar turned northward and brushed eastern China , forcing evacuations in many cities .

Ewinar gradually weakened as it moved over colder waters , and made landfall in South Korea on July 10 as a severe tropical storm , having briefly threatened to make landfall on impoverished North Korea . Ewinar passed within 50 km (31 mi) of Seoul as it moved across the country before becoming extratropical over the Sea of Japan the next day . Ewinar had also earlier brushed the Ryūkyū Islands of Japan .

= = Preparations = =

= = = People 's Republic of China = = =

As Ewinar started to threaten the coast of China , the government in Beijing ordered emergency evacuations for all villagers in low @-@ lying areas . A reported 7 @, @ 634 people were evacuated from Ningbo , and over 8 @, @ 000 ships were asked to return to dock in harbours in Ningbo and Zhoushan . The municipal flood control headquarters in Shanghai also asked officials to prepare for the approaching typhoon , which was forecast to begin affecting the city on July 9 .

= = = Japan = = =

As Ewinar started to approach the Ryūkyū Islands , Sasebo Naval Base in Kyūshū announced a Tropical Cyclone Condition of Readiness 3 at 4 p.m. local time on July 7 , while a day earlier , on July 6 , the USS Harpers Ferry had unanchored from the harbour for an area of safer weather conditions . The USS Essex also evacuated the area on July 7 . The USS Juneau and USS Bowditch , however , both remained anchored in Sasebo , while the USS Guardian and USS Safeguard were both moved to a nearby dry dock .

All United States military stations and bases on Okinawa were put into a Tropical Cyclone Condition of Readiness 2 on July 7 with an upgrade to a Condition of Readiness 1 expected the following day , and Commander 's Cup softball tournaments that had been scheduled for the weekend of July 8 and July 9 at Camp Hansen and Marine Corps Air Station Futenma had to be postponed . Tropical Cyclone Condition of Readiness 1E , which means that all outdoor activities are prohibited as there

are sustained winds of at least 50 knots (95 km / h , 60 mph) in force , was declared early on the morning of July 9 .

= = = South Korea = = =

As Ewiniar cleared the Ryūkyū Islands and began to threaten the Korean Peninsula , the Korea Meteorological Administration issued typhoon warnings for most of the country . The KMA also issued typhoon advisories for Liancourt Rocks and Ulleungdo .

United States Navy commands in South Korea were put into a Tropical Cyclone Condition of Readiness level 3 , with Condition of Readiness 2 declared on July 8 . TCCOR Level 1 was later declared by United States Forces Korea , which was cancelled after landfall on July 10 .

= = Impact = =

Ewiniar affected many areas due to its track and relatively long life , killing at least 40 people along the way and leaving much damage in its path .

= = = Yap and Palau = = =

Early in its life as a tropical cyclone , Ewiniar affected Yap and Palau , which fall under the warning jurisdiction of the National Weather Service office in Tiyan , Guam . Ewiniar caused coastal flooding in Yap of up to 5 feet (1 @.@ 5 m) , especially near the port and around the Colonia Bay area . Ewiniar also caused an island @-@ wide power outage in Yap , although according to an NWS post @-@ storm report , damage was minimised on Yap due to steadier structures after Super Typhoon Sudal of 2004 tore through the islands . Damage was also reported to agriculture due to salt spray . The total amount of damage caused was estimated to be just over \$ 100 thousand (2006 USD) .

About 2 @.@ 4 inches (61 mm) of rain fell on Yap , while Koror in Palau reported a 24 @-@ hour total of 1 @.@ 88 inches (48 mm) of rain through 6 a.m. UTC on July 3 . The peak wind gusts reported were 53 knots (98 km / h , 61 mph) on Yap at the Weather Service Office (WSO) in Yap and 46 knots (85 km / h , 53 mph) at the WSO in Koror . During its course through the islands , Tropical Storm Ewiniar also necessitated tropical storm warnings and watches for Ngulu , Yap , Koror and Kayangel . No deaths in Yap or Palau were reported due to Ewiniar .

= = = People 's Republic of China = = =

Typhoon Ewiniar killed at least 34 people in China , with areas as far northwest as Gansu and Shanxi affected by landslides . It is not known if the landslides were triggered directly as a result of Ewiniar , or whether it was caused by a combination of Ewiniar and other weather . Therefore , the deaths that can be attributed to Ewiniar from the landslides are assumed to be indirectly caused , and not directly . Average rainfall reported in Shandong was 3 @.@ 4 mm (0 @.@ 133 inches) per hour from 6 a.m. July 9 through midnight July 10 (totalling about 61 @.@ 2 mm or 2 @.@ 4 inches) . At least 300 flights out of Beijing 's Capital International Airport had to be delayed due to thunderstorms and effects of Ewiniar , while Air China and China Eastern Airlines cancelled flights to South Korea heading out of China . As Ewiniar did not affect the mainland directly , there are little to no reports of major damage .

= = = Japan = = =

Ewiniar hammered Okinawa with heavy rain , creating mass confusion and troubles for tourists . Flights and ferries out of Okinawa to neighbouring islands were cancelled , and as many as 3 @,@ 500 tourists were left stranded at various airports because most hotels were already near full capacity . Other tourists reportedly stayed in the homes of some Okinawa residents , while some residents in landslide @-@ prone areas evacuated to higher ground . Seven people were injured in

Nanjo from a fallen signboard , while an elderly woman in Nago City and a young girl in Yaese suffered wind @-@ related injuries .

The highest winds reported during the storm were 34 @.@ 9 m / s (78 mph , 126 km / h) . These winds blew sand about 7 cm (3 in) deep off the beach and into residents ' yards . Typhoon Ewinar caused a reported 20 @.@ 000 @.@ 000 yen (\$ 173 @.@ 778) worth of sugar cane and vegetable damage , and farmers experienced profit losses when ripe fruits were unable to be shipped to Asian markets .

= = = South Korea = = =

In South Korea , much damage was reported . 150 km² (58 sq mi) of farmland was reported to have been flooded across the nation , while most domestic ferry and air travel was disrupted or cancelled . Landslides and flooding destroyed roads and levees , while in South Cholla province , a landslide damaged a temple . According to an official , floods also damaged over 600 homes and houses .

Rainfall totals varied from province to province . The KMA said up to 234 mm (9 @.@ 36 inches) of rain had fallen on the southern areas of South Korea , while Hamyang County in South Kyongsang province reported a total rainfall of 199 mm (7 @.@ 83 inches) to 260 mm (10 @.@ 2 inches) .

About 300 schools were ordered to be closed down in South Cholla , South Kyongsang and on Jeju . However , two injuries were reported at a school in Jeju which ignored the orders . Injuries were also reported elsewhere across South Korea , while 62 people were killed due to Ewinar .

Alongside the effects of flooding immediately following Typhoon Ewinar , damage throughout the country amounted to ? 2 @.@ 06 trillion (US \$ 2 @.@ 2 billion) .

= = = North Korea = = =

Due to the secrecy in North Korea , not much information is available on damage caused in the country . However , a TIME Asia report on North Korea noted that Ewinar left 60 @.@ 000 villagers homeless . Floods in the country killed at least 141 people and left 112 others missing . However , an unofficial report stated that as many as 10 @.@ 000 people may have been killed . Another report indicated that the typhoon caused a " disaster of biblical proportions " , with an estimated 54 @.@ 700 people being killed , mainly by landslides .