= Typhoon Mitag (2002) =

Typhoon Mitag , known in the Philippines as Typhoon Basyang , was the first super typhoon on record in the month of March . The second storm of the 2002 Pacific typhoon season , Mitag developed from a trough near the equator on February 25 near the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) . It moved westward through the archipelago and intensified into a typhoon before passing near Yap on March 2 . High winds and heavy rainfall affected the state , resulting in an islandwide power outage and destroying hundreds of houses . Mitag caused severe crop damage that resulted in food shortages . The rainfall and storm surge flooded much of the coastline as well as Yap 's capital , Colonia . Damage totaled $ 150 million , mostly from crop damage . There was one death related to the storm 's aftermath .

After affecting Yap , Mitag turned to the northwest and later to the north due to an approaching trough . It passed to the north of Palau , contributing to one death there . Despite predictions of weakening , the typhoon continued to intensify , reaching peak winds of 175 km / h (110 mph 10 minute sustained) on March 5 . The combination of cooler air and interaction with the westerlies caused Mitag to weaken significantly . Only four days after reaching peak winds , the storm had dissipated well to the east of the Philippines .

= = Meteorological history = =

The origins of Typhoon Mitag were from a trough near the equator in late February 2002 . A circulation developed on February 25 south of Pohnpei , which initially had disorganized convection due to moderate wind shear . After further organization , the system developed into a tropical depression on February 26 . Located south of the subtropical ridge , it moved generally westward , intensifying into Tropical Storm Mitag near Chuuk State in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) on February 28 . This was based off analysis from the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) ; the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) estimated that the system intensified into a tropical storm a day prior . It passed just south of Weno in Chuuk while continuing westward , intensifying quickly due to decreasing wind shear . The JTWC upgraded the storm to a typhoon on March 1 , and the JMA followed suit a day later .

Despite being early in the season , Mitag intensified significantly to the east of the Philippines . On March 2 , an eye was observed on satellite imagery in the center of the deepest convection . Late that day , Mitag passed just south of the island of Yap in the FSM . On March 3 , the typhoon entered the area of warning responsibility of the Philippine Atmospheric , Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) ; the agency gave it the local name " Basyang " . An approaching deep @-@ layer trough turned the typhoon to the northwest and later to the north . Although southwesterly wind shear was expected to restrict intensification , Mitag turned to the northeast in the same direction as the shear , causing the outflow to increase . After completing an eyewall replacement cycle , very deep convection surrounded the eye , and Dvorak numbers peaked at 7 @.@ 0 . On this basis , the JTWC upgraded Mitag to a super tyhoon on March 5 , estimating peak winds of 260 km / h (160 mph 1 minute sustained) while the storm was located about 610 km (380 mi) east of Catanduanes in the Philippines . This made it the only super typhoon on record in the month until Typhoon Maysak of 2015 . Also on March 5 , the JMA estimated peak winds of 175 km / h (110 mph 10 minute sustained) , PAGASA assessed the same intensity as JMA , and the National Meteorological Centre of China estimated peak winds of 205 km / h (125 mph 10 minute sustained) . For about a day , the typhoon maintained its peak winds , before increasing wind shear and cool , dry air imparted significant weakening . In a 24 ? hour period , the JTWC estimated that winds decreased by 110 km / h (70 mph 1 minute sustained) while the storm turned to the northeast , and on March 7 , Mitag weakened below typhoon @-@ force . A surge in the monsoon combined with the upper @-@ level Westerlies displaced the low @-@ level circulation from the upper @-@ level center , causing the low @-@ level system to turn to the east and south . On March 8 , the JTWC issued its last advisory , and Mitag dissipated on March 9 .

= = Impact = =

Tropical Storm Mitag first affected Chuuk State in the FSM , producing a wind gust of 76 km / h (47 mph) and heavy rainfall up to 176 mm (6 @.@ 94 in) . The rains caused a few minor landslides and flooded some homes on Weno Island .

Later , Mitag passed near several islands in Yap State , first affecting Woleai . On the island , high wind gusts of around 170 km / h (105 mph) knocked out power and downed breadfruit and coconut trees . The winds destroyed a few houses , forcing residents to evacuate to a local school . Mitag dropped heavy rainfall while passing by Yap state , peaking at 255 mm (10 @.@ 05 in) on Ngulu Atoll . On Yap , the typhoon produced sustained winds of 56 km / h (35 mph) , with gusts to 141 km / h (87 mph) . The winds also caused an islandwide power outage that lasted for about two days , and damaged the roof of the Yap International Airport terminal . High waves and storm surge damaged coastal structures and flooded areas up to 150 m (500 ft) inland . The seawall at the capital city of Colonia was damaged , and portions of the town were flooded 1 @.@ 5 m (5 ft) deep . The storm destroyed over 150 houses on Yap , leaving hundreds staying in shelters . Across the island , the winds knocked down trees onto roads , and saltwater intrusion caused severe crop damage ; most of the taro and banana crops were destroyed . Damage in the FSM totaled $ 150 million , of which $ 100 million from crop damage .

Lastly , the typhoon passed about 320 km (200 mi) north of Palau , producing gusty winds but no damage . There was an indirect death on the island after a person was crushed by a tree ; he had been helping a friend cut down the tree out of fear it could cause damage during the storm .

= = Aftermath = =

After Mitag struck Yap , the state 's governor declared a 30 day state of emergency and asked for aid from the national government . On May 29 , United States President George W. Bush declared a major disaster for Yap , which allocated funding for repairing storm damage and storm damage mitigation . Crop damage from Mitag caused food shortages in Yap and Chuuk , and health problems related to the storm killed one person on Nomwin . Residents and businesses in Palau sent $ 3 @,@ 000 in donations and other relief supplies to Yap , as well as $ 3 @,@ 000 worth of oil . The state government sent about $ 2 @,@ 000 to storm victims . Hospitals in Guam sent medical teams to Yap with blankets , clothing , and medical supply .