

= Cyclone Xavier =

Severe Tropical Cyclone Xavier (RSMC Nadi Designation : 01F , JTWC Designation : 01P) was a strong pre @-@ season cyclone that formed on October 20 , 2006 to the north of the Santa Cruz Islands . During the next day it rapidly developed and was designated as Tropical Depression 01F later that day , before being designated as Tropical Cyclone Xavier while over Santa Cruz early on October 22 . Later on October 22 , Xavier intensified into a category 3 severe tropical cyclone on the Australian Tropical Cyclone Intensity Scale , before passing over Tikopia early the next day . Xavier then reached its peak wind speeds of 175 km / h (110 mph 10 @-@ min) , which made it a Category 4 cyclone early on October 24 . Xavier stayed at its peak wind speeds until early the next day when it started to rapidly weaken , becoming a depression early on October 26 . The remnants of Xavier persisted until October 28 before dissipating . There were no casualties reported as a result of the storm and little impact reported in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu .

= = Meteorological history = =

During October 20 , 2006 the Fiji Meteorological Service and the United States Joint Typhoon Warning Center started to monitor a tropical depression , that had developed within the South Pacific Convergence Zone to the north of Temotu Province in the Solomon Islands . The system was located within an area of low to moderate vertical wind shear and had a good outflow in its northern and eastern quadrants . Over the next day conditions surrounding the system rapidly became favourable for further development , with convection starting to wrap into a well defined low level circulation centre . As a result , the depression rapidly developed further and was named Xavier by the FMS during October 22 , after it had become a category 1 tropical cyclone on the Australian tropical cyclone intensity scale . After the system was named the JTWC initiated advisories on the system and designated it as Tropical Cyclone 01P , while it was located over the Santa Cruz Islands . Throughout October 22 , Xavier 's rapid intensification continued with it developing an eye feature and becoming a category 3 severe tropical cyclone . During that day the system performed a small cyclonic loop over Temotu Province and passed near or over the Santa Cruz Island of Tikopia .

The systems rapid intensification subsequently slowed down during October 23 , as an upper @-@ level anticyclone located to the northwest of the system impeded the systems outflow . The system also started to move south @-@ eastwards during that day , as a trough of low pressure created a break in the ridge of high pressure that was steering Xavier . The FMS subsequently estimated during October 24 , that the system had peaked as a Category 4 Severe Tropical Cyclone with 10 @-@ minute sustained wind speeds of 175 km / h (110 mph) , while it was located about 220 km (135 mi) to the east of Vanua Lava in northern Vanuatu . The JTWC also estimated during October 24 , that the system had peaked with 1 @-@ minute sustained wind speeds of 215 km / h (135 mph) , which made it equivalent to a category 4 hurricane on the Saffir @-@ Simpson hurricane wind scale . Over the next day the system maintained its peak intensity as it moved south @-@ eastwards , before it turned westwards during the next day towards Vanuatu and rapidly weakened after it moved into an area of cooler sea @-@ surface temperatures and strong vertical wind @-@ shear . As a result , during October 26 , The FMS and JTWC both reported that the system had weakened into a tropical depression , with the JTWC issuing their final advisory on the system as they expected it to dissipate within 12 hours . Xavier 's remnants were last noted by the FMS during October 28 , after the systems low level circulation centre was not able to be distinguished .

= = Preparations and impact = =

Early on October 22 , both RSMC Nadi and TCWC Brisbane started to issue special advisories to support the meteorological services of Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands in tracking the cyclone . As Xavier was over the islands of Santa Cruz the whole of Temotu Province was placed under a tropical cyclone gale warning , while cyclone watches were declared for Rennel , Bellona , and

Vanuatu . During the next 24 hours , the Torres and Banks Islands , as well as Espirito Santo , Maewo , Ambae , were placed under a cyclone warning . The warnings for the Solomon Islands were then cancelled early the next day , while the warnings for Vanuatu were maintained until late on October 25 , when RSMC Nadi discontinued them .

There were no casualties as a result of Xavier . In the Solomon Islands , communications to the Temotu province were lost . When communications were restored on October 24 , it was reported that there was only minor tree damage on the islands of Utupua and Vanikolo . On Tikopia , crops sustained damage , though the effects were considered light given the circumstances . Strong and gusty winds , rough seas and moderate to heavy swells were reported within the eastern Vanuatuan islands , however , no significant damage was reported within the islands .