

= Typhoon Higos ( 2002 ) =

Typhoon Higos was considered the third strongest typhoon to affect Tokyo since World War II . The 21st named storm of the 2002 Pacific typhoon season , Higos developed on September 25 east of the Northern Marianas Islands . It tracked west @-@ northwestward for its first few days , steadily intensifying into a powerful typhoon by September 29 . Higos subsequently weakened and turned to the north @-@ northeast toward Japan , making landfall in that country 's Kanagawa Prefecture on October 1 . It weakened while crossing Honshu , and shortly after striking Hokkaid? , Higos became extratropical on October 2 . The remnants passed over Sakhalin and dissipated on October 4 .

Before striking Japan , Higos produced strong winds in the Northern Marianas Islands while passing to their north . These winds damaged the food supply on two islands . Later , Higos moved across Japan with wind gusts as strong as 161 km / h ( 100 mph ) , including record gusts at several locations . A total of 608 @,@ 130 buildings in the country were left without power , and two people were electrocuted in the storm 's aftermath . The typhoon also dropped heavy rainfall that peaked at 346 mm ( 13 @.@ 6 in ) . The rains flooded houses across the country and caused mudslides . High waves washed 25 boats ashore and killed one person along the coast . Damage in the country totaled \$ 2 @.@ 14 billion ( ¥ 261 billion 2002 JPY ) , and there were five deaths in the country . Later , the remnants of Higos affected the Russian Far East , killing seven people involved in two shipwrecks offshore Primorsky Krai .

= = Meteorological history = =

The Joint Typhoon Warning Center ( JTWC ) first monitored an area of disturbed weather on September 25 . At the time , the system consisted of a weak circulation , but with good outflow and located in an area of low wind shear . The system moved to the west @-@ northwest , steered by a subtropical ridge to the east of Japan . On September 26 , a tropical depression developed about 925 km ( 575 mi ) east of the Northern Marianas Islands , and also to the south of the Japanese island of Minamitorishima . Later that day , the Japan Meteorological Agency ( JMA ) upgraded the depression to Tropical Storm Higos , at the same time that the JTWC also upgraded to a tropical storm . By that time , the system had developed an organized area of convection .

The storm gradually intensified while passing to the north of Saipan , and Higos attained typhoon status on September 27 . Shortly thereafter , it also passed just south of Pagan Island . A well @-@ defined eye ( cyclone ) 15 km ( 9 mi ) in diameter developed , and Higos rapidly intensified . At 1200 UTC on September 29 , Typhoon Higos reached its peak intensity . The JMA estimated 10 minute maximum sustained winds of 175 km / h ( 110 mph ) , and the JTWC estimated 1 minute winds of 250 km / h ( 155 mph ) , which made Higos a super typhoon . After having moved west @-@ northwestward for several days , Higos slowed and began turning to the north while it was at peak strength . Its change in movement was due to an eastward @-@ moving trough creating a weakness in the ridge . The typhoon accelerated to the north @-@ northeast toward Japan and gradually weakened due to increasing wind shear .

At around 1100 UTC on October 1 , Higos passed just east of the Miura Peninsula with winds of 130 km / h ( 80 mph ) , about 30 minutes before making landfall in the eastern portion of Kanagawa Prefecture near Yokosuka . Higos passed very near Tokyo around 1200 UTC that day , becoming the third strongest typhoon to affect the city since World War II , according to the JTWC . The typhoon weakened into a tropical storm while crossing Honshu . Higos briefly emerged over waters , before making a second landfall on Tomakomai , Hokkaid? at 2100 UTC on October 1 . By that time , the storm was beginning to transition into an extratropical cyclone , and at 0600 UTC on October 2 Higos completed the transition . Simultaneously , the JTWC discontinued advisories . The storm continued to the north before crossing Sakhalin . The remnants dissipated on October 4 just west of the Kamchatka Peninsula .

= = Preparations and impact = =

Typhoon Higos first affected the Northern Marianas Islands , producing winds of 94 km / h ( 59 mph ) , with gusts to 183 km / h ( 114 mph ) on Pagan Island . The typhoon caused heavy crop damage in Agrigan and Alamagan , which led to food shortages on the islands . As a result , officials from Saipan sent a boat to the islands with food donated by the local Red Cross chapter .

Before Higos struck Japan , officials canceled 300 airplane flights , and also canceled train lines and ferry service . Some baseball games were postponed , and businesses closed early . The typhoon affected outlying islands of Japan , causing power outages due to strong winds . Upon making landfall in Japan , Higos produced strong winds that peaked at 104 km / h ( 65 mph ) in Shizuoka . Winds in Tokyo reached 94 km / h ( 58 mph ) . Stronger wind gusts were reported in Hokkaido after Higos became extratropical , including a peak gust of 161 km / h ( 100 mph ) in Urakawa . Several stations across Japan reported record @-@ high wind gusts . The typhoon also dropped torrential rainfall that peaked at 346 mm ( 13 @.@ 6 in ) in Hakone , Kanagawa ; the same station reported a one @-@ hour total of 80 mm ( 3 @.@ 15 in ) . The typhoon washed 25 boats ashore , including a cargo ship on Izu @-@ Oshima Island . One woman was washed away by high surf .

A total of 2 @, @ 254 houses were flooded in the country , forcing thousands of people to evacuate . Overall , 2 @, @ 694 houses were damaged , and another 12 were destroyed . Many houses lost their roofs , and high winds left 608 @, @ 130 buildings without power in Honshu , along with thousands of power on Hokkaido . Two people were electrocuted by downed power lines . High rainfall caused mudslides near Tokyo , which destroyed a few buildings , and caused the Tama River to reach above @-@ normal levels . Across Japan , the typhoon disrupted transportation by forcing highways to be closed . Storm debris injured several people , and a steel window frame struck and killed a man in Yokohama . A tree fell onto a car , injuring one person . Insured damage in Japan totaled \$ 2 @. @ 14 billion ( ¥ 261 billion 2002 JPY ) . In Iwate Prefecture , there was about \$ 73 million ( ¥ 8 billion 2002 JPY ) in damage , mostly from damaged roads and public buildings . Agriculture damage in the prefecture \$ 18 @. @ 3 million ( ¥ 2 billion 2002 JPY ) for the first time since Typhoon Mireille in 1991 . There were five deaths , and 108 people were injured ; this included 55 people who were injured in Tokyo .

After becoming extratropical , Higos affected the Kuril Islands and later Sakhalin . Power was cut in 22 towns , and ferry service was canceled . On Sakhalin , high winds downed many trees , some of which blocked roads . Six people were injured by fallen trees . The remnants of Higos capsized two ships offshore Primorye , killing seven people .