= Cyclone Tam (2006) =

Tropical Cyclone Tam (RSMC Nadi designation : 04F , JTWC designation : 06P) was the first named storm of the 2005 ? 06 South Pacific cyclone season . Forming out of a tropical depression on January 6 , the storm gradually intensified , becoming a tropical cyclone on January 12 and receiving the name Tam . Although it was traveling at a quick pace , the storm gained organization and reached its peak intensity with winds of 85 km / h (50 mph) the following day . However , the increasing forward motion of the storm , combined with strengthening wind shear , caused Tam to rapidly weaken on January 14 . Around that time , it entered the Tropical Cyclone Warning Centre in Wellington , New Zealand 's area of responsibility . Shortly thereafter , the storm transitioned into an extratropical cyclone and dissipated early the next day . Cyclone Tam produced heavy rainfall and strong winds over American Samoa upon being named . The precipitation caused several mudslides and flooding , which inflicted $ 26 @,@ 000 in damage . The storm also had minor effects on Niue , Tonga , and Futuna .

= = Meteorological history = =

Tropical Cyclone Tam originated out of tropical depression while located about 370 km (230 mi) to the north @-@ northeast of Fiji on January 6 . The system , designated 04F by the Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre (RSMC) in Nadi , Fiji tracked slowly towards the west . Although the depression was located within an area of low wind shear , little intensification occurred , as a lack of low @-@ level moisture hindered the development of deep convection . By January 9 , shower and thunderstorm activity associated with the disturbance increased as it began to interact with the South Pacific Convergence Zone . Another tropical depression , 05F , also became increasingly organized and at one point was forecast to absorb 04F . Following the weakening of Tropical Depression 05F , 04F intensified . Around 2000 UTC on January 11 , the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) issued a Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert as deep convection persisted around the center of circulation for several hours .

The following day , the RSMC Nadi upgraded Tropical Depression 04F to a tropical cyclone and gave it the name Tam , making it the first named storm of the 2005 ? 06 season . Several hours later , the storm passed close to Niuafo 'ou with winds of 65 km / h (40 mph) . By 0000 UTC on January 13 , the JTWC classified Tam as Tropical Cyclone 06P . Although the storm was tracking towards an area with stronger winds aloft , it was forecast to intensify . Due to the relatively fast movement of the storm , the increasing winds aloft had little effect on the storm , allowing it to intensify and attain winds of 85 km / h (50 mph) around 0600 UTC . However , with both wind shear and the forward motion of the storm continuing to increase , convection rapidly became dislocated from the center . Around 0000 UTC on January 14 , Tam entered the area of responsibility of the Tropical Cyclone Warning Centre in Wellington , New Zealand . With forward movement estimated at 75 km / h (45 mph) almost due south , the cyclone reached an unusually high latitude as a tropical cyclone . Coinciding with the time when Tam reached 33 ° S , it transitioned into an extratropical cyclone . The remnants of the storm persisted for several hours before dissipating early on January 15 .

= = Preparations and impact = =

As Tam was developing , residents attempted to evacuate the island by plane , with the primary target of Fiji . Only a few flights took off before officials closed the airport , stranding numerous passengers . Late on January 11 , RSMC Nadi placed Tonga and Futuna under a tropical cyclone alert and also placed Tonga and Wallis under a strong wind warning . Early the next day RSMC Nadi placed northern Tonga under a tropical cyclone gale warning . Later that morning they canceled the tropical cyclone alert for Wallis and Futuna as Tam was not expected to directly affect Futuna anymore . During that afternoon RSMC Nadi placed Niue under a Tropical cyclone alert , as they predicted that Niue would be affected by Tam within 24 hours . Early on January 13 RSMC

Nadi cancelled the tropical cyclone warnings and alerts for Tonga , whilst at the same time placing Niue under a tropical cyclone gale warning , however this gale warning was canceled later that day as Tam moved into the southern ocean .

On January 11 , Tropical Depression 04F produced a record 293 @.@ 2 mm (11 @.@ 5 in) of rain in a 24 ? hour span on Rotuma . However , little damage resulted from the heavy precipitation . Cyclone Tam produced heavy rainfall in American Samoa which triggered damaging floods . Several buildings were flooded , and an estimated 70 % of the island 's crops were destroyed . Sustained winds of up to 55 km / h (35 mph) , with gusts reaching 95 km / h (59 mph) , tore a few roofs off unsecured homes . Scattered power outages were reported throughout the island . A few landslides were also reported as a result of the storm . Damage from the storm totaled $ 26 @,@ 000 on the island . Relatively little damage was recorded in Futuna ; there , the storm downed several trees and stranded a yacht on a reef . On Niuafo 'ou , a weather station recorded sustained winds of 55 km / h (35 mph) with gusts of up to 75 km / h (45 mph) , along with a minimum pressure of 991 hPa (mbar) . Minor damage , consisting of fallen branches and isolated power outages also occurred on Niue .