

= Typhoon Maria (2006) =

Typhoon Maria was a weak typhoon which brushed the southeastern coast of Japan during early August 2006 . The seventh named storm of the 2006 Pacific typhoon season , Maria formed out of a tropical depression over the open waters of the western Pacific Ocean . On August 5 , the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) classified the depression as a tropical storm while the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) kept it as a depression . The storm quickly strengthened into a typhoon the next day , reaching its peak intensity with winds of 130 km / h (80 mph 10 @-@ minute winds) early on August 6 . The storm gradually weakened as it began to recurve , causing it to parallel the southeastern coast of Japan . On August 9 , Maria weakened into a tropical depression and later into an extratropical cyclone before dissipating on August 15 . Maria had only minor effects in Japan , mainly heavy rains which were estimated to have peaked over 400 mm (15 @.@ 7 in) on the Izu Peninsula . One person was killed after being struck by lightning and six others were injured .

= = Meteorological history = =

On August 3 , the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) began monitoring a tropical depression located to the southeast of Minami Torishima Island . The depression slowly developed as it moved towards the west @-@ northwest . At 1630 UTC on August 5 , the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) issued a Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert on the developing system while it was located about 740 km (460 mi) east @-@ northeast of the northern Mariana Islands . Deep convection was present around the center of circulation but the overall structure of the storm resembled a subtropical cyclone . However , the storm was likely to intensify as it was located within an area of low to moderate vertical wind shear with favorable diffluence aloft . Later that day , the JMA upgraded the depression to a tropical storm and gave it the name Maria ; a name submitted by the United States and a common Chamorro feminine name . Maria continued towards the west @-@ northwest along the edge of a broad subtropical ridge located east of Japan .

As the JMA issued their first advisory , the JTWC designated the system as Tropical Depression 09W while located about 280 km (175 mi) east @-@ northeast of Iwo Jima . Early the next day , the JMA classified Maria as a severe tropical storm with winds of 95 km / h (60 mph 10 @-@ minute winds) while the JTWC reported that Maria had just become a tropical storm with winds reaching 75 km / h (45 mph 1 @-@ minute winds) . The storm also had a slight northward relocation . Tracking towards the northwest , the storm intensified into a typhoon and reached its peak intensity with winds of 130 km / h (80 mph 10 @-@ minute winds) and minimum pressure of 975 hPa (mbar) at 0900 UTC . Around the same time , the JTWC assessed the storm to have reached its peak intensity with winds of 110 km / h (70 mph 1 @-@ minute winds) . However , the JTWC operationally classified Maria as a minimal typhoon with winds of 120 km / h (75 mph 1 @-@ minute winds) on August 7 .

On August 7 , a banding eye feature developed with deep convection around the eastern portion of the storm . Later that day , the storm sharply recurved towards the northeast and paralleled the southern coastline of Honshu . As Maria made the turn , dry air began to enter the system , causing it to weaken . Along with the dry air , wind shear began to increase and the JMA downgraded Maria to a severe tropical storm early on August 8 . The storm continued to weaken as it came very close to landfall near Tokyo , Japan on August 9 . Both agencies downgraded Maria to a tropical depression early on August 9 , with the JTWC issuing their final advisory at that time . Maria remained a tropical depression for another 24 hours before transitioning into an extratropical cyclone on August 10 while located about 835 km (520 mi) east @-@ northeast of Tokyo . The extratropical remnants turned towards the north and dissipated late on August 14 over the Sea of Okhotsk .

= = Preparations and impact = =

Weather officials warned residents about heavy rains , strong winds , and high waves in the T?kai

region , Kantō region , Kōshin'etsu region , and the Izu Islands between August 8 and 9 . Seven flights out of Tokyo at Haneda airport were cancelled due to Maria . The JR Ito Line , an express train line , was temporarily shut down as a result of rain . As Maria brushed Japan , it produced heavy rains over the southeastern areas of the country . Yokota Air Base recorded 38 @. @ 1 mm (1 @. @ 5 in) of rainfall and winds up to 34 km / h (21 mph) . Parts of the Izu Peninsula recorded rainfall in excess of 400 mm (15 @. @ 7 in) over a two @- @ day span , peaking at 458 mm (18 @. @ 0 in) in Tokyo . In Gifu Prefecture , thunderstorms associated with the typhoon resulted in a landslide that knocked out power to 510 residences . One man was injured and two cows died after a small farm was severely damaged by high winds . Flooding and landslides affected dozens of homes in Chōshi , Chiba , prompting the evacuation of 63 families . One person was killed in Tokyo after being struck by lightning . Five people were injured when a plane headed for Tokyo encountered turbulence produced by Maria .