= 2002 Oman cyclone =

The 2002 Oman cyclone (JTWC designation : 01A , officially known as Cyclonic Storm ARB 01) was an uncommon tropical cyclone that struck the Dhofar region of Oman in May 2002 . The first storm of the 2002 North Indian Ocean cyclone season , it developed on May 6 in the Arabian Sea , and it maintained a general west @-@ northwest track for much of its duration . The system reached cyclonic storm status on May 9 , meaning it attained winds of greater than 65 km / h (40 mph) , and on May 10 it made landfall near Salalah ; shortly thereafter it dissipated . The storm was rare , in the sense that it was one of only eleven tropical cyclones on record to approach the Arabian Peninsula in the month of May .

The storm brought the heaviest rainfall totals to Dhofar in 30 years , causing flooding and creating rivers in wadis , or typically dry riverbeds . Several people drowned after their vehicles were swept away by the flooding . The storm caused locally heavy damage , totaling $ 25 million (2002 USD) .

= = Meteorological history = =

An area of convection developed on May 2 , 2002 near Sri Lanka , associated with a weak and broad circulation center . The system tracked west @-@ northwestward through the Arabian Sea along a trough near the equator . Its thunderstorm activity was enhanced by a ridge to its north , though was also removed from the center . By May 5 , the circulation had become better defined , and concurrently the convection increased over the center . After further organization , the India Meteorological Department (IMD) classified the system as Depression ARB01A on May 6 . Around the same time , the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) classified it as Tropical Depression 01A , while located about 1300 km (800 mi) southeast of Salalah , Oman .

After becoming a tropical cyclone , the depression turned to a northwest motion before resuming a track to the west @-@ northwest . On May 7 it intensified into a deep depression , and though its winds had increased , the structure became disorganized as the center became exposed from the thunderstorm activity . The convection waned , due to the influence of dry air from the Arabian Peninsula , as well as from wind shear . As a result , the IMD downgraded it to depression status early on May 8 . However , later in the day , convection redeveloped over the western half of the circulation , and it again reached deep depression status , about 830 km (515 mi) southeast of Oman .

The storm maintained poleward outflow as it continued west @-@ northwestward . Early on May 9 the IMD upgraded the system to a cyclonic storm , estimating winds of 65 km / h (40 mph) and a pressure of 994 mbar (29 @.@ 4 inHg) . Around that time , the storm was estimated by the JTWC to have attained peak winds of 85 km / h (50 km / h) , with an atmospheric pressure of 991 mbar . While located a short distance offshore , the storm turned to the northwest and weakened slightly . At about 0900 UTC on May 10 , the storm made landfall near Salalah , Oman . Shortly thereafter , it began dissipation over Oman . Its landfall in the Dhofar region of Oman was uncommon ; in the period from 1891 to 1990 , only 17 tropical depressions or storms struck the region .

= = Impact = =

Along the coastline , the arrival of the storm resulted in strong waves of up to 4 metres (13 ft) . The storm dropped heavy rainfall in the vicinity of its landfall , which were the greatest totals in 30 years in the Dhofar region . The city of Salalah reported 58 mm (2 @.@ 28 in) in a 24 ? hour period as the storm moved ashore , which was more than 300 % of its average monthly for May . As a result , some flooding was reported in the city , and several wadis , or typically dry riverbeds , became sudden rivers in the area ; one station recorded a discharge of 1146 m3 / s (40 @,@ 470 ft3 / s) . In Qairoon , precipitation amounted to 251 mm (9 @.@ 88 in) , which was the highest total in Oman . Severe thunderstorms were reported during its passage , with wind gusts peaking at 106 km / h (66 mph) . In neighboring Yemen , the city of Al Ghaydah reported light winds of about 45 km / h (30 mph) .

Damage was severe and widespread , estimated at $ 25 million (2002 USD) . Storm impact included property , crop , transportation , and agricultural damage , with hundreds of cattle drowning during the passage of the storm . Across the Dhofar region of Oman , the storm caused several injuries and a total of nine fatalities ; most of the deaths were drownings , occurring when their vehicles were swept away by flooding in typically dry areas . Two army soldiers and one police officer drowned while saving other people in danger .

In the aftermath of the storm , the Omani government received 4 @,@ 000 requests for assistance , and in turn provided financial aid to 500 families ; additionally , the government supplied temporary housing for displaced people .