

= Typhoon Olive (1952) =

Typhoon Olive was the strongest Pacific typhoon in 1952 . The thirteenth tropical storm and the ninth typhoon of the season , it developed about 1 @, @ 600 mi (2 @, @ 600 km) southwest of Honolulu , Hawaii on September 13 . The next day , the system attained tropical storm intensity . Beginning to rapidly intensify , Olive attained typhoon intensity on September 15 . Olive reached Category 5 intensity on the modern @-@ day Saffir ? Simpson hurricane wind scale on September 16 .

Olive produced significant damage on Wake Island , where wind gusts reached 142 mph (229 km / h) . Significant flooding was reported , and the majority of the structures were destroyed . However , few injuries were reported , and the island 's facilities were restored in 1953 . Typhoon Olive remains one of the most intense tropical cyclones to affect the island .

= = Meteorological history = =

On September 8 , an area of disturbed weather , located near 12 @. @ 0 ° N 169 @. @ 0 ° W , was plotted as a tropical wave on surface weather maps . Operationally , however , the system was not classified as a tropical storm until September 15 ; however , postseason analysis determined that the system acquired tropical storm intensity on 0000 UTC on September 15 . Tropical Storm Olive , moving west @-@ northwest near 10 mph (16 km / h) , turned toward Wake Island on September 15 . Around 1800 UTC Olive was upgraded into typhoon , with winds of 75 mph (121 km / h) . Continuing to intensify , Olive passed near Wake Island , where maximum sustained winds of 127 mph (204 km / h) were recorded . Around this time , reconnaissance aircraft reported a minimum central pressure of 945 mbar (hPa ; 27 @. @ 91 inHg) . On September 16 , Olive intensified from a Category 2 to a Category 4 typhoon , attained the equivalence of super typhoon intensity , and strengthened to a peak intensity of 185 mph (298 km / h) the following day far from land . On September 18 , Olive weakened from a Category 5 to a Category 2 typhoon and recurved northeast . On September 19 , the cyclone lost typhoon intensity . Tropical Storm Olive transitioned into an extratropical cyclone and was last monitored on September 21 .

= = Preparations and impact = =

On Wake Island , 750 people sheltered in World War II bunkers . Olive , the second typhoon to affect the island since 1935 , produced sustained wind speeds of 120 mph (190 km / h) and peak gusts of 142 mph (229 km / h) on the island . Significant flooding was also recorded . Damage was severe ; it is estimated that 85 % of the island 's structures were demolished due to the storm . All of the homes and the island 's hotel were destroyed . Additionally , the island 's chapel and quonset huts were destroyed . The island 's LORAN station , operated by the United States Coast Guard , was also destroyed . On September 18 , water and power services were restored . The facilities on the island were fully restored in 1953 . The total cost to repair damages caused by Olive amounted to \$ 1 @. @ 6 million (1952 USD ; \$ 13 million 2009 USD) . No fatalities occurred on the island , and four injuries were reported . None of the 230 Pan American World Airways employees received injuries .