

= Typhoon Gordon ( 1989 ) =

Typhoon Gordon , known in the Philippines as Typhoon Goring , was a powerful tropical cyclone that caused widespread damage and loss of life in the Philippines and Southern China in July 1989 . Originating from a single cumulonimbus cloud on July 9 , Gordon developed into a tropical depression near the Northern Mariana Islands and quickly intensified as it tracked west @-@ southwestward . On July 13 , the storm attained typhoon status and subsequently underwent a period of rapid intensification . By July 15 , the storm attained its peak strength as a Category 5 equivalent super typhoon with winds estimated at 260 km / h ( 160 mph ) . After striking the northern Philippines , Gordon moved through the South China Sea and slowly weakened . On July 18 , the storm made landfall in southern China and was last noted the following day as it dissipated over land .

Throughout Gordon 's path from the Philippines to China , the storm caused widespread damage and loss of life . Across the Philippines , 90 people were killed by the typhoon and an estimated 120 @, @ 000 people were left homeless . Though a weaker storm when it struck China , damage was more severe due to extensive flooding . Several coastal cities were completely inundated . Throughout the country , at least 200 people died and losses reached 1 @. @ 2 billion yuan ( \$ 319 million USD ) . Additionally , 14 people drowned offshore and 2 others died in Hong Kong .

= = Meteorological history = =

In early July , widespread showers and thunderstorms developed across the Western Pacific underneath a tropical upper tropospheric trough ( TUTT ) . On July 9 , a single cumulonimbus cloud west of Wake Island became associated with the TUTT and quickly organized . By July 11 , the system featured a small central dense overcast and soon became sufficiently organized for the Joint Typhoon Warning Center ( JTWC ) to declare it as Tropical Depression 11W . Upon classification , the system was located roughly 320 km ( 200 mi ) east of the Northern Mariana Islands . The development of the depression was unprecedented in two ways : first , a single cloud developed into a tropical cyclone ; and second , it became tropical while situated underneath a cold @-@ core low .

Following the system 's classification as a tropical cyclone , the depression maintained a west @-@ southwesterly track in response to a subtropical ridge to the north . On July 12 , it is estimated that the depression intensified into a tropical storm , at which time it was given the name Gordon by the JTWC . Due to the cyclone 's proximity to the Philippines , the Philippine Atmospheric , Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration also monitored the storm and assigned it with the local name Goring . During the afternoon of July 13 , Gordon briefly turned southwestward as it attained typhoon status before returning to a more westerly track later that day .

As the TUTT gradually warmed , Gordon was able to undergo a prolonged period of rapid intensification , despite having restricted outflow . Over a 30 hour period from July 14 to 15 , the storm 's central pressure decreased by 70 mbar ( hPa ; 2 @. @ 07 inHg ) , just below the threshold for explosive intensification . At the end of this phase , Gordon attained its peak strength as a Category 5 equivalent super typhoon with winds estimated at 260 km / h ( 160 mph ) . Around the same time , the Japan Meteorological Agency ( JMA ) assessed the storm to have attained 10 @-@ minute sustained winds of 185 km / h ( 115 mph ) along with a minimum pressure of 915 mbar ( hPa ; 27 @. @ 02 inHg ) .

Once classified a super typhoon , Gordon acquired a slight northerly component to its track and maintained a general west @-@ northwestward trajectory for the remainder of its existence . Late on July 15 , Gordon made landfall in northern Luzon , Philippines , at peak intensity . Remaining over land for several hours , the storm quickly weakened before entering the South China Sea . The system maintained minimal typhoon status as it developed a large , ragged eye by July 17 . Slight weakening took place hours before Gordon made landfall as a strong tropical storm near Zhanjiang in Southern China on July 18 . Briefly moving over the warm , shallow waters of the Gulf of Tonkin , Gordon 's convective structure tripled in size ; however , the system continued to weaken . Later that

day , the storm made its final landfall in southern Guangxi Province . Once onshore , Gordon quickly weakened and was last noted on July 19 by the JMA over southern Guangxi .

= = Preparations and impact = =

= = = Philippines = = =

Across Luzon , air traffic was temporarily suspended on July 16 until the typhoon 's passage . Storm signal three , the highest level of warning , was issued for five provinces while lesser warnings were in place for most of the northern Philippines . The Philippine Coast Guard ordered all vessels in Luzon to remain at port until the storm 's passage . Residents along the coast were urged to take " extreme precaution . " All activities at the United State 's Clark Air Base were canceled on July 16 while emergency rescue and cleanup teams were placed on standby . All non @-@ essential personnel were ordered to remain home .

Striking northern Luzon on July 16 , Typhoon Gordon packed sustained winds estimated at 260 km / h ( 160 mph ) , though the strongest reported winds reached 186 km / h ( 116 mph ) . At Wallace Air Station , wind gusts reached 126 km / h ( 78 mph ) . Torrential rains accompanying the storm , measured up to 747 mm ( 29 @. @ 8 in ) at Clark Air Base , caused widespread flooding and landslides . Across Cagayan Valley , flash flooding prompted thousands of residents to evacuate to higher ground . Travel in much of the region was severely impaired as landslides blocked off roads . Baguio was mostly isolated from surrounding areas as the main roads leading in and out of the city were blocked off . In Paoay , a bridge was washed out and high winds from the typhoon tore the roof off a public market . According to the Philippine Red Cross , nearly 11 @, @ 000 people were in evacuation shelters by the evening of July 16 in Ilocos Norte . In La Union , three towns were submerged in flood waters up to rooftops of homes after a river burst its banks .

Throughout the country , 90 fatalities resulted from the typhoon . Additionally , 386 people were injured while another 3 were listed as missing . A total of 8 @, @ 845 homes were destroyed and another 46 @, @ 269 sustained damage . An estimated 120 @, @ 000 people were left homeless due to Gordon . Losses from the typhoon amounted to 1 @. @ 36 billion pesos ( \$ 62 million USD ) . By July 18 , relief operations began across northern Luzon . Philippine President Corazon Aquino declared a state of calamity for five provinces and three towns by this time .

= = = Hong Kong , Taiwan , and Macao = = =

On July 15 , the Central Weather Bureau issued a sea warning for the Bashi Channel and waters off the southeast coast of Taiwan . Residents were also warned of possible heavy , flooding rains and were urged to take precautions to minimize loss of life .

Regarded as the " fiercest typhoon to threaten Hong Kong in five years , " the Hong Kong Observatory began issuing storm signals by July 16 to warn residents of the approaching storm . Early the next day , the signal was raised to three ( strong wind signal ) before being further increased to signal eight ( gale warning ) that afternoon . All ferries to and from Macao were halted and all schools were closed . Warnings urging residents to take steps to avoid unnecessary losses were continuously broadcast over radio stations . The normally busy Hong Kong was brought to a standstill as businesses , banks and courts closed for the storm . This included the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and the Chinese Gold and Silver Exchange . Public transport was mostly shut down and the government opened 78 shelters . Thousands of people were evacuated from low @-@ lying areas along the coast . Approximately 11 @, @ 000 Vietnamese " boat people " were also moved to emergency shelters .

Winds up to 192 km / h ( 119 mph ) battered parts of Hong Kong , downing numerous trees , snapping power poles and blowing out windows . Driven by the intense winds , airborne debris injured 31 , 6 of whom required hospitalization . Two fatalities took place in the territory : one on Lantau Island and another in Tai O. Some flooding took place as a result of Gordon , especially

along coastal areas where the typhoon brought a storm surge of 1 @. @ 36 m ( 4 @. @ 5 ft ) .

In Macao , high winds from the typhoon uprooted trees and broke windows . Flooding triggered by Gordon 's heavy rains stranded cars and inundated stores . Five of the colony 's six casinos were temporarily closed . Flooding also caused the Macau @- @ Taipa bridge to collapse .

= = = China = = =

Striking Guangdong Province as a strong tropical storm , Gordon caused extensive damage in the region . Along the coast , approximately 155 km ( 96 mi ) of dykes were destroyed by storm surge . Already suffering from extensive floods , heavy rains and record tides from Typhoon Gordon caused " massive " flooding in Zhuhai , Guangdong . Flood waters over @- @ topped dams and sea walls and inundated the city . Approximately 11 @, @ 000 people were forced to seek refuge on the roof of their homes . One of the hardest hit cities was Yangjiang where flood waters caused widespread damage . Roughly 46 @, @ 000 homes were damaged or destroyed in the city while 252 km ( 157 mi ) of highway and 26 bridges were washed away . Telecommunications in Guangzhou , the capital of Guangdong , was completely lost due to the storm and parts of the city were isolated due to flooding . Across the province , an estimated 140 @, @ 000 hectares ( 350 @, @ 000 acres ) of farmland was flooded . High winds in Yangchun caused several structures to collapse . Flooding also caused extensive damage to infrastructure with 22 bridges destroyed and 225 km ( 140 mi ) of roads under water . Offshore in the South China Sea , 24 fishermen were caught in the storm and became stranded . The crew drifted in the sea for 24 days , during which time 14 perished , before the survivors were rescued . Heavy rains also fell in parts of Guangxi Province ; however , the rains were mostly beneficial to farmers . Throughout southern China , at least 200 people were killed by the typhoon and damage amounted to 1 @. @ 2 billion yuan ( \$ 319 million USD ) .