

= Typhoon Nelson ( 1985 ) =

Typhoon Nelson , known in the Philippines as Typhoon Ibiang , was the worst tropical cyclone to affect Southern China in 16 years . Typhoon Nelson , which developed on August 16 , originated from an area of thunderstorm activity well east of the Philippines . It gradually intensified over the next several days while moving northwest . Nelson reached typhoon intensity early on August 20 and two days later , attained peak intensity before turning west . The cyclone brushed northern Taiwan early on August 23 after weakening slightly . Nelson then briefly restrengthened to peak intensity . During the afternoon of August 23 , it made landfall in eastern China before dissipating on August 25 .

Nelson brought heavy rains to Taiwan . Approximately 900 @, @ 000 families were left without power and 100 @, @ 000 telephone lines lost service . More than 20 @, @ 000 trees were uprooted . Across the country , five people were killed . Affecting a country already inundated by summer rains , Typhoon Nelson brought additional flooding and significant damage to much of Southern China . There , the storm killed 48 individuals and hurt 329 others . More than 5 @, @ 000 homes were destroyed while another 6 @, @ 000 were damaged . Around 2 @, @ 000 travelers were stranded due to flooding . Throughout China , losses from the storm totaled to \$ 53 million ( 1985 USD ) .

= = Meteorological history = =

The origins of Nelson can be traced back to a small and disorganized , but persistent area of disturbed weather , which was first observed on August 15 . At this time , the convection was located 280 km ( 175 mi ) northwest of Saipan . Initially , the system was located near the Intertropical Convergence Zone ( ITCZ ) , which enhanced the disturbance 's convection . The disturbance was also located near a cold core upper @-@ level low and a tropical upper @-@ tropospheric trough ( TUTT ) . By 0300 UTC on August 15 , the system had become slightly more organized . Three hours later , the Joint Typhoon Warning Center ( JTWC ) started watching the system . Thereafter , a dramatic increase in convection occurred over the northeast quadrant of the system . As such , the Japan Meteorological Agency ( JMA ) started watching the system early on August 16 . Several hours later , a Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert ( TCFA ) was issued , even though a Hurricane Hunter aircraft did not locate a surface circulation . Early on August 17 , the TCFA was re @-@ issued . That afternoon , the disturbance became more organized , with classifications via the Dvorak technique yielding winds of 65 km / h ( 40 mph ) . Based on this , both the JTWC and the JMA upgraded the disturbance into Tropical Storm Nelson .

During the evening , a Hurricane Hunter aircraft reported a barometric pressure of 989 mbar ( 30 inHg ) ; however , they noted that the strongest winds were 170 km ( 105 mi ) north @-@ northwest from the center . Early on August 18 , data from another aircraft also noted that a subtropical ridge had extended west of Nelson ; consequently , the JTWC correctly anticipated Nelson to move west @-@ northwest . At midday , the JMA upgraded Nelson to a severe tropical storm . Subsequently , data from the JMA indicated that Nelson began to level off in intensity as the stronger winds remained displaced from the center . However , the JTWC upgraded Nelson to typhoon intensity following Hurricane Hunter reports of a 10 km ( 6 @. @ 2 mi ) eye , winds of 75 mph ( 120 km / h ) , and a pressure of 979 mbar ( 28 @. @ 9 inHg ) . At 0000 UTC on August 20 , the JMA estimated that Nelson attained typhoon strength , with winds of 130 km / h ( 80 mph ) . Nearing Taiwan , Nelson once again held on to its intensity for 36 hours before strengthening slightly . Late on August 21 , the JTWC announced that Nelson reached peak intensity , with 175 km / h ( 110 mph ) , equivalent to a Category 2 hurricane on the United States @-@ based Saffir @-@ Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale ( SSHWS ) . Early on August 22 , the JMA reported that Nelson attained peak winds of 140 km / h ( 85 mph ) .

Shortly after its peak , the storm weakened slightly thereafter as the typhoon passed between the Yaeyama Islands and the Miyako Islands . According to the JMA , the storm re @-@ attained peak intensity at 0000 UTC on August 23 . At this time , the agency assessed the pressure of the system

at 955 mbar ( 28 @. @ 2 inHg ) . Shortly thereafter , Nelson skirted northern Taiwan , passing 45 km ( 30 mi ) from Taipei . After entering the Formosa Strait , the storm moved ashore southwest of Fuchou at 1400 UTC on August 23 . At the time of landfall , the JMA estimated winds of 80 mph ( 130 km / h ) . By August 25 , both the JMA and JTWC had ceased tracking Nelson , as it had moved inland over China .

= = Preparations and impact = =

= = = Taiwan = = =

Due to the threat of Nelson , a typhoon warning was issued for the island . After the storm battered the island , rail and street traffic in the northern part of the island was halted due to mudslides . Both Chiang Kai @-@ shek International Airport and the Taipei Songshan Airport in Taipei were closed for about 12 hours . Approximately 900 @, @ 000 families were left without electrical service and 100 @, @ 000 telephone lines were disrupted . Water supplies in many areas were also affected and about 20 @, @ 000 trees in Taipei were damaged . As much as 440 mm ( 17 in ) of rain fell in some parts of the island of Taiwan .

Five people perished in the country . Three men were killed in Taipei , two when they were struck by wind @-@ blown objects and one when a house collapsed . Elsewhere , a fatality was reported because of a landslide in Taichung . Moreover , at least 15 other people were reportedly injured throughout Taiwan . A woman in the harbor city of Keelung was struck in the head and seriously injured by a broken window .

= = = China = = =

Already affecting an area that was inundated by prior flooding partially caused by Typhoon Mamie , Nelson brought additional flooding and significant damage to much of Southern China . The storm was accountable for 48 lives and 329 injuries in the province of Fujian . More than 5 @, @ 000 dwellings were destroyed ; 6 @, @ 000 others were damaged . Around 2 @, @ 000 travelers were stranded . A total of 969 fishing boats sunk , and about 178 @, @ 500 acres ( 72 @, @ 235 ha ) of crops were lost . Power lines were downed in 11 counties , which included Putian and the provincial capital of Fuzhou . Many highways received flooding . Water and electrical supplies were cut in Putian City . Along Pingtan Island and Fuqing , many houses were demolished and considerable damage occurred to crops such as sugar cane . The offshore island of Yangtan was the hardest hit , where 15 villages lost power . Typhoon Nelson was considered the worst typhoon to hit China in 16 years , but also helped relieve drought conditions in the southern portion of the nation .