

= Typhoon Maysak (2015) =

Typhoon Maysak , known in the Philippines as Typhoon Chedeng , was the most powerful pre-April tropical cyclone on record in the Northwestern Pacific Ocean . The fourth named storm of the 2015 Pacific typhoon season , Maysak originated as a tropical depression on March 26 . The next day , the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) upgraded the depression to a tropical storm and assigned it the name Maysak . According to the JMA , Maysak became the second typhoon of the year on March 28 . The typhoon explosively intensified into a Category 5 super typhoon on March 31 , passing near the islands of Chuuk and Yap in the Federated States of Micronesia . After maintaining that intensity for 18 hours , Maysak weakened , made landfall over the Philippine island of Luzon as a minimal tropical storm , and dissipated shortly afterwards .

Maysak affected Yap and Chuuk in the Federated States of Micronesia , as well as the Philippines . The storm was responsible for four deaths in the Federated States of Micronesia alongside 10 injuries . Damage was estimated at \$ 8 @. @ 5 million (2015 USD) . Estimates from the Red Cross suggested that there were 5 @, @ 000 people in desperate need of food , water and shelter , and needed emergency assistance . Pacific Maritime Association administrator Melinda Espinosa said " Most concrete structures withstood the fury but everything else was damaged . " Later , the storm struck the Philippines , causing minimal damage .

= = Meteorological history = =

An area of convection persisted on March 24 to the east @-@ southeast of the Marshall Islands . Initially it consisted of a broad but consolidating circulation , with outflow to the north offsetting moderate wind shear to aid in development . It gradually became better organized , with a curved area of convection wrapping into the center . On March 26 , the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) classified the system as a tropical depression just east of Pohnpei . On March 27 , the JTWC started tracking the system as a Tropical Depression 04W . Moving west @-@ northwestward , the system 's center became more consolidated with convective banding becoming wrapped into it . The JTWC upgraded 04W to a tropical storm the same day , and the JMA upgraded the depression to Tropical Storm Maysak .

On March 28 , microwave satellite imagery revealed an eye with central dense overcast obscuring most of the feature ; accordingly , the JMA upgraded Maysak to a severe tropical storm . The storm continued to strengthen while moving westward along the periphery of a subtropical ridge , The eye became more defined and the convection became more consolidated . Early on March 29 , the JMA upgraded Maysak further to typhoon status , estimating 10 minute winds of 120 km / h (75 mph) . That day , the typhoon moved over Chuuk Lagoon , the first time an eye crossed the lagoon since Typhoon Amy in 1971 . The storm developed good outflow , enhanced by a strong northerly flow , although moderate wind shear kept Maysak from intensifying more quickly . However , the eye became clearly visible on March 30 , and the typhoon rapidly intensified after the shear diminished . The JTWC reported a 30 km (19 mi) wide eye displaying the stadium effect , and surrounded by very deep convection . On March 31 , the agency assessed that Maysak intensified into a Category 5 @-@ equivalent super typhoon on the SSHWS , with 1 minute winds of 260 km / h (160 mph) ; this was increased to 280 km / h (175 mph) in post @-@ season reanalysis , the highest on record for a pre @-@ April typhoon . Around that time , the storm was moving through the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) , passing just north of Fais Island , and also very near Ulithi . Late on March 31 , the JMA estimated peak winds of 195 km / h (120 mph) and a minimum pressure of 910 mbar (27 inHg) , although operationally the agency estimated Maysak was slightly more intense . This made Maysak the most powerful typhoon ever recorded before April , surpassing Typhoon Mitag of 2002 , Typhoon Alice of 1979 , and Typhoon Harriet of 1959 .

At peak intensity , Maysak had a nearly symmetric eye with an almost perfect ring of convection around it , with characteristics of an annular tropical cyclone . On April 1 , the eye widened to about 40 km (25 mi) after undergoing an eyewall replacement cycle , and the storm began to weaken , with diminished intensity of the convection . The convection weakened significant in the storm 's

southern quadrant due to drier air and worsening upper level conditions . On April 1 , the Philippine Atmospheric , Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) started tracking Maysak , giving it the local name Chedeng . The eye widened further as dry air wrapped into the center , and stronger wind shear diminished the convection . On April 4 , the JMA downgraded Maysak to a severe tropical storm , and later that day further to a tropical storm . The storm continued to weaken as it approached the Philippines , and late on April 4 the convection began dislocating from the circulation . On April 5 , Maysak made landfall along east @-@ central Luzon as a minimal tropical storm , making it one of only eight storms to strike the island between January and April since 1945 . Soon after it degraded into a tropical depression , and the weakening storm crossed Luzon with scattered thunderstorms . After emerging into the South China Sea , the system continued to the west @-@ northwest , and Maysak dissipated on April 7 .

= = Impact = =

= = = Federated States of Micronesia = = =

Typhoon Maysak is responsible for extensive damage across the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) , with Chuuk and Yap States suffering the brunt of its impact . Agricultural impact was extensive , with 90 percent of the banana , breadfruit , and taro crops destroyed in Chuuk and Yap states . Overall , 281 homes were destroyed , and another 300 were damaged . According to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) , a total of 29 @,@ 000 people were directly affected by the storm and damage throughout the FSM amounted to \$ 8 @.@ 5 million . There were four deaths and ten injuries related to the typhoon in the FSM .

Early in its development , Maysak brushed Kosrae within the FSM . Persistent westerly winds knocked down a few trees and damaged a few houses while also causing beach erosion . The storm later struck Chuuk State on March 29 , passing directly over the main island as a Category 1 @-@ equivalent typhoon , with gusts as high as 175 km / h (110 mph) . Rainfall on Weno Island reached 150 to 180 mm (6 to 7 in) . High sustained winds , measured up to 114 km / h (71 mph) at the local National Weather Service office , downed numerous trees , power lines , and tore off roofs . An estimated 80 ? 90 percent of homes in Chuuk sustained damage . The storm destroyed at least 830 homes and 37 businesses , displacing 6 @,@ 760 people . Power to most of the state , including the entirety of Weno , was knocked out and communication was difficult . On Weno alone , the storm left about 7 @,@ 000 people homeless . Water sources were rendered undrinkable . Outlying islands sustained heavy damage to crops and houses . Across Chuuk State , rough waves from the typhoon damaged seawalls and sank or damaged 11 boats or ships . There were at least four deaths in the state . A fallen tree killed a man and a child died after being struck by airborne debris . One person died due to a mudslide , and a newborn child died after being unable to arrive at the hospital due to fallen trees .

Two days after striking Chuuk , Maysak passed directly over Ulithi atoll and skirted Fais Island at peak intensity , resulting in extensive damage . According to Guam Governor Eddie Calvo , sustained winds reached 210 km / h (130 mph) in Ulithi and 160 km / h (100 mph) on Fais , with gusts reaching 240 km / h (150 mph) on Ulithi . All structures on Ulithi not made of concrete were severely damaged or destroyed by Maysak 's powerful winds . Power and water supplies to Ulithi were completely lost during the storm . The entirety of the island 's crop were ruined by the typhoon 's storm surge , with early estimates indicating that it would be a full year before crops could be planted again . Though spared a direct hit , Yap proper was also hit hard with reports of airborne debris during the storm . Outlying islands were also affected ; on Faraulep , water wells were contaminated and fruit trees were knocked down . During the storm , 18 fishermen were stranded Pikolot Island and West Fayew Island , but they returned home afterward .

= = = Philippines = = =

Ahead of the storm , over 24 @, @ 000 people evacuated Philippines 's northeastern province of Aurora . Many radio stations , typically which close during Easter , remained operational to broadcast the storm . Officials issued storm warnings , and the military was on alert . Beaches were closed , boats were ordered to remain at port , and 10 flights were canceled . The Department of Social Welfare and Development reported that ? 300 @. @ 9 million (US \$ 6 @. @ 8 million) worth of funds and supplies were available for possible relief efforts . Approximately 28 @, @ 000 family food packs were prepositioned in warehouses across Luzon .

Striking the Philippines as a rapidly weakening system , Maysak had only minimal effects in the country , producing strong waves and light rainfall . Across Aurora and Isabela provinces , a total of 2 @, @ 761 people were directly affected by the storm , most of whom were evacuated prior to Maysak 's landfall . No damage or loss of life was reported ; however , four people were injured after waves generated by Maysak hit them while they were taking selfies along the shoreline of Dipaculao town in Aurora province on April 4 . An overloaded , unregistered ferry capsized off Sulu Province in Mindanao on April 3 , resulting in five deaths . The Philippine Coast Guard stated that seas at the time were calm and the sinking likely resulted from overcrowding of the vessel rather than Typhoon Maysak .

= = Aftermath = =

Chuuk Governor Johnson Elimo issued a state of emergency on April 1 and stated that international assistance was necessary . Immediate concerns included the possibility of residents starving with most of the state 's crops ruined . Yap Governor Tony Ganngiyan also issued a state of emergency on April 1 . On April 9 , the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia held a special two @- @ day session at the request of President Manny Mori , which included determination of typhoon relief funds . They allocated \$ 1 @. @ 5 million toward relief for Chuuk and Yap States on April 11 . The president also issued a price freeze to pre @- @ storm levels to prevent price gouging .

The FSM government estimated that residents on Fais and Ulithi would need food rations for 3 ? 6 months following the typhoon . Debris removal at Chuuk International Airport allowed for flights to the state to resume on April 1 . Emergency assistance across the nation was hampered by the remote and small nature of the islands it comprises . In many instances , communities can only be reached by boat . Further complicating issues was the large number of trees uprooted or downed by the storm which blocked numerous roads . Generators had been supplied to Ulithi and Fais by April 6 , allowing for water pumps to be activated and supply clean water . Power and water supply was gradually restored , although many remained without power by two weeks after the storm . On April 6 , a United States Coast Guard helicopter provided an aerial assessment of the islands affected . Damage assessment was difficult due to the many sparse islands affected across open ocean . Relief supplies stockpiled by the Micronesian Red Cross were distributed in the immediate aftermath of Maysak ; however , these supplies were exhausted by April 8 . On April 14 , the FSM government sent a patrol boat to Chuuk , delivering rice , ramen noodles , and water .

Due to their Compact of Free Association , United States President Barack Obama declared a state of disaster for the FSM on April 28 , which allocated federal assistance for rebuilding . This followed a request by FSM President Mori on the previous day . USAID transported relief goods and \$ 2 @. @ 1 million worth of aid , including reverse osmosis kits and water distribution tanks . On Ulithi , the USAID delivered 20 @, @ 000 kg (44 @, @ 000 lb) worth of food to residents . Throughout the FSM , the agency assisted in repairing buildings , providing housing assistance to residents whose homes were destroyed , as well as plastic sheeting . By May 8 , the United States government had provided nearly \$ 2 @. @ 96 million in assistance , including \$ 620 @, @ 000 sent to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for regrowing damaged crops .

Several countries , agencies , and non @- @ governmental organizations came to the aid of the FSM in the wake of Maysak . On April 13 , the Government of Australia provided A \$ 100 @, @ 000 (US \$ 77 @, @ 000) and two patrol boats for recovery and relief operations . As an offer of " comfort and support " , the Chinese government gave the FSM \$ 500 @, @ 000 in cash on April 21 . The Government of Japan sent water treatment and transportation supplies to the FSM government ,

while the International Organization for Migration distributed 20 water treatment units to Ulithi . The European Union also sent 47 rainwater storage units , which would aid in helping future water supply .