= Typhoon Vera (1983) =

Typhoon Vera , known in the Philippines as Typhoon Bebeng , was a tropical cyclone that brought significant flooding to the Philippines in July 1983 . The monsoon trough spawned a tropical depression on July 12 east of the Philippines . Although the depression was initially slow to organize , the system headed west @-@ northwestward , strengthening to a tropical storm the following day and a typhoon on the July 14 . Vera moved onshore early the next day as a minimal typhoon in the Philippines before weakening slightly over the islands . However , Vera managed to restrengthen over the South China Sea while accelerating , later attaining winds of 85 mph (135 km / h) . After crossing Hainan while still at peak intensity and moving into the northern portion of the Gulf of Tonkin , Vera gradually weakened before moving ashore in northern Vietnam on July 18 . By July 19 , Vera had dissipated inland .

Across the Philippines , Typhoon Vera killed 123 and left 60 missing and 45 hurt . Approximately 200 @,@ 000 people were homeless . The typhoon destroyed 29 @,@ 054 dwellings and " badly " damaged 5 @,@ 558 others . A total of 76 @,@ 346 homes were " partially " damaged . Moreover , 24 @,@ 280 people sought shelter due to Vera . Around 80 % of Manila 's residents lost power . Many low @-@ lying areas of Manila were underwater while strong winds damaged homes and trees . The province of Bataan sustained the worst damage from the storm and 10 nearby villages were destroyed . Throughout the province , 50 people perished , primarily due to drownings . In all , damage totaled $ 42 million (1983 USD) . In addition to the impact on the Philippines , Typhoon Vera claimed three lives in Vietnam and damaged 2 @,@ 500 houses . Offshore China , a swimmer drowned due to rough seas caused by Vera .

= = Meteorological history = =

The origins of Typhoon Vera can be traced back to a poorly organized monsoon trough that extended westward from the Philippines to the 160th meridian east in early July . On July 4 , the storm developed a persistent circulation . Four days later , a pair of organized areas of convection began to form , one near the 120th meridian east and another close to Guam . A Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert (TCFA) was issued at 0600 UTC on July 10 after the storm developed a well @-@ defined upper @-@ level circulation . However , further development was slow to occur and the TCFA was re @-@ issued 24 hours later despite Hurricane Hunters suggesting that the storm did not have a low @-@ level circulation . Early on July 12 , the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) upgraded the system into a tropical depression after Hurricane Hunters indicated that the system had developed a closed wind circulation . Twelve hours later , the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) classified the system as a tropical storm , bypassing the tropical depression stage .

After tropical cyclogenesis , the depression began to strengthen quite steadily . Meanwhile , the storm slowed down , and by July 13 , Verna turned west @-@ northwest and towards the Central Philippines . At 1200 UTC , the JMA estimated that Vera had deepened into a severe tropical storm . Several hours later , the JTWC upgraded the storm into a typhoon . At 0000 UTC on July 14 , the JMA upgraded Vera into a typhoon while skirting Samar . Around this time , the Philippine Atmospheric , Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration also monitored the storm and assigned it with the local name Bebeng . Even though meteorologists from the JTWC anticipated weakening as it moved through the island group , this did not occur . Convention gradually increased , until very early on July 15 , when the storm started to interact with rugged terrain near Manila . Around this time , the JMA downgraded Vera into a severe tropical storm as it passed very close to Manila Bay . Within the next several hours , the JMA decreased the winds to 65 mph (105 km / h) . Late on July 15 , the storm began to reintensify and the JTWC upgraded Vera back to typhoon status . Early the following morning , the JMA followed suit . Accelerating , the storm continued to slowly deepen and early on July 27 , the JMA reported that Vera reached its peak intensity , with winds of 85 mph (135 km / h) . Around this time , the JTWC estimated peak winds of 105 mph (170 km / h) , making it equivalent to a Category 2 hurricane on the Saffir @-@ Simpson hurricane wind scale . After crossing Hai @-@ Nan at peak intensity and moving into the northern

portion of the Gulf of Tonkin , Vera slowly weakened before moving ashore near Haiphong at around 0000 UTC on July 18 . At the time of landfall , the JMA estimated winds of 65 mph (105 km / h) . Severe Tropical Storm Vera rapidly weakened over land and by July 19 , the JMA stopped monitoring Vera .

= = Impact and aftermath = =

= = = Philippines = = =

Prior to the arrival of Vera , schools and government offices were shut down . Railway services were suspended ; Philippine Airlines called off domestic services .

Upon making landfall , Vera became the first storm to hit the nation in eight months while helping to relieve drought conditions . Typhoon Vera killed 123 and left 60 others missing across the Philippines , including 100 in Luzon alone . A total of 145 people were also injured . Around 200 @,@ 000 people were homeless . The typhoon destroyed 29 @,@ 054 houses and " badly " damaged 5 @,@ 558 others . A total of 76 @,@ 346 homes were " partially " damaged , which directly affected 628 @,@ 985 people . According to authorities , 24 @,@ 280 persons sought shelter . Moreover , more than 40 domestic flights were canceled due to the storm .

About 80 % of Manila 's 7 million residents lost power due to the storm . Low @-@ lying areas of Manila were underwater as strong winds blew away roofs of shacks and uprooted trees . Throughout the city , four deaths happened . One man was electrocuted while another man was crushed by debris . Fifty people were confirmed to have died and 2 @,@ 089 dwellings were damaged in nearby Bataan after storm surge crashed into the area . Most of the casualties in Bataan were due to drownings ; the city was also the hardest hit by the storm . Throughout the area near Bataan , 10 villages were destroyed . In Pantalan Luma , all but four of the town 's 400 huts were destroyed .

About 30 houses in San Pablo , Laguna were either demolished by strong winds or by falling coconut trees . Elsewhere , in Zambales , a woman was killed after she was struck by lighting . In Lucena City , a farmer was swept away via floods and two boys died due to fallen trees . The resort city of Legaspi suffered severe damage because hundreds of dwellings were destroyed , forcing many residents to seek shelter in schools or churches . Along the east coast of Luzon , seven people perished when hit by falling coconut trees in Quezon . Meanwhile , three casualties occurred in a fire in the province of Sorsogon . A total of 15 people drowned in the town of Sexmoan . The nearby towns of Macabebe and Masantol saw two drownings each . In the city of Manila or the provinces of Batangas , Quezon , Laguna , and Cavite , 34 @,@ 000 people were displaced . Overall , damage totaled $ 42 million (1983 USD) . Infrastructure damage totaled $ 31 million . However , damage to crops totaled to only $ 9 @.@ 4 million since residents were just beginning to replant fields .

According to the Philippine Red Cross , 26 @,@ 845 families necessitated emergency assistance . Government agencies were ordered to arrest profiteers , hoarders and looters . President Ferdinand Marcos ordered all relief agencies to submit damage reports so emergency funds can be issued .

= = = Vietnam and China = = =

After striking Vietnam , Typhoon Vera claimed three lives and damaged 2 @,@ 500 houses . Heavy rains helped alleviate a prolonged drought in northern Vietnam , which had prevented the planting of rice . Because Typhoon Vera posed a threat to Southern China , 36 bulletins were issued by the Hong Kong Royal Observatory . A Typhoon signal No. 3 was also issued . After passing south of the area , a peak windspeed of 70 mph (115 km / h) was measured at Tate 's Cairn . In addition , the storm generated showers and squally weather to the region . One swimmer drowned due to rough seas .