

= Typhoon Ellen (1983) =

Typhoon Ellen was considered the worst typhoon to hit China since 1979 . Typhoon Ellen was first noted as a tropical disturbance east of the International Dateline on August 26 , 1983 , and became a tropical storm soon after crossing the dateline on the morning of August 29 . Initially , strong wind shear inhibited development over the next five days , and the cyclone began to track south of west . On September 2 , conditions aloft finally improved and the cyclone strengthened into a typhoon on September 4 as it tracked west @-@ northwest . Approaching Luzon late on September 5 , Ellen intensified rapidly into a strong typhoon with winds of 125 mph (200 km / h) before interaction with Luzon began to weaken the cyclone . Its final landfall was at Macau on the morning of September 9 as a minimal typhoon .

Despite passing north of the Philippines , the storm killed three and left 15 persons injured . Damage in the country totaled \$ 680 @,@ 000 (1983 USD) . While passing near Hong Kong , 50 @,@ 000 people lost electrical services . Around 200 homes were destroyed . A total 2 @,@ 000 people were left homeless , 1 @,@ 600 of which sought shelter . Throughout the city , eight people perished and 339 were hurt , including 120 seriously . Ellen spawned the second tornado ever recorded in Hong Kong , and the first ever recorded during a typhoon . Elsewhere , in Macao , little damage was reported . Offshore , 40 crew members had to be rescued in a shipwreck . In a separate incident , eight people were lost at sea . Furthermore , ten Taiwan fishing boats capsized in the South China Sea , resulting in 48 fishermen missing , though 103 persons also survived . Overall , damage totaled \$ 79 million and 23 people died .

= = Meteorological history = =

Typhoon Ellen originated from a tropical disturbance located 500 km (310 mi) south @-@ southwest of the Johnston Atoll on August 26 . Based on the development of rainbands , satellite intensity estimates indicated winds of 55 km / h (35 mph) . The disturbance crossed the dateline two days later and a Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert (TCFA) was subsequently issued . At 0000 UTC on August 29 , the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) first classified the system . Initially , the storm did not develop significantly due to strong wind shear caused by an intense high pressure area north of the cyclone . This also caused Ellen to turn west @-@ southwest . On August 31 , however , the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) started warning on the system , declaring it a tropical storm . The next day , the JTWC briefly downgraded the system into a tropical depression ; however , the JMA held the storm 's intensity to 65 km / h (40 mph) for several days . On September 2 , however , the storm began to turn west @-@ northwest and environmental conditions became much more favorable for development , and the JMA upgraded Ellen into a severe tropical storm early the following morning . Later on September 3 , the Philippine Atmospheric , Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PASAGA) also monitored the storm and assigned it with the local name Herming . At 1200 UTC , the JTWC upgraded Ellen into a typhoon , though the JMA did not follow suit until early on September 4 .

After maintaining this intensity for 12 hours , Ellen deepened slightly that evening , though the JTWC suggests that the storm intensified into a Category 2 hurricane on the United States Saffir @-@ Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale . By midday on September 5 , data from both agencies indicated that Ellen developed winds 110 mph (175 km / h) while located 370 km (230 mi) west of Luzon . Thereafter , Ellen began to rapidly intensify and according to the JTWC , the pressure decreased by 28 mbar (0 @.@ 83 inHg) . At 0600 UTC on September 6 , Ellen reached peak intensity , with the JMA estimating winds of 120 mph (195 km / h) and a pressure of 925 mbar (27 @.@ 3 inHg) . Meanwhile , the JTWC suggests that Ellen reached a peak intensity of 125 mph (200 km / h) and a slightly higher pressure of 928 mbar (27 @.@ 4 inHg) .

However , its peak intensity was short @-@ lived ; Typhoon Ellen soon began to weaken steadily as it moved through the Luzon Straits while interacting with Luzon . After turning northwest , the JMA reported the winds had reduced to 90 mph (145 km / h) at 0000 UTC on September 7 . At that time , the JTWC noted that Ellen 's winds were equivalent to a Category 2 hurricane . However , the

JMA suggests that the weakening trend leveled off late on September 7 . The next day , PASAGA ceased monitoring the system as it was no longer a threat to the Philippines . According to the JMA , the system moved ashore near Macao at 0000 UTC on September 9 as an 85 mph (135 km / h) typhoon , though the JTWC estimates that the storm was a little weaker at landfall . Ellen dissipated rapidly overland , and the JTWC downgraded Elen into a tropical depression 12 hours later . However , the JMA kept watching the system until 0600 UTC on September 10 .

= = Preparations and impact = =

Due to the storm 's threat to Hong Kong , a " no 10 @.@ hurricane signal " was issued . Across Hong Kong , schools and government offices were ordered to be closed and 250 shelters were opened . In addition , most shops and restaurants as well as all financial markets were closed .

Despite passing north of the Philippines , the storm killed three and left 15 persons injured . Damage in the country totaled \$ 680 @,@ 000 . A total of 605 dwellings were damaged , excluding 105 that were destroyed . Upon making landfall in present @-@ day China , winds gusted to 154 mph (248 km / h) at Stanley . Rainfall totaled 231 @.@ 8 mm (9 @.@ 13 in) at Hong Kong 's Royal Observatory (HKO) . Twenty @-@ two ships were wrecked , including a 21 @,@ 000 @-@ ton freighter , forcing the rescue of all 40 crew members . A 185 ft (56 m) yacht Osprey carried nine people , eight of which were lost and presumed dead . Several minor collisions were reported between ships . Along the coastal province Guangdong in southern China , communications and public services were disrupted . Ferry services from Hong Kong to Macao were suspended . On September 8 , ten Taiwan fishing boats capsized in the South China Sea ; consequently , 48 fishermen were missing , though 103 persons survived and later took refuge in the Pratas Islands .

In Hong Kong , 50 @,@ 000 people lost power . About 200 houses were destroyed . More than 2 @,@ 000 people were left homeless , 1 @,@ 600 of the homeless sought emergency shelter . Flights to the Kai Tak Airport were cancelled as the airport was closed for 12 hours . Large areas of farmland were damaged . Throughout the city , eight people perished , including a girl who died after getting crushed by a falling cabinet . One man also died while in a field . Two sisters were killed via a landslide while a fireman died when trying to rescue someone . Additionally , 339 people were injured , including 120 seriously . Forty @-@ five people were injured due to flying glass and falling objects . Ellen also spawned the second tornado ever recorded in Hong Kong , and the first ever recorded during the passage of a typhoon . According to the HKO , Ellen was Hong Kong 's worst typhoon since Typhoon Hope of 1979 .

In nearby Macao , minor property damage was reported and 15 people were initially rendered as missing . However , by October 13 , 10 people remained missing and were then presumed dead . In all , damage totaled \$ 79 million (1983 USD) and 20 people were killed due to Typhoon Ellen in present @-@ day China .