

Surviving Typhoons

Okinawa Typhoon Guide



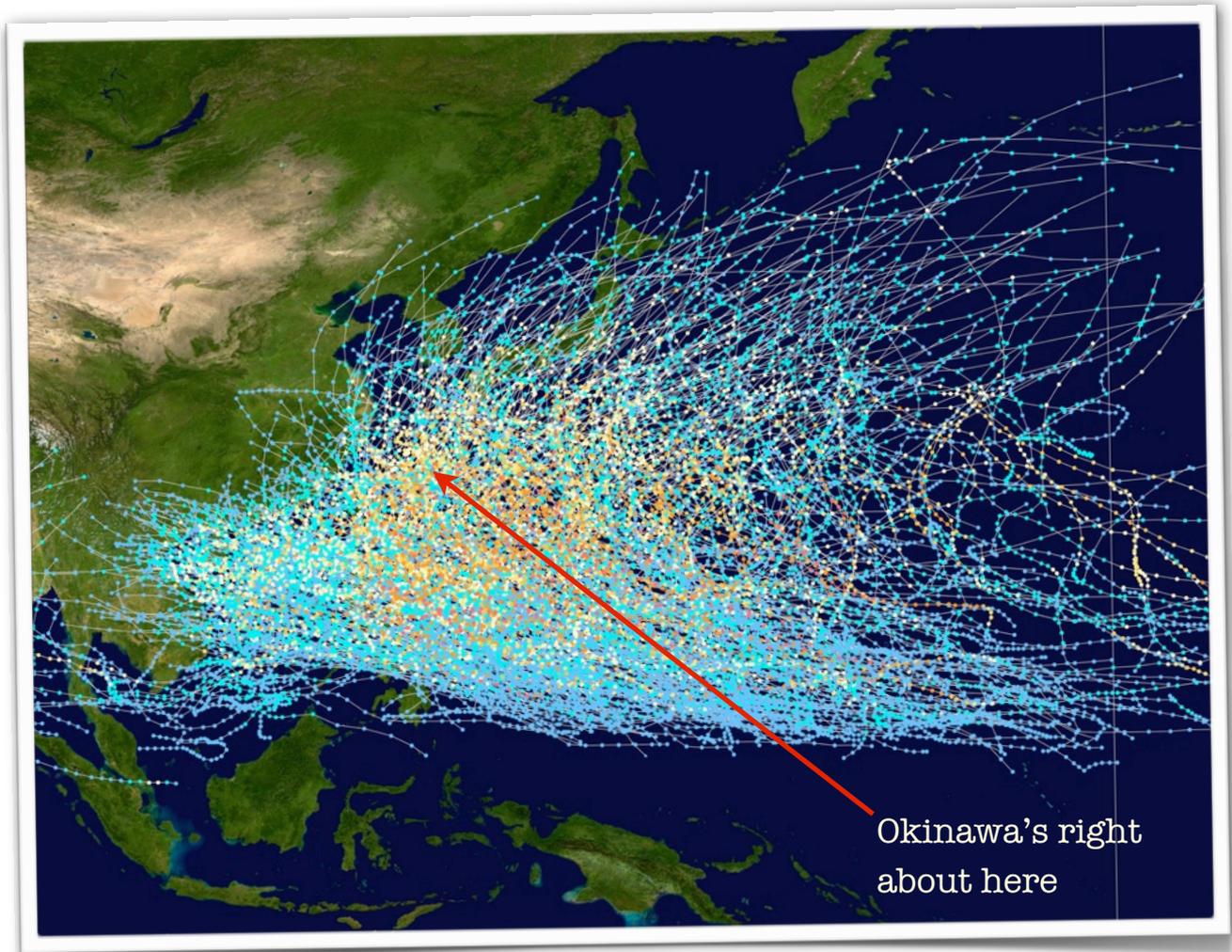
U.S. Naval Hospital, Okinawa, Japan

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Background



Tropical cyclones in our part of the world are called typhoons. Identical storms in the Atlantic and the north-eastern Pacific are called hurricanes.

Typhoons generally occur in our area in the summer months. 1 June through 30 November is known as “typhoon season,” but these storms can occur any time of the year.

Okinawa is in an area known as “typhoon alley” because of the frequency storms track near or through the island. Take a look at the 50-year historical tracks in picture above!

Local Terms

TCCOR 4: Destructive winds of 50 knots or greater are possible within 72 hours. TCCOR 4 will be continuously in effect as a minimum condition of readiness from 1 June to 30 November annually.

Now is the time to stock-up on food and Typhoon Supplies.

TCCOR 3: Destructive winds of 50 knots or greater are possible within 48 hours. Initiate a general cleanup around homes and office.

TCCOR 2: Destructive winds of 50 knots or greater are anticipated within 24 hours. Remove or secure all outside items.

TCCOR 1: Destructive winds of 50 knots or greater are anticipated within 12 hours. No school for DoDDS students. Staff and teachers will work normal hours, unless changed by DoDDS superintendent. Fill any containers you can use for water storage. If you live in low lying quarters, make arrangements to stay with a friend. Make final check of food and other supplies.

TCCOR 1 Caution: Destructive winds of 50 knots or greater are anticipated within 12 hours. Actual winds are 34-49 knots.

All nonessential personnel will be released to their quarters at this time. DoDDS schools will close at this time. Staff and teachers return home or remain home. Base exchange, shops, Commissary, Shoppettes, Gas Station, Services facilities, Clubs, Restaurants, Recreational Facilities and Post Office will close. Movement about the base should be kept to a minimum. SFS will enforce "essential vehicles only" policy. (Reference Base O-Plan 32-1 "Base Disaster Operations Plan")

TCCOR 1 Emergency: Actual winds of 50 knots or greater. All outside activity is prohibited.

TCCOR 1 Recovery: Destructive winds of 50 knots are no longer occurring. Actual winds are 34-49 knots.

Nonessential functions remain closed unless directed by the commander. All but emergency essential personnel remain in their quarters.

Storm Watch: The typhoon is moving away but the base is still feeling some effects. Hazardous conditions may exist due to storm damage. In some cases the storm could return to Okinawa , so stay alert.

All military and civilian personnel will return to work within 2 hours or at normal duty hours unless otherwise instructed by their commander. The Commissary and BX will resume operations, unless directed otherwise by the installation commander.

All Clear: Hazardous conditions and winds are no longer present. Return to normal duties. All Clear is announced when all hazards have been cleared.

DoDDS teachers, staff and students will return to school during normal hours. From June 1st to November 30th Okinawa will return to TCCOR 4.

NOTE: The wind speeds shown above for each TCCOR serve as a guide for decision making. The final decision on TCCOR declaration rests with the Commander, 18th Wing based on wind speed, weather forecast, safety and operational and mission concerns.

Source: Okinawa Area Coordinator Joint Standing Operating Procedure (JSOP) for Natural Disasters

Preparation Guide



Before Typhoons--Clean Up

It's time to clean up and secure items around your home. Barbecue grills and trampolines not only cost money to replace, they can become dangerous projectiles capable of causing bodily harm and property damage. Bring your stuff in or secure them in place!

A tip for securing garbage cans: fill them up with water and keep the garbage inside your home; you may want to stock up on extra large garbage bags.

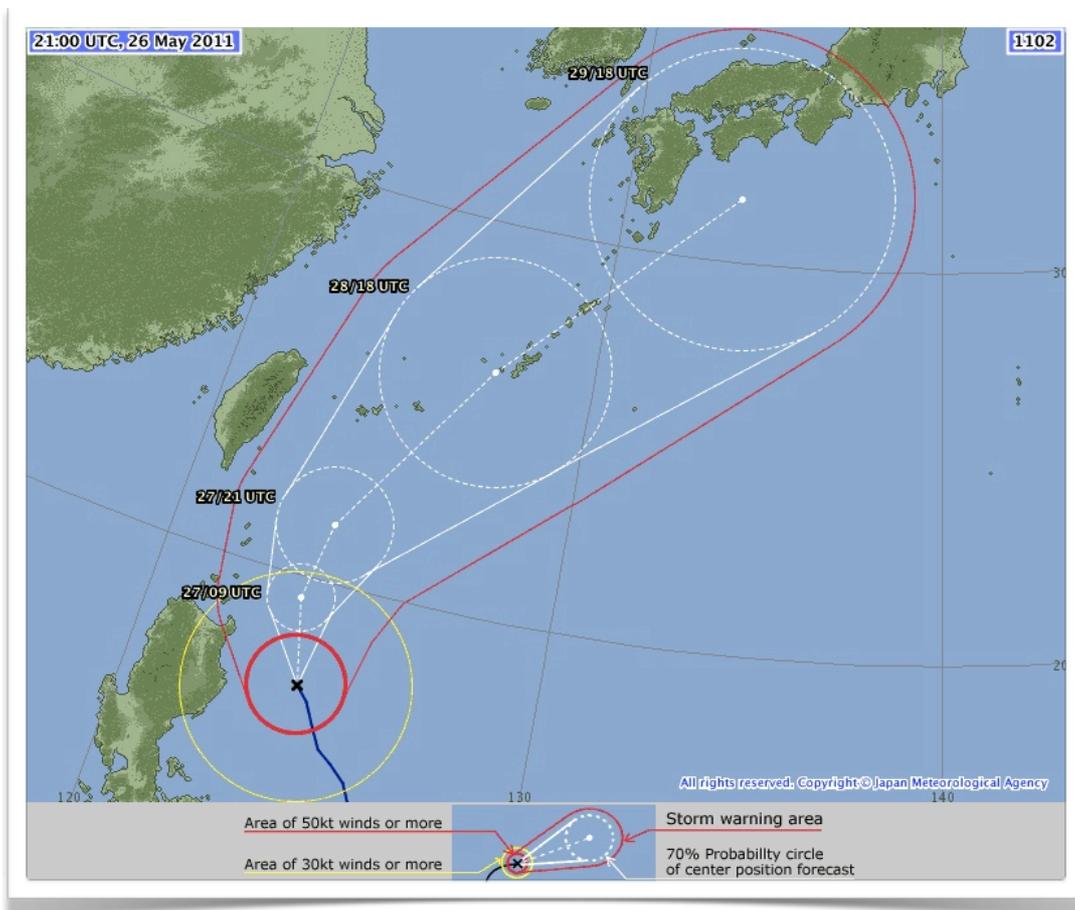
☑ Before Typhoons--Other tips

Fill up your bathtubs with water and keep a bucket nearby. This will come in handy to flush toilets if the water outages occur.

Keep important documents protected and prepared just in case your called to evacuate your home.

Have sufficient fuel in your car.

Keep a radio with batteries so you'll still get information in electrical outages.



During The Storm

What can you do during the storm? Shoot I don't know, but here are things you shouldn't:

Drink alcohol--military are considered to be on stand-by even if they're at home.

Go outside. Don't be tempted to go out to take pictures for social media updates! Don't be lured outdoors in the eye of the storm. You'll liable to get caught with your pants down (possibly literally).



Post Typhoon



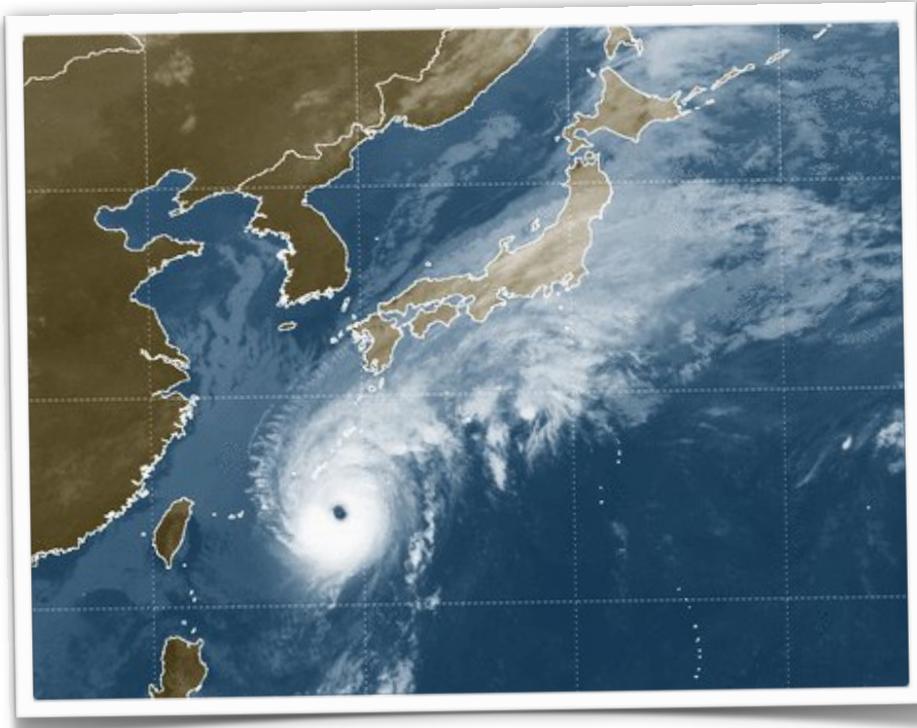
Naha Fire Department attempts to remove a giant burrito wrapper tangled in the power lines.

The period after the storm is still hazardous. Downed power lines and broken tree limbs are just waiting for unwary, careless adventures!

On-base, Camp Services and Facilities Maintenance rove around and take care of problems. If you find local damages, report it to them or to base housing officials.

Off-base, contact your housing agency for issues.

Resources



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<http://weather.kadenaforcesupport.com/>



<http://www.jma.go.jp/en/typh/>



<http://www.usno.navy.mil/JTWC/>