

## Typhoon Maggie (9903) : 2 - 8 June 1999

Maggie formed as a tropical depression over the western North Pacific about 1 070 km east-southeast of Manila in the early morning of 2 June. It intensified rapidly into a tropical storm that day. Following a northwestward course, Maggie intensified further into a severe tropical storm the next day. It attained typhoon strength on 4 June and headed towards Bashi Channel. In the Philippines, the circulation of Maggie caused three deaths and two injuries. In Taiwan, two persons were killed and five reported missing in the wake of Maggie. Electricity supply to more than 100 000 households was cut off. Losses in agricultural production were estimated at NT\$ 596 million.

Upon entering the South China Sea on 6 June, Maggie turned westwards, heading towards the south China coast. It landed over Hong Kong in the early morning of 7 June and weakened into a severe tropical storm. After crossing Hong Kong, Maggie weakened gradually into a tropical storm as it skirted the coast of western Guangdong. It made landfall near Shangchuan Dao during the night after executing an anticlockwise loop just off the coast. Moving further inland, Maggie weakened into an area of low pressure on 8 June. Maggie caused four deaths in Guangdong. Over 3 200 houses and 120 vessels were destroyed or damaged. Direct economic loss was estimated at about 1 200 million RMB.

In Hong Kong the Standby Signal No. 1 was hoisted at 11.45 p.m. on 5 June when Typhoon Maggie was about 800 km to the east-southeast. As Maggie moved closer to Hong Kong, local winds strengthened from the north and the Strong Wind Signal No. 3 was hoisted at 2.15 p.m. on 6 June. As Maggie came still closer that night and with gales being expected, the No. 8 NORTHWEST Gale or Storm Signal was hoisted at 0.30 a.m. on 7 June. With Maggie's landfall over Hong Kong imminent and winds strengthening even further, the Increasing Gale or Storm Signal No. 9 was hoisted at 2.45 a.m.

Maggie made landfall over Sai Kung Peninsular some thirty minutes after the hoisting of the No. 9 signal. It traversed Hong Kong from northeast to southwest at about 30 km/h before moving to offshore waters. During its passage, Maggie brought frequent squalls and heavy rain to Hong Kong. Apart from Tai Mo Shan, winds were strongest in Sha Lo Wan where a maximum hourly wind of 79 km/h and a maximum gust of 117 km/h were recorded. Winds near the centre of Maggie experienced a temporary lull as it passed by. Pressure also dropped sharply. The lowest instantaneous mean sea-level pressure recorded at selected stations were as follows :

Station	Lowest instantaneous mean sea-level pressure
Hong Kong Observatory Headquarters	980.8 hPa
Sha Tin	977.1 hPa
King's Park	980.6 hPa
Cheung Chau	981.2 hPa

After Maggie departed Hong Kong, local winds turned to easterly or northeasterly and the No. 9 signal was replaced by the No. 8 NORTHEAST Gale or Storm Signal at 5.45 a.m. on 7 June. As Maggie continued to move away, local winds began to subside and the No. 8 signal was replaced by the Strong Wind Signal No. 3 at 10.30 a.m. All tropical cyclone warning signals were lowered at 2.45 p.m.

Maggie's looping motion off Shangchuan Dao brought it briefly closer to Hong Kong again. Maggie intensified at the same time and local winds began to strengthen from the south to southeast. As a result, the Standby Signal No. 1 was hoisted again at 10.30 p.m. on 7 June. With winds becoming strong and occasionally reaching gale force offshore and on high ground, the Strong Wind Signal No. 3 was hoisted at 0.45 a.m. on 8 June. Strong winds over Hong Kong persisted till after midday, despite Maggie having already made landfall near Shangchuan Dao for some time. All tropical cyclone warning signals were lowered at 1.45 p.m.

During the passage of Maggie, at least five persons were injured. Some four cases of flooding, six of collapsed scaffoldings and fifty of toppled trees were reported in Hong Kong. One oil barge docked near Tsing Yi oil storage sank in high seas. Another oil barge carrying 50 000 litres of light diesel sank near Tuen Mun pier, its cargo polluting the nearby Butterfly Beach which was forced to close. Maggie also caused some road closures and disruptions to ferry, bus and air services.