

TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
Office of the District Administrator
Saipan, Mariana Islands
96950

January 8, 1964

HOUSEHOLD HINTS ON TYPHOON PRECAUTIONS

* * * IMPORTANT: TACK THIS INFORMATION ON YOUR WALL FOR USE WHEN
YOU RECEIVE A TYPHOON WARNING * * * * *

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON TYPHOON:

A. The Mariana Islands are in an area subject to typhoons. While the greatest frequency is between the months of July through November they may and do occur during any month of the year. Warning of the information or approach of a typhoon will usually be received several hours before local weather conditions are seriously influenced. These warnings will be passed by the Administrator to all activities on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, and to all ships in the vicinity by the most expeditious means.

B. To reach a better understanding of conditions accompanying a typhoon, the following pertinent facts are promulgated:

1. Most typhoons originate in the tropical regions between 08° and 15° North latitude and 130° and 180° East longitude, then start moving towards the middle latitudes. At first they move slowly, gradually increasing in speed to 15 to 20 knots.
2. There is no way of predicting accurately the course of a typhoon. A typhoon is nature on the rampage, as unpredictable as a reeling drunk. Typhoons have been studied long enough to indicate a certain pattern, but a sudden change from the track the storm has been following is not unusual.
3. In the center of the typhoon circulation, there is an area of relative calm known as the eye of the storm. This eye may be only two to five miles in diameter in a young typhoon, but as the typhoon develops the eye may increase from forty to eighty miles in diameter. The time required for the center to pass over a point depends on the diameter of the calm area and the rate of progress of the storm. It is well to remember that the area of calm does not indicate the passage of the typhoon but rather, that half of it is yet to come. THE DESTRUCTIVENESS OF A WELL DEVELOPED TYPHOON CANNOT BE OVEREMPHASIZED AND THE SUREST INVITATION TO DESTRUCTION IS TO UNDERESTIMATE ITS POWER OF DESTRUCTION AND BE UNPREPARED.

C. Although serious property damage cannot always be avoided, common sense and faithful adherence to the rules set out in this typhoon bill will help prevent personal injuries and deaths.

- D. Hysteria and excitement should be avoided. Typhoon conditions do not justify driving at excessive speeds; in fact extra caution and slower speeds are available.

TYPHOON READINESS

Warning of the approach of a typhoon normally will be received several hours before local weather conditions are influenced, allowing sufficient time for evacuation of personnel to designated shelters and securing equipment and building. However, certain advance precautions should be maintained by a continual state of readiness.

DEFINITION

For the purpose of this memorandum a typhoon resistant building or facility is one which will withstand structurally 125 mile winds.

Based on practical experience, even under Condition I general evacuation to shelters will be on a voluntary basis only unless it is clearly apparent that winds or gales will be over 70 knots. Word will be passed to the public as rapidly as possible.

CONDITIONS OF TYPHOON READINESS

When it appears that the approach of a typhoon, storm or other disaster threatens the safety of island installations, shipping or personnel, emergency conditions for the areas will be set by the District Administrator. He will advise all areas in the Mariana Islands, including Trust Territory Headquarters, of these conditions, which are as follow:

TYPHOON CONDITION IV - Typhoon gales possible within 72 hours. Due to the proximity of Saipan to the area of generation of typhoons and the possibility during all seasons of the year of typhoons. CONDITION IV is in effect at all times.

TYPHOON CONDITION III - Typhoon gales or winds of 50 knots (60 MPH approx.) or more anticipated within 48 hours.

TYPHOON CONDITION II - Typhoon gales or winds of 50 knots or more anticipated within 24 hours.

TYPHOON CONDITION I - Typhoon gales or winds of 50 knots or more anticipated within 12 hours.

SHELTER LOCATIONS

1. Typhoon shelters on Saipan are designated as follows:

- A. All typhoon resistant municipal auditoriums, explosive-proof buildings at Isley Field, Municipal Legislature Hall, Municipal Administration Building and churches (by areas in their municipalities as may be determined by the Mayors and the Commissioners).

- B. Oleai School (Ground Floor) Commissioner or designated representative in charge.
 - C. Hopwood Jr. - Sr. High School - Educational Administrator designated representative in charge.
 - D. Capitol Hill Theatre Building for Rapugau Hill (NAVAD Hill)
 - E. Building sites in Marpi when authorized by the District Administrator.
- 2. District Administrator's Representatives Tinian and Rota in consultation with the Mayors will designate typhoon shelters as appropriate.
 - 3. Government quarters on Capitol Hill structurally are considered to be typhoon resistant (capable of withstanding winds of 125 knots).

PRELIMINARY PREPARATIONS

Inasmuch as the Mariana Islands are close to the area where typhoons are generated and inasmuch as typhoons may occur during all seasons of the year TYPHOON CONDITION IV is in effect at all times. The following is considered minimum action required to insure an adequate state of readiness in CONDITION IV:

- 1. Keep all trash and debris cleared at all times.
- 2. Put in a supply of candles, fuel for lamps, stoves, etc.
- 3. Provide shutters for open quonsets and protection for windows or doors.
- 4. Go over your house and make certain roof, doors, loose cupboard doors and house trimmings are repaired.
- 5. Cut down Camachili trees on your property.

PREPARATION FOR TYPHOON CONDITION III

- 1. Upon warning of Condition III, turn on your radio. Information from radio is usually pertinent to the whole Mariana Islands chain.
- 2. Secure all loose gear and equipment inside and out.
- 3. Check storm shutters and closure boards.
- 4. Remove canvas tops on vehicles or you may lose them.
- 5. Fill containers with water and make certain you have candles and fuel for lamps and stoves.

PREPARATIONS FOR TYPHOON CONDITION II

1. School authorities will let children out of school upon declaration of Typhoon Condition II.
2. Complete all items of preparation listed in Typhoon Condition III.
3. If you do not live in a typhoon resistant house, complete all preparations for evacuating your family when you receive notification. Evacuation is not mandatory if winds are less than 70 knots. However, if your house is structurally weak you should prepare to evacuate to a typhoon shelter voluntarily upon setting of Typhoon Condition I. Notify the Mayor's Office (Telephone 3232 or 3254) if you need transportation to a shelter.
4. Keep your radio turned on.
5. Keep calm and plan ahead. Do not listen to wild rumors, but await word from responsible representatives of the Municipality, the I.C. of the District Administrator's Office. In the case of Capitol Hill word will be passed by Headquarters.

PREPARATIONS FOR CONDITION I

1. This means the typhoon is expected within 12 hours so all preparation should be completed and everything secured inside and outside each house. Be prepared to receive word to evacuate at any moment. Every effort will be made to keep you informed of the severity of the storm and its progress.
2. Keep the children at home and stay off the road except for evacuation or for medical emergency.
3. Persons living near the water should be especially cautious about the tides. They should be prepared to evacuate earliest if on low ground and if the center of the storm is expected at high tide.
4. Follow all instructions from responsible government officials. Their job is to help you.
5. Above all keep calm and do not panic. With grace of our Lord and good preparations, the damage to life and property can be held to a minimum.

AFTER THE STORM

1. Wait for the all clear signal before securing from the typhoon. Then **WORK HARD** and **KEEP BUSY** putting your house in good shape and returning to a normal life.