

# Japan's main islands brace for powerful Typhoon Vongfong

October 12 2014

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Cars drive past a potted plant blown over by strong winds caused by Typhoon Vongfong in Naha, Japan's southern Okinawa island on October 11, 2014

Powerful Typhoon Vongfong was churning towards Japan's main islands Sunday after strong winds and heavy rain left 23 injured in the south.

The monster storm hit the southern Okinawan [islands](#) over the weekend

and is now moving towards the main Kyushu and Honshu islands, where it is due to make landfall as early as Monday morning, the national weather agency said.

Vongfong was in the southern area of Kagoshima at 0200 GMT Sunday, the meteorological agency said, placing it around 230 kilometres (143 miles) west of Amami-Oshima island.

It is packing gusts of up to 180 kilometres per hour as it moves north-northwest.

"The [typhoon](#) is feared to go near or make landfall on the Kyushu and Honshu main islands through Monday to Tuesday," meteorologist Hiroshi Sasaki told reporters.

At least 23 people have been injured in the southernmost Okinawa prefecture, including a man in his 20s and a nine-year-old girl who had their fingers cut off by a door slamming due to ferocious winds.

"These are two separate cases, but in both cases they lost one of their fingers as the door closed violently due to the [strong winds](#)," said a local official.

The typhoon came just a week after another strong tropical storm whipped through the country, leaving 11 people dead or missing.



Trees sway in strong wind caused by Typhoon Vongfong in Naha, Japan's Okinawa island on October 11, 2014

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