

Powerful typhoon kills at least 3 in Macau

August 23 2017, by Kelvin Chan



A collapsed wooden wall caused by Typhoon Hato sit on a street in Hong Kong, Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2017. The powerful typhoon barreled into Hong Kong on Wednesday, forcing offices and schools to close and leaving flooded streets, shattered windows and hundreds of canceled flights in its wake. (AP Photo/Vincent Yu)

A powerful typhoon caused at least three deaths Wednesday in Macau, according to local authorities in the Chinese gambling enclave.

Three men, aged 30, 45 and 62, were killed in falls and accidents related

to the heavy rain and gusting winds from Typhoon Hato, and two other people were listed as missing, Macau's Government Information Bureau said.

The typhoon came within 60 kilometers (37 miles) of the nearby financial center of Hong Kong before heading westward into mainland China, where it was gradually weakening.

China's weather service said the storm made landfall around noon in the Pearl River Delta city of Zhuhai in the neighboring province of Guangdong.

Thousands of people were evacuated from parts of the mainland coast ahead of the storm's arrival, China's official Xinhua News Agency reported.

Train services were canceled, fishing boats returned to harbor and more than 4,000 fish farmers and their families came to shore, Xinhua said. Waves up to 10 meters (33 feet) high were expected in the South China Sea, the agency said

Hato knocked out power in Macau, including at its famed casinos and a hospital, where backup generators kicked in.



Mainland Chinese tourists take pictures against the wind caused by Typhoon Hato on the waterfront of Victoria Harbour in Hong Kong, Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2017. A powerful typhoon barreled into Hong Kong on Wednesday, forcing offices and schools to close and leaving flooded streets, shattered windows and hundreds of canceled flights in its wake. (AP Photo/Vincent Yu)

Flooding and injuries were reported in Hong Kong, which lies across the water 64 kilometers (40 miles) from Macau, but there were no reports of deaths.

In Hong Kong, Hato forced the closure of businesses, government offices, schools and the stock market, leaving the city's normally bustling streets eerily quiet. Airlines canceled 450 flights and ferry operators halted commuter services and routes to Macau and cities in the delta.

Hato's fierce gales brought down trees, overturned trash cans and blew

out windows on skyscrapers, raining shattered glass onto the streets below.

Weather authorities in Hong Kong raised the No. 10 hurricane signal, the highest level, for the first time in five years.

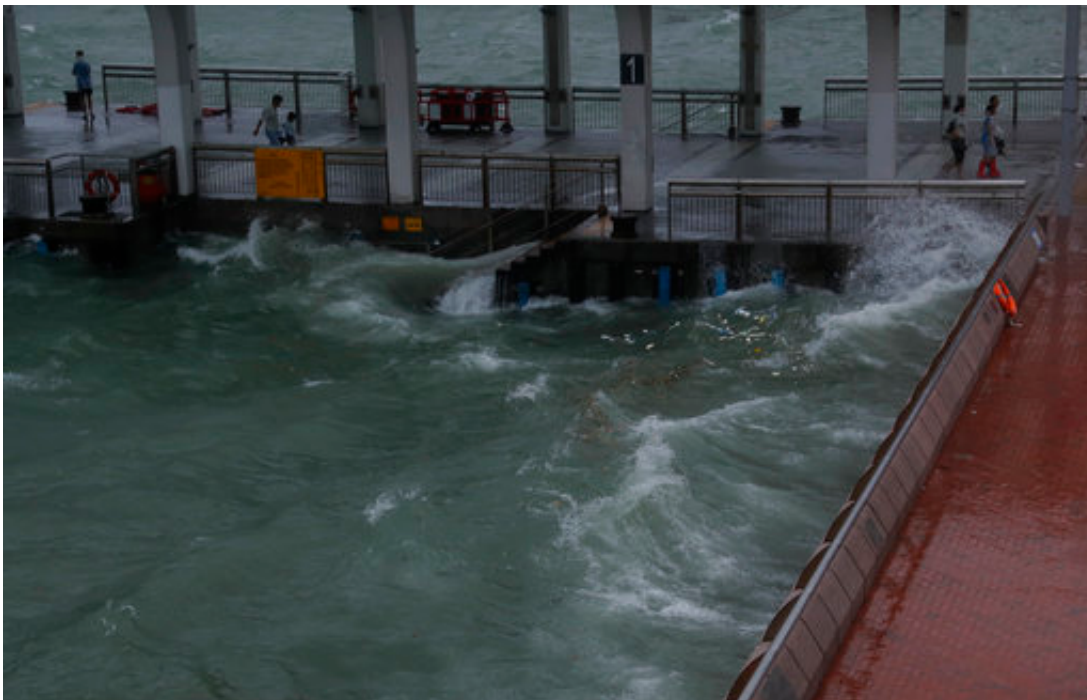


A man plays with strong wind caused by typhoon Hato on the waterfront of Victoria Harbour in Hong Kong, Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2017. A powerful typhoon barreled into Hong Kong on Wednesday, forcing offices and schools to close and leaving flooded streets, shattered windows and hundreds of canceled flights in its wake. (AP Photo/Vincent Yu)

By midday, Hato was packing [maximum sustained winds](#) of 126 kilometers (78 miles) per hour, with gusts of up to 207 kph (129 mph) on some outlying islands.

The No. 10 signal has only been hoisted 14 other times since 1946, or one for every 72 storms, according to the Hong Kong Observatory. The last time it went up was for Typhoon Vicente in 2012.

The observatory warned residents to be prepared for destructive winds, possible flooding and landslips, and advised people to stay away from low-lying areas because storm surges could cause severe flooding. Streets and village laneways in areas near the sea were submerged by waves crashing ashore, according to local TV news footage.



Big waves caused by Typhoon Hato are seen on the waterfront of Victoria Harbour in Hong Kong, Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2017. The powerful typhoon barreled into Hong Kong on Wednesday, forcing offices and schools to close and leaving flooded streets, shattered windows and hundreds of canceled flights in its wake. (AP Photo/Vincent Yu)



People play with strong wind caused by Typhoon Hato on the waterfront of Victoria Harbour in Hong Kong, Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2017. The powerful typhoon barreled into Hong Kong on Wednesday, forcing offices and schools to close and leaving flooded streets, shattered windows and hundreds of canceled flights in its wake. (AP Photo/Vincent Yu)

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