

Four dead after typhoon batters Japan

October 1 2018



Employees of Japan Rail remove fallen branches from Yotsuya station in Tokyo

Four people have been killed in a powerful typhoon that battered Japan over the weekend, local media reported Monday, as the storm's aftermath brought travel chaos to Tokyo.

By Monday morning, Typhoon Trami had cleared Japan, but its powerful winds and heavy rainfall caused damage that blocked roads and train lines.

Four people were killed in the storm and another was reported missing, Kyodo newswire said, citing local authorities.

Local officials and police earlier said one of the dead was engulfed by a landslide in western Japan's Tottori and another drowned in high waters in Yamanashi, west of Tokyo.

Both men were believed to have died on Sunday, when the storm made landfall in western Japan.

More than 120 people were injured in the powerful storm, public broadcaster NHK said.

Trami made landfall in western Japan Sunday night, bringing fierce winds and torrential rain to areas already battered by a string of recent [extreme weather](#) episodes.

The typhoon sparked travel disruption in the world's third-biggest economy on Sunday, with bullet train services suspended, more than 1,000 flights cancelled and Tokyo's evening train services scrapped.

The turmoil continued Monday, as fallen powerlines and trees blocked railway tracks and around 200 flights remained grounded.



Source : JMA/HKO

© AFP

Map showing the track of Typhoon Trami, which battered Japan over the weekend

Huge crowds built up at Tokyo train stations, people battling for spots in jam-packed commuter trains.

Over 400,000 households, mainly in eastern Japan, were still without power on Monday morning.

After pummeling Japan's outlying islands including Okinawa, Trami made landfall south of the city of Osaka on Sunday night.

Local residents described "incredible winds and rain" that made it impossible to venture outside.

At its height, Trami packed gusts of 216 kilometres (134 miles) per hour, though it weakened as it moved over land.



Japanese people battled ferocious winds when the typhoon hit

The storm's strength prompted rail authorities to take the highly unusual

step of cancelling Sunday night [train services](#) in Tokyo, one of the world's busiest networks.

The capital avoided a direct hit in the storm, but still saw fearsome winds and lashing rain that left the streets deserted.

Kansai Airport, which is situated on reclaimed land offshore in Osaka and suffered extensive damage in a storm earlier in September, reopened early Monday after closing its runways the previous day as a precaution.

Trami is the latest in a string of extreme weather and natural disasters to hit Japan, which has suffered typhoons, flooding, earthquakes and heatwaves in recent months, claiming scores of lives and causing extensive damage.

Some western regions are still recovering from Typhoon Jebi in early September, the most powerful [typhoon](#) to strike the country in a quarter of a century. It claimed 11 lives and shut down Kansai Airport.



A couple crosses the street in the city centre of Naha, Okinawa prefecture, on September 29, 2018 as super Typhoon Trami first hit Japan

Deadly record rainfall hit western Japan earlier this year, killing over 200 people, and the country also sweltered through one of the hottest summers on record.

And last month, a magnitude-6.6 earthquake rocked the northern island of Hokkaido, sparking landslides and killing more than 40 people.

© 2018 AFP

Citation: Four dead after typhoon batters Japan (2018, October 1) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2018-10-dead-typhoon-batters-japan.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.