

Chinese cities suspend schools, cancel flights ahead of Super Typhoon Yagi

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Southern Chinese cities suspended schools and cancelled some flights ahead of storm Yagi.

Cities in southern China suspended schools and cancelled some flights on Thursday as Super Typhoon Yagi headed towards the holiday island

province of Hainan after strengthening from a tropical storm.

Yagi triggered floods and landslides on the main Philippine island of Luzon this week, killing 13 people, according to official figures.

It intensified into a super typhoon as it tracked west across the South China Sea, China's Xinhua news agency said, carrying winds of up to 209 kilometers (130 miles) per hour as it headed for Hainan.

"Hainan upgraded its emergency response to Yagi to the highest level at 11:30 am Thursday, according to the provincial disaster management authority," Xinhua said.

The typhoon is expected to make landfall on Friday afternoon in either Hainan or neighboring Guangdong.

Work, school and local transport services were suspended from noon on Thursday (0400 GMT) in Haikou, Hainan's capital.

Hong Kong's weather observatory issued the third-highest typhoon warning at 6:20 pm (1020 GMT), limiting public transport across the finance hub.

The city's stock exchange halted after-hours trading because of the typhoon warning, while 38 flights were cancelled at Hong Kong's airport Thursday.

Classes at primary and secondary schools will remain suspended on Friday, the Education Bureau said.



Yagi triggered floods and landslides in the Philippines, leaving at least 13 dead.

"Yagi will remain at super typhoon intensity and skirt around 300 kilometers (186 miles) to the southwest of Hong Kong tomorrow morning," the observatory said.

"Gale winds associated with Yagi are expected to affect the vicinity of the Pearl River Estuary tonight and tomorrow morning," it said.

After southern China, Yagi will move towards Vietnam, on course to hit the northern and north-central regions around the famed UNESCO heritage site Halong Bay.

Vietnamese authorities urged around 2,200 tourists on coastal islands to return to the mainland ahead of the storm's arrival.

They warned heavy rains may cause widespread flooding in mountainous and urban areas, including the capital Hanoi.

Vietnam's meteorological agency issued a storm warning earlier on Thursday and the government mobilized more than 2,700 military personnel in readiness.

Coastal provinces are planning a sailing ban on Friday, while Vietnam's mountainous provinces have also been ordered to prepare rescue vehicles.

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