

Typhoon Hagibis

 Japan  12 October 2019

Report Date: 14 October 2019

Crawford's team of adjusters mobilize as Japan recovers from the devastation caused by Typhoon Hagibis

Reported as the strongest typhoon to hit Japan in 60 years with winds up to 216km/h (134mph), Typhoon Hagibis made landfall on 12 October 2019 just before 7.00pm (10:00 GMT) in Izu Peninsula, southwest of Tokyo, and moved up the east coast.

Over the subsequent 12 hours, it moved north across the main island of Honshu significantly impacting the prefectures of Kanagawa, Chiba, Nagano, Gunma and Fukushima. The storm had weakened as it approached Japan but still remained highly dangerous, with maximum winds of up to 195 km/h (122 mph) – equivalent to a Category 3 Atlantic hurricane.

Typhoon Hagibis triggered floods and landslides as it battered the country with wind speeds of 225km/h (140mph). In the town of Hakone near Mount Fuji more than 1m (3ft) of rain fell on Friday and Saturday, the highest total ever recorded in Japan over 48 hours.

Separately, at 6.21pm local time, a moderate earthquake with a magnitude of 5.7 struck off the coast of Chiba prefecture, east of Tokyo.

The quake posed no tsunami risk but also shook buildings in Tokyo, prompting the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) to double up on mudslide warnings because soil had already been loosened by unprecedented levels of rainfall.

Further north in Nagano prefecture, levees along the Chikuma river gave way sending water rushing through residential areas, inundating houses. Several other rivers had also overflowed, including Tama River near Tokyo. Throughout the impacted prefectures, rivers have breached their banks in at least 14 different places, inundating residential neighbourhoods. Further flooding could occur as several surrounding prefectures began releasing water from dams, letting it flow downstream.

Many bullet train services were halted, and several lines on the Tokyo metro were suspended for most of Saturday. All flights to and from Tokyo's Haneda airport and Narita airport in Chiba have been cancelled - more than 1,000 in total.

More than 110,000 homes were still without power by Sunday evening, with others experiencing water outages. Sadly, as of Monday morning, 33 fatalities are reported, with more than 20 people still missing and the number of injuries reported over 176 and rising.



The full extent of the widespread damage is only beginning to emerge because many areas remained under water. Experts have warned from the start that assessing the damage is difficult because the flooding has struck about a dozen rivers, causing some of them to spill out in more than one spot.

The most significant damages reported so far include:

- Significant agricultural damage, in particular fresh produce stored in warehouses in Saitama
- 10 rows of bullet trains parked at East Japan Railway railyard, near Nagano Station were damaged by floodwaters in the Nagano prefecture
- Several industrial park areas located nearby major river, such as Chikuma river in Nagano have been flooded – notably factory and warehouse facilities
- Tornado damage in Ichihara, Chiba prefecture, mainly to residential buildings
- Wider area logistics have also been impacted due to landslides and wash out of key infrastructure damage, levee banks and bridges (rail and road) washed away
- Various damage and closures of tourist resorts at key locations damaged
- Massive and widespread floodwater inundation of residential areas



Crawford's Catastrophe Response

Crawford's Catastrophe team has been on the ground working on claims from Typhoon Faxai and assisting local and International Insurers in Japan.

Futoshi Suezawa, Country Manager of Crawford Japan and Gareth Cottam, Senior GTS adjuster (Japanese language capable) are leading the response locally.

Crawford will be capitalizing on both its resources in the region as well as its global network to mobilize quickly the teams and capabilities necessary to meet the multiple demands of this event.

Our adjusters on the ground have an average of 30 years of experience handling all types of residential and commercial claim, including large complex and catastrophic losses.

Gareth Cottam, Futoshi Suezawa and Japan team will liaise with clients in the local language and work seamlessly with the support team from abroad.

If you have claims that require our attention or need more information on this event, please contact any of the Crawford team members listed.

Japan

Futoshi Suezawa
Country Manager, Japan
T: +81 3 5540 6698
E: futoshi.suezawa@crawford.co.jp

Gareth Cottam
Head of Cyber – Asia, Senior Forensic
Accountant (Manager)
T: +65 6632 8694
M: +65 9727 6017
E: gareth.cottam@crawford.asia

Asia

Mike Campbell-Pitt
President, Asia
T: +852 2101 0921
M: +852 6292 7300
E: mike.campbellpitt@crawford.asia

Scott Reichelt
Managing Director, GTS & CFAS, Asia
T: +65 6632 8699
M: +65 9733 5702
E: scott.reichelt@crawford.asia

Simon Shaw
Technical Director, GTS
T: +65 6632 8634
M: +65 9834 7667
E: simon.shaw@crawford.asia

London

Andrew Bart
Global President, GTS
T: +44 (0) 207 265 4096
M: +44 (0) 7802 591 040
E: andrew.bart@crawco.co.uk