

Central Emergency Operation Center Typhoon Matmo Press Release

Cabinet Strategy Group

Sea and Land Warning Issued For Typhoon Matmo

Monitoring is Continuing as Disaster Prevention Preparations are Strengthened

The Central Weather Bureau (CWB) issued a sea and land warning for Typhoon Matmo at 02:30 today (July 22), following which the Central Emergency Operation Center's level was immediately raised to Level 2; at 08.30, Vice-Premier Mao Chi-kuo and the commander of the Center, Minister of the Interior Chen Wei-jen, convened the third forecasting meeting and instructed disaster prevention related units to effectively implement prevention measures according to forecasts to reduce injury and loss of life and property to a minimum.

At present, the center of Typhoon Matmo is heading quickly for the east coast of Taiwan and the warning area covers the whole island. The Central Emergency Operation Center convened the second work meeting at 10:00. Deputy Commander, Cho Shih-Chao, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, instructed related units to maintain a high level of vigilance, to take the threat posed seriously and to be sure to complete all preparatory work today, also giving the following instructions:

1. He requested that the Information Assignment Group, the CWB and National Science and Technology Center for Disaster Reduction (NCDR) continue to monitor the development of the typhoon and accurately grasp its path, and also provide timely and accurate forecasting information to local governments as reference.
2. The News Announcement Group was requested to inform the broadcast media to call on the public to stay away from mountain areas and avoid wave watching and water activities on the coast during the period the typhoon's effects are felt. The National Police Administration and Coastguard Administration were instructed to cooperate with local government in restricting access to and encouraging people to leave mountain areas and coastal warning areas. National parks, scenic areas and forest recreation areas were instructed to strengthen safety measures and to advise people in advance to leave the mountains.
3. The Ministry of the Interior and Ministry of Economic Affairs were instructed to maintain regular contact with city and local governments and ensure that people in low-lying areas are reminded of the need to strictly guard against flooding and that urban area signs, advertising boards, and building site scaffolding and fences are properly secured.
4. At present, torrential rain warnings have been issued for 12 counties including Yilan County. The Ministry of the Interior was instructed to supervise urban drain clearance and implementation of underpass flood prevention measures by local government; the MOEA was instructed to check the pumping station operation and the pump advance placement and deployment situation. Reservoir flood water release advance warning, river warning and flood prevention material preparation work should be completed in advance. Attention should be paid to safety by those currently working on river channel clearance.
5. The areas that will receive the heaviest rainfall this time will probably be the north and northeast of Taiwan. The Transport Engineering Group was instructed to pay special attention to the mountain road situation, in particular the Su-Hua Highway, and to introduce preventative restrictions in advance when required. Also, personnel and equipment should be prepared in advance to repair roads and bridges that are prone to typhoon damage, various warning measures implemented and rock falls and slope collapses watched out for.
6. It is estimated that mountain areas in the north and north east of Taiwan will see 400-700mm of rainfall over 24 hours. The Council of Agriculture was asked to carry out preventative evacuation of people living along rivers at risk of debris flow in accordance with the rainfall situation and to

complete evacuation and shelter provision work for people in cities/counties that will probably reach red alert level before nightfall today.

7. The Support Deployment Group was instructed to complete in advance the deployment of military personnel and equipment in high risk areas and to establish a mechanism to contact city/county emergency operation centers and to assist local government with disaster response work when needed.

8. The Ministry of the Interior was instructed to maintain contact 24 hours a day with local government disaster situation checking and reporting personnel and ensure that major disasters, injury and loss of life are reported back immediately. The Central Emergency Operation Center was also instructed to keep leaders informed of its forecasts and instructions.

Central Emergency Operation Center calls on the public to carry out the necessary disaster prevention preparations and to avoid going out or engaging in outdoor activities to stay out of danger.