



Features

MANGKHUT: THE KING OF TYPHOONS

Choy Chun-wing

On 16 September, Severe Typhoon Mangkhut hit Hong Kong, and the Observatory needed to issue Hurricane Signal No. 10. Among those typhoons that affected the territory, Mangkhut is truly one of the most destructive storms in the past three decades. At least 458 people were injured during the storm, and there were more than 60,000 reports of fallen trees, the highest number on record. Many items fell from heights and many buildings were damaged. At least 500 cases of smashed windows or glass curtain walls were reported. Electricity supply to over 40,000 households in Hong Kong were interrupted, and electricity supplies in some areas were not fully restored even after four days. Supply of fresh water in some places was also affected due to power outages. Hundreds of vessels of various size were stranded, sunk or seriously damaged by the powerful waves.

The severe storm surge inducted by Mangkhut raised the water level in Hong Kong generally by more than two metres during the day, leading to substantial inundation of many low-lying areas along the coast of Hong Kong and damage to many coastal facilities. The sea, land and air traffic in Hong

Kong was paralysed on the day when Mangkhut hit Hong Kong. On the next day, some main roads were still closed due to collapsed trees or flooding; public transport services were not fully restored.

Mangkhut Records >>>

The second longest typhoon signal No. 10 (10 hours)

The highest 60-minute mean wind speeds recorded at Waglan Island and Cheung Chau were 161 and 157 km per hour, respectively. These were both the second highest figures at these stations, with the highest being during Typhoon Ellen in 1983.

The storm surge heights at Quarry Bay and Tai Po Kau were the highest since recording instruments were installed, and the tide levels were the second highest, with the highest being during Severe Typhoon Wanda in 1962.



Glass curtain walls were severely damaged on some buildings in Hung Hom.



A sign was blown into a tree by destructive winds in Sai Kung.



Severe flooding in Heng Fa Chuen. (Credit: 何迪信)



A yacht was driven ashore by huge waves at Sai Kung.



Milestones

SEVERE WEATHER INFORMATION CENTRE WEBSITE (SWIC 2.0)

Cheng Yuen-chung

The "Severe Weather Information Centre" is a website with official information on severe weather around the world, developed and operated by the Observatory on behalf of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The Observatory recently launched a new trial version of the website, to provide weather warnings issued by national meteorological and hydrological services from around the world that support the "Global Multi-hazard Alert System" of the WMO, in order to enhance global disaster prevention and mitigation capabilities.



Website:

