

CHINA : TYPHOON SALLY

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Guangdong Province in southern China suffered extensive damage when Typhoon Sally tore across this coastal province yesterday, 9 September. More than 113 people are known to have been killed while at least that same number remain missing. Media reports indicate that over 2,300 were injured. The typhoon, the strongest to hit Guangdong this season, affected approximately 7.85 million people.

The storm, which made landfall at 1100 hours local time, raged for 9 hours. Very strong winds and heavy rain caused damage to homes, businesses and the infrastructure. Land transportation is shut down. Water supplies and electricity are compromised. Direct economic losses are estimated to exceed 12.9 billion RMB (CHF 1.9 billion).

Approximately 470,000 hectares of crops were damaged in this area where 50% of the farmland is planted with rice.

Local Red Cross Society of China branches, in co-operation with the Department of Public Health, immediately deployed medical teams to the affected areas. They will provide first aid, medical treatment, and sanitise water supplies. The Guangdong Provincial Branch is preparing a plan of action, based upon the needs assessments currently being sent in by the local branches.

The operations planning includes how the Guangzhou Regional Disaster Preparedness Centre, funded by the American Red Cross, could be utilised to help cope with this disaster. Having just held its inauguration ceremony, staff and volunteers have been busy with the final touches and the Centre is not yet stocked with supplies. However, this disaster provides them with an opportunity to assess its role in disaster response.

City	Killed	Rooms collapsed	Rooms damaged	Affected Population
Maoming	33	110,000	389,000	3,440,000
Zhanjiang	78	100,000	349,000	3,390,000
Yangjiang	2	10,000	12,000	1,020,000
Total	113	220,000	750,000	7,850,000

The RCSC Headquarters in Beijing continues to gather information from the field, and remains in close contact with the Secretariat in Geneva. The Federation Delegate is currently in Anhui province, seriously affected by flooding in July, to report on the flood relief operation.

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