

## Current Details from the Joint Typhoon Warning Center

**COORDINATES:** 16.3° north, 178.2° east

**LOCATION:** 240 kilometers (150 miles) north-northwest of Suva, Fiji

**MOVEMENT:** east-southeast at 20 kph (13 mph)

**WINDS:** 240 kph (150 mph) with gusts to 295 kph (185 mph)

**RADIUS OF TROPICAL STORM-FORCE WINDS:** 305 kilometers (190 miles)

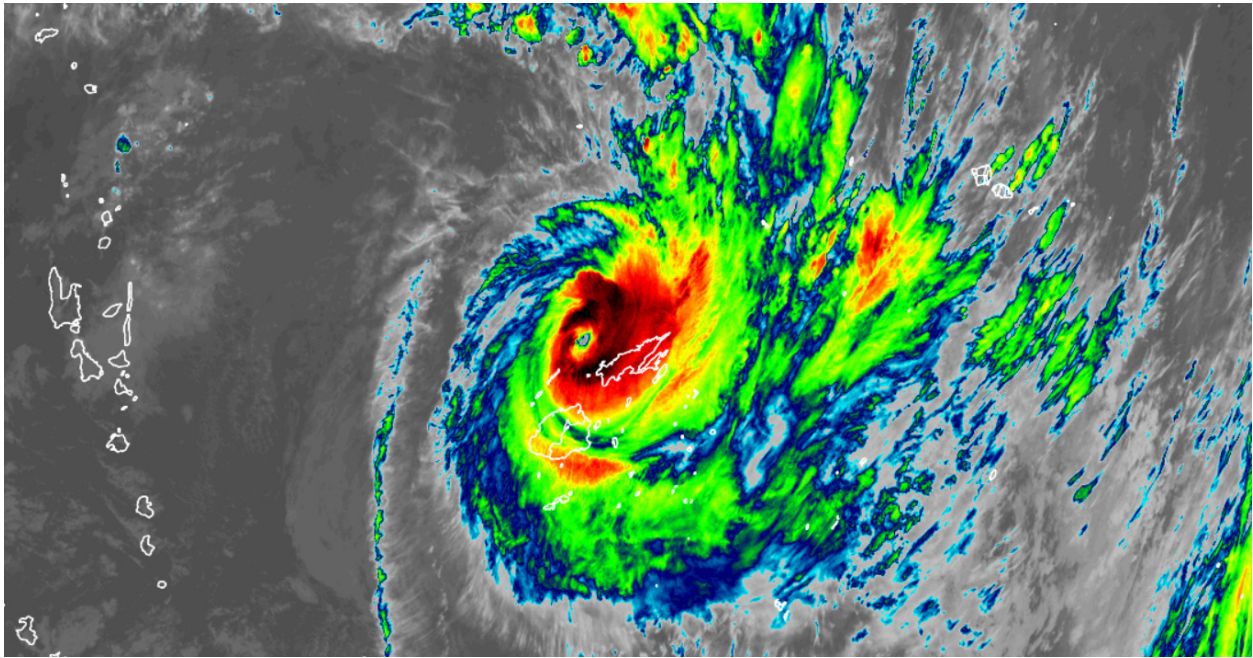
**RADIUS OF HURRICANE-FORCE WINDS:** 95 kilometers (60 miles)

**SAFFIR-SIMPSON SCALE RANKING\*:** Category 4

**FORECAST LANDFALL LOCATION:** Fiji (Vanua Levu Island)

**FORECAST LANDFALL TIMEFRAME:** Thursday evening local time

## Latest Satellite Picture



Source: NOAA / NASA / Colorado State University (RAAMB)

## Discussion

Cyclone Yasa, located approximately 240 kilometers (150 miles) north-northwest of Suva, Fiji, is currently tracking east-southeast at 20 kph (13 mph). Satellite imagery continues to show deep convective bands wrapping into a very well-defined eye feature as the cyclone further tracks towards Fiji. While it has lost some of its intensity from 24 hours ago, the latest Dvorak satellite intensity estimates continue to justify the JTWC keeping the storm's 1-minute average sustained wind speeds at 240 kph (150 mph). This makes Yasa a strong Category 4 equivalent storm on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale.

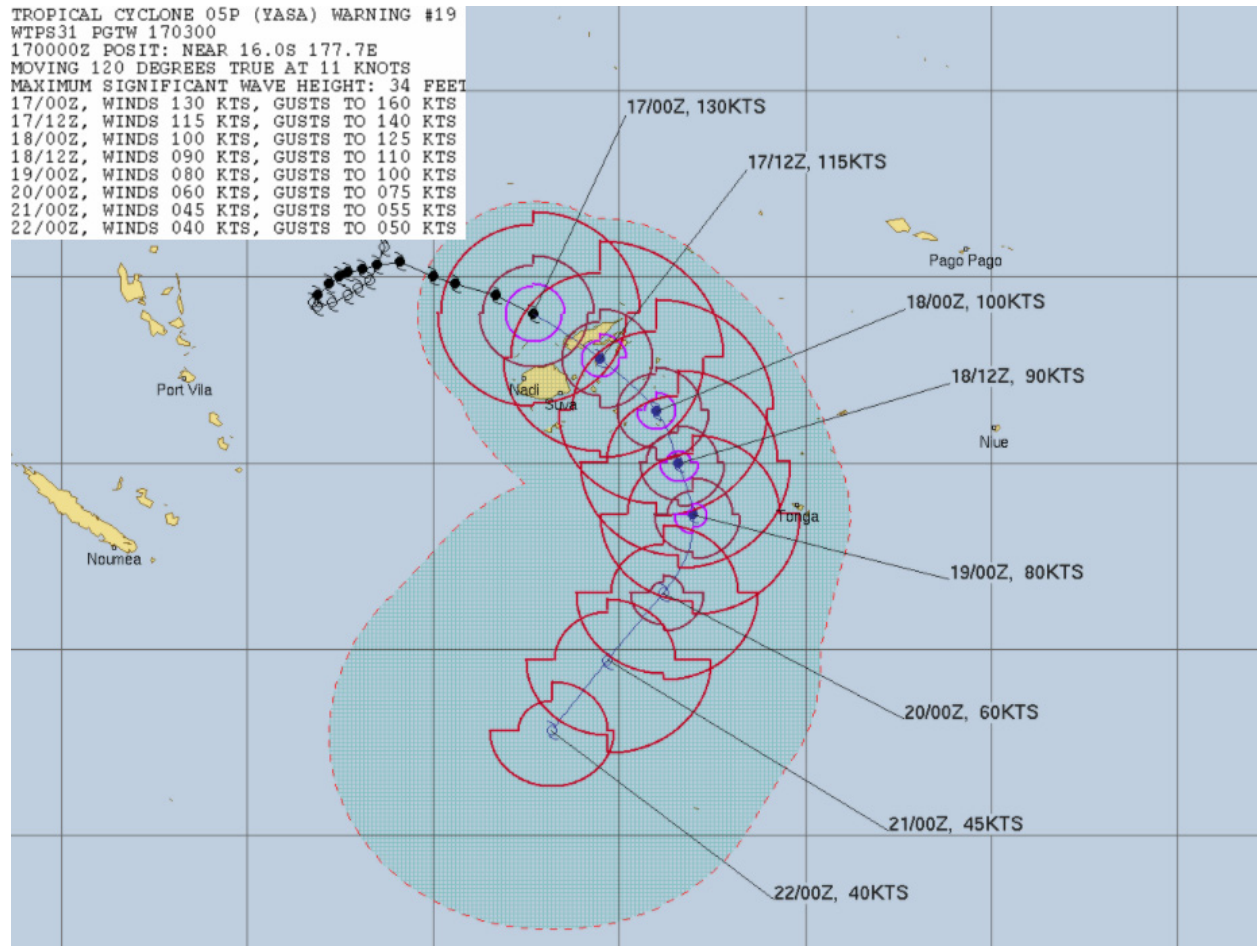
Atmospheric and oceanic analysis shows that generally favorable environmental conditions persist, characterized by warm sea surface temperatures, moderate wind shear, and robust cloud outflow aloft. The system is tracking generally southeastward along the western periphery of a steering ridge of high pressure located to the east.

In the near term, Yasa is expected to make landfall on Vanua Vevu, Fiji in the next few hours. During and after landfall, the storm should gradually weaken due to the continued moderate wind shear and increased land interaction. At the 12-hour forecast point, the JTWC has Yasa as a 210 kph (130 mph) storm; still a dangerous Category 4 equivalent. An incoming mid-latitude trough from the west will weaken the current steering ridge in the next 24 to 36 hours, which will cause Yasa to follow a more south-southeasterly track before another ridge located to the south takes over as the primary steering mechanism. Between 48 and 72 hours, the system will begin to turn southwestward along the northern periphery of the steering ridge. Yasa will gradually weaken to a 150 kph (90 mph) storm by Day 3. At that point, cooler ocean waters and much stronger wind shear will lead to faster decay.

Between days 3 and 5, steady weakening will occur as Yasa becomes a minimal tropical storm over the open waters of the South Pacific. Similar to previous model runs, the model track envelope is bound by some solutions taking Yasa more to the west and others more to the east. However, some of the more dependable models are leaning towards a more eastward shift, and the JTWC has followed.

It is worth noting that Fiji is still in the midst of recovering from Category 4 equivalent impacts of Cyclone Harold that impacted the archipelago in April 2020.

# Joint Typhoon Warning Center Forecast



## Additional Information and Update Schedule

Wind intensity forecasts and forecast track information can be found via the Joint Typhoon Warning Center at <https://metocph.nmci.navy.mil/jtwc.php>

**NEXT CAT ALERT:** Since landfall and track through the Fiji archipelago is imminent, and steady weakening is anticipated afterwards, this will be the final Cat Alert. Full details will be available in this week's Weekly Cat Report.

# \*Tropical Cyclone Intensity Classifications for Global Basins

WIND SPEED			BASINS AND MONITORING BUREAU						
KTS <sup>1</sup>	MPH <sup>1</sup>	KPH <sup>1</sup>	NE Pacific, Atlantic	NW Pacific	NW Pacific	SW Pacific	Australia	SW Indian	North Indian
			National Hurricane Center (NHC)	Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC)	Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA)	Fiji Meteorological Service (FMS)	Bureau Of Meteorology (BOM)	Meteo-France (MF)	India Meteorological Department (IMD)
30	35	55	Tropical Depression	Tropical Depression	Tropical Depression	Tropical Depression	Tropical Low	Tropical Depression	Deep Depression
35	40	65	Tropical Storm	Tropical Storm	Tropical Storm	Cat. 1 Tropical Cyclone	Cat. 1 Tropical Cyclone	Moderate Tropical Storm	Cyclonic Storm
40	45	75							
45	50	85							
50	60	95							
55	65	100							
60	70	110	Cat. 1 Hurricane	Typhoon	Typhoon	Cat. 3 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Cat. 3 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Tropical Cyclone	Very Severe Cyclonic Storm
65	75	120							
70	80	130							
75	85	140							
80	90	150							
85	100	160	Cat. 2 Hurricane	Typhoon	Typhoon	Cat. 4 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Cat. 4 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Intense Tropical Cyclone	Very Severe Cyclonic Storm
90	105	170							
95	110	175	Cat. 3 Major Hurricane	Typhoon	Typhoon	Cat. 4 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Cat. 4 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Intense Tropical Cyclone	Very Severe Cyclonic Storm
100	115	185							
105	120	195							
110	125	205	Cat. 4 Major Hurricane	Super Typhoon	Super Typhoon	Cat. 5 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Cat. 5 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Very Intense Tropical Cyclone	Super Cyclonic Storm
115	130	210							
120	140	220							
125	145	230							
130	150	240	Cat. 5 Major Hurricane	Super Typhoon	Super Typhoon	Cat. 5 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Cat. 5 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Very Intense Tropical Cyclone	Super Cyclonic Storm
135	155	250							
140	160	260							
>140	>160	>260	Cat. 5 Major Hurricane	Super Typhoon	Super Typhoon	Cat. 5 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Cat. 5 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Very Intense Tropical Cyclone	Super Cyclonic Storm

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