Current Details from the Joint Typhoon Warning Center

COORDINATES: 13.4° north, 114.1° east
LOCATION: 750 kilometers (465 miles) east-southeast of Da Nang, Vietnam
MOVEMENT: west at 22 kph (14 mph)
WINDS: 185 kph (115 mph) with gusts to 230 kph (145 mph)
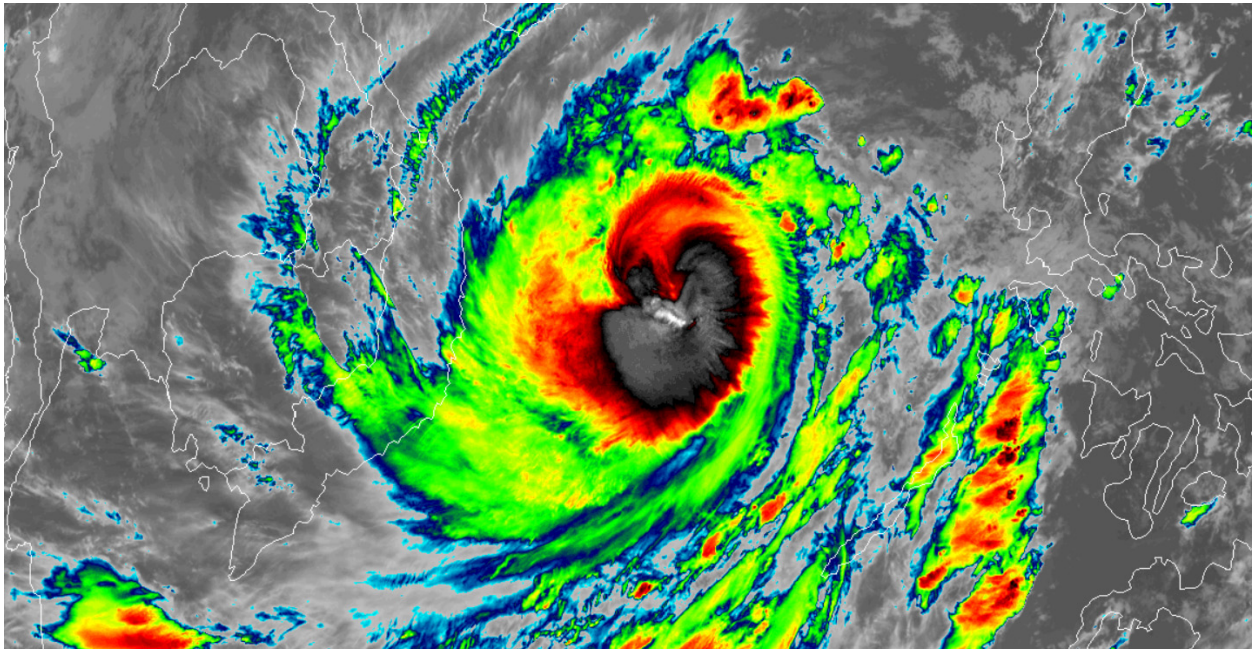**RADIUS OF TROPICAL STORM-FORCE WINDS:** 305 kilometers (190 miles)
RADIUS OF HURRICANE-FORCE WINDS: 95 kilometers (60 miles)
SAFFIR-SIMPSON SCALE RANKING*: Category 3

FORECAST LANDFALL LOCATION: central Vietnam
FORECAST LANDFALL TIMEFRAME: early afternoon Wednesday local time

Latest Satellite Picture

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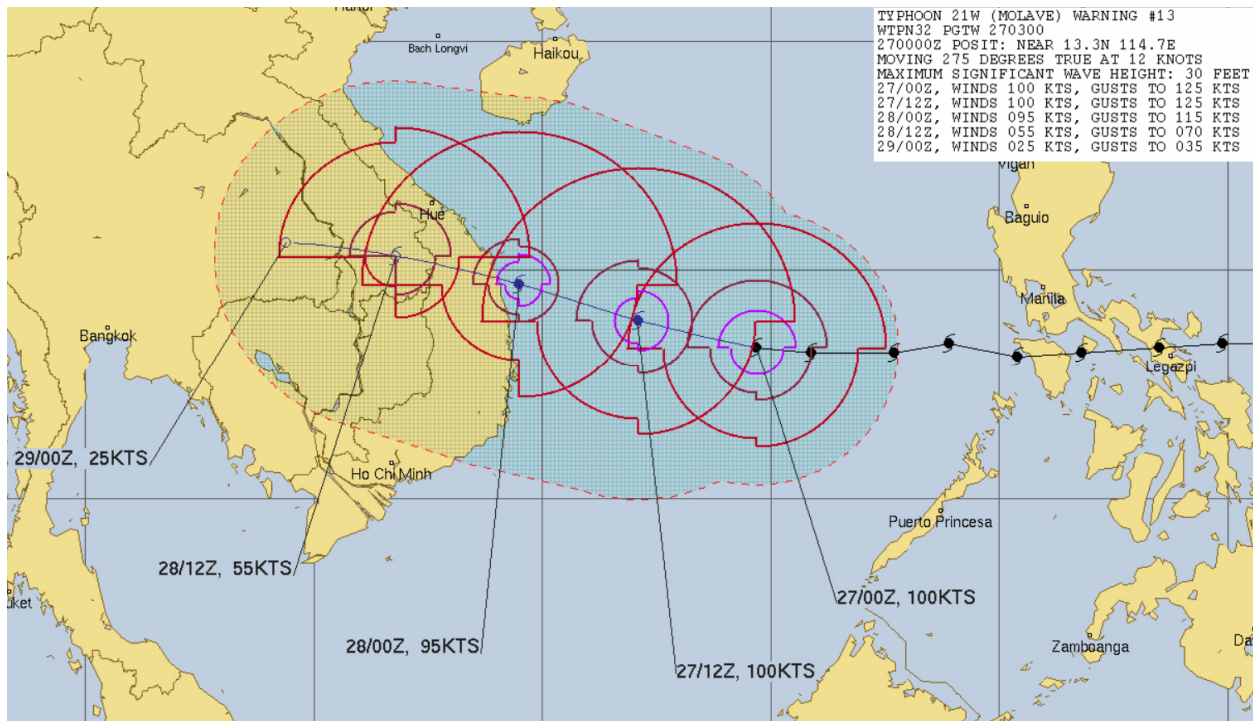
Discussion

Typhoon Molave, located approximately 750 kilometers (465 miles) east-southeast of Da Nang, Vietnam, is currently tracking west at 22 kph (14 mph). Satellite imagery continues to show spiral bands of convection wrapping into an obscured low-level circulation center. The eye feature has continued to cycle and fill during the past six hours. The JTWC has set an initial intensity of 185 kph (115 mph) – equivalent to a Category 3 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale; 1-minute sustained average) – based on the latest Dvorak satellite estimates. The typhoon continues to be steered by a ridge of high pressure located to the north and is located in an oceanic and atmospheric environment that remains marginally favorable for additional development. Sea surface temperatures remain warm, though moderate vertical wind shear persists on the northern periphery of the cyclone.

The system is forecast to continue tracking west to west-northwestward through the remainder of the forecast period as the previously noted ridge located over southern China remains the primary steering mechanism. The JTWC expects Molave to remain a 185 kph (115 mph) storm during the next 12 hours as it tracks through a generally favorable environment. After that time, and as it nears landfall in Vietnam, increasing wind shear and cooler ocean waters will lead to gradual weakening to 175 kph (110 mph) – equivalent to a high-end Category 2 hurricane. Landfall is expected to occur during the next 24 to 36 hours in an area south of Da Nang, Vietnam. Rapid weakening over land will occur after coming ashore, though the system is poised to bring additional torrential rainfall and high winds to parts of Vietnam and Cambodia that has endured significant flooding in recent weeks.

Full dissipation is expected within 24 hours after coming ashore. The forecast model guidance remains in excellent agreement through the landfall point.

Joint Typhoon Warning Center Forecast


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TYPHOON 21W (MOLAVE) WARNING #13
WTPN32 PGTW 270300
270000Z POSIT: NEAR 13.3N 114.7E
MOVING 275 DEGREES TRUE AT 12 KNOTS
MAXIMUM SIGNIFICANT WAVE HEIGHT: 30 FEET
27/00Z, WINDS 100 KTS, GUSTS TO 125 KTS
27/12Z, WINDS 100 KTS, GUSTS TO 125 KTS
28/00Z, WINDS 095 KTS, GUSTS TO 115 KTS
28/12Z, WINDS 055 KTS, GUSTS TO 070 KTS
29/00Z, WINDS 025 KTS, GUSTS TO 035 KTS
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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: Wednesday morning after 10:00 AM Singapore Time (03:00 UTC).

*Tropical Cyclone Intensity Classifications for Global Basins

WIND SPEED			BASINS AND MONITORING BUREAU						
			NE Pacific, Atlantic	NW Pacific	NW Pacific	SW Pacific	Australia	SW Indian	North Indian
KTS[1]	MPH[1]	KPH[1]	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			Severe Tropical Storm	Cat. 2 Tropical Cyclone	Cat. 2 Tropical Cyclone	Severe Tropical Storm	Severe Cyclonic Storm
55	65	100							
60	70	110							
65	75	120	Cat. 1 Hurricane	Typhoon	Typhoon	Cat. 3 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Cat. 3 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Tropical Cyclone	Very Severe Cyclonic Storm
70	80	130							
75	85	140							
80	90	150							
85	100	160	Cat. 2 Hurricane						
90	105	170							
95	110	175							
100	115	185	Cat. 3 Major Hurricane			Cat. 4 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Cat. 4 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Intense Tropical Cyclone	
105	120	195							
110	125	205							
115	130	210							
120	140	220	Cat. 4 Major Hurricane			Cat. 5 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Cat. 5 Severe Tropical Cyclone	Very Intense Tropical Cyclone	Super Cyclonic Storm
125	145	230							
130	150	240		Super Typhoon					
135	155	250							
140	160	260	Cat. 5 Major Hurricane						
>140	>160	>260							

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