

Typhoon Stella (08W)

Typhoon Stella (08W) began as a weak tropical disturbance just east of the northern Marianas Islands. The first warning was issued on 120900Z September as a tropical depression. The cyclone tracked northwestward for two days before reaching peak intensity and curving northeastward. This northeast turn took TY Stella along the eastern Honshu coast as it accelerated and became extratropical.

JTWC first mentioned this disturbance at 110600Z September on the Significant Tropical Weather Advisory. At 120000Z September, the disturbance was upgraded to a Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert. The first warning was issued at 120900Z September. TY Stella developed in the eastern portion of the monsoon trough, south of the subtropical ridge and tracked northwestward. TY Stella reached typhoon intensity as it moved into a weakness in the ridge and began transitioning into a poleward-oriented, steering pattern at 151200Z September. TY Stella tracked northeastward and continued to accelerate as it began to be influenced by the mid-latitude westerlies. TY Stella made landfall about 151800Z September near Numazu, Japan at minimum typhoon intensity. TY Stella became extratropical (XT) at 161200Z September. Once it became XT, it accelerated to 58 kt while maintaining an intensity of 60 kt. JTWC issued 18 warnings, with the final warning issued on 161500Z September.

CNN Tokyo (CNN, 17 Sep 1998) reported huge waves (23 feet), floods, heavy rains (14 inches in 24 hours), landslides, and four deaths.

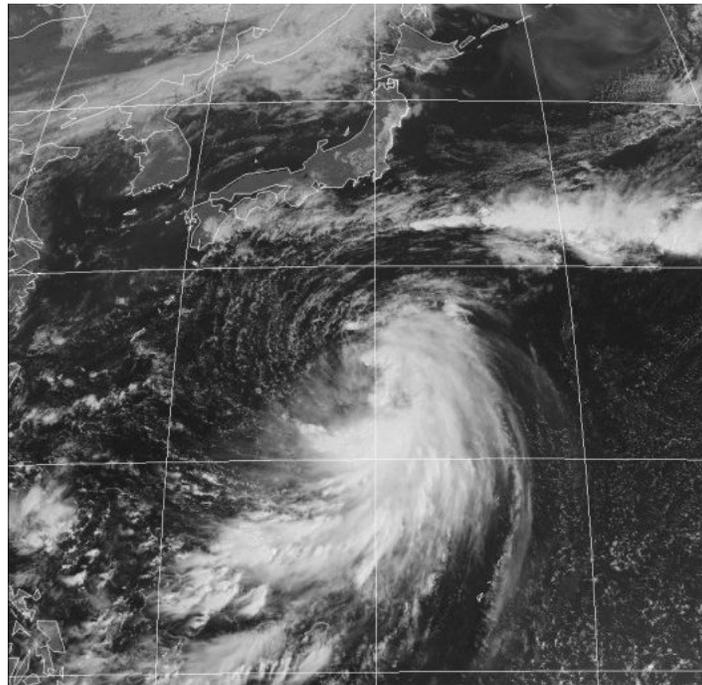


Figure 3-08-1. GMS-5 140034Z September visible image of Tropical Storm Stella (60 kt).

