

## Typhoon, flooding impact thousands

By Sarah Jane Weaver

Church News staff writer

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There are no reports of injury to Latter-day Saints after Typhoon Megi, the strongest storm in years to crash into the Philippines, killed at least 10 people, injured others and sent thousands scampering to safety in near-zero visibility on Oct. 18.



Associated Press

The concrete wall of a business collapsed when Typhoon Megi hit Isabela province in northeastern Philippines.

More than 100,000 people were impacted by the disaster, which knocked out power and destroyed hundreds of homes in the province of Isabela.

No missionaries were injured during the storm.

Several Latter-day Saints took refuge in a local LDS meetinghouse during the storm. Priesthood leaders across the region prepared for the disaster by evacuating members and missionaries from danger areas, mapping out rescue plans and identifying sources for relief supplies, according to a Church welfare report. Leaders are assessing the need for aid to members and communities in the affected areas.

With winds of 140 miles an hour, Megi made landfall at Palanan Bay and weakened while crossing the mountains of the Philippines' main northern island of Luzon. The storm moved into the South China Sea.

In addition to the damage wreaked by Megi, flooding also impacted areas of Southeast Asia.

Floods triggered by heavy rains claimed several victims in central Vietnam and forced thousands from their homes in Vietnam, Thailand and southeastern China.

More than 40 deaths were reported in central Vietnam. The region already lost more than 60 people to flooding earlier this month; no members or missionaries were injured.

Flooding displaced more than 140,000 residents in the provinces of Nghe An, Ha Tinh and Quang Binh, according to the Church welfare report.

In Thailand, the worst floods in half a century covered most of the northeastern province of Nakhon Ratchasima, affecting hundreds of thousands. At least five people have died, and thousands of homes — including the homes of nine LDS families — have been flooded.

In China, more than 100,000 residents in the southern island of Hainan were forced to evacuate their homes due to heavy rains. Record flooding over the past month had already damaged roads, overflowed reservoirs, and disabled telecommunications networks throughout Hainan.