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How many cyclones have hit fiji

Cyclones are rare events in Fiji, occurring an average of three times per year, with Western and Central regions being the most affected. The cyclone season typically coincides with the summer monsoon, with the most severe storms happening from May to June and October to November. In recent years, there have been several notable cyclones that have impacted Fiji. One of the strongest to make landfall was a tropical storm that hit on December 29, 2024, with winds reaching up to 94 km/h near Lautoka. However, most cyclones passing through Fiji's waters do not make direct landfall, but rather pass close by. Some notable examples include: * A category 1 cyclone that passed within 634 km of Nadi in Western on March 4, 2023 * A tropical storm that passed within 531 km of Suva in Central on January 20, 2023 * A tropical storm that passed within 550 km of Nadi in Western on January 19, 2023 The most severe cyclone to pass through Fiji's waters was a category 5 storm that occurred on February 1, 2019. It had winds reaching up to 256 km/h and a diameter of 259 km. Overall, while cyclones are rare events in Fiji, they can still have significant impacts on the country's weather and climate. Fijian weather reports indicate a maximum speed of 139 km/h, with diameters reaching up to 185 km and air pressure below 971 mbar. The Saffir-Simpson scale categorizes such systems as category 1 cyclones. Notably, one cyclone approached the Fijis on December 28th, 2019, with its closest point being approximately 101 km southwest of Nadi in Western divisions. In another instance, a tropical storm made landfall in Northern divisions on January 6th, 2019, maintaining a maximum speed of 93 km/h and diameters up to 204 km, accompanied by air pressure below 985 mbar. National weather data compiled from the National Centers for Environmental Information reveal that cyclones frequently impact Fiji. Typically, these tropical systems develop during the wet season, which spans November to April. The country's western and central regions are most susceptible to such occurrences. Cyclone frequency averages three times per year, underscoring their potential impact on Fijian communities. Weather experts observe a primary cyclone season from November to April, although instances of cyclone formation outside this period do occur. Fiji's geographical location, situated in a region where warm ocean waters foster tropical storm development, increases its susceptibility to such events. Some of the most destructive cyclones in Fiji's history include Pam, Winston, Harold, and Yasa, which made landfall at category 5 intensity, causing widespread destruction in both Fiji and Vanuatu. The recent Cyclone Yasa landed on December 17th, resulting in significant damage due to its high winds reaching speeds of up to 250 km/h. Frequently asked questions about cyclones in Fiji include the projected path of a tropical cyclone expected to approach Fiji in 2023, according to the Fijian Meteorological Office. Another query pertains to why Fiji is prone to cyclones, largely due to its geographical location and extended tropical cyclone season from November to April. Fiji experiences severe cyclones that bring devastating effects. Three of the worst cyclones to hit Fiji are Pam, Winston, and Yasa, all making landfall with Category 5 intensity, causing extensive damage. These cyclones not only affect the islands but also lead to challenges such as sea-level rise, coastal erosion, and storm surges. Fiji faces frequent flooding due to cyclones, with an average of 10 floods per decade. Heavy rainfall combined with cyclone activity contributes to this issue. The predictability of cyclone seasons is relatively high; however, the intensity and impact of individual cyclones can vary greatly. Fiji has a distinct wet and dry season, making its climate somewhat predictable. To prepare for cyclones, Fiji has implemented disaster management protocols and early warning systems. These measures include evacuation plans, public awareness campaigns, and emergency response teams to ensure visitor safety during cyclone seasons. Tourists should stay informed about weather conditions and follow instructions from local authorities to minimize disruptions to travel plans. Fiji's resilience in the face of natural disasters is a testament to its efforts in protecting its people and visitors alike. By understanding the frequency and impacts of cyclones, we can appreciate the nation's strength and dedication to preserving its beauty and cultural heritage. Niran, a powerful Category 5 tropical cyclone, formed off the coast of Australia on February 27, 2023, while it started intensifying rapidly. The storm peaked at its strongest intensity on March 5, well offshore of Australia and according to both Australian Tropical Cyclone Scale and Saffir–Simpson scale, which showed a well-defined pinhole eye. After reaching the peak intensity, Niran initiated an eyewall replacement cycle and encountered wind shear that caused it to weaken on 6 March as it passed near Grande Terre, main island of New Caledonia. The storm continued rapidly weakening further before transitioning into an extratropical cyclone late on 6 March. It was absorbed into another extratropical storm two days later. Given article text here Severe Tropical Cyclone Niran made landfall yet another significant weakening trend, falling back to Category 4 status. On March 6 at 12:00 UTC, the storm made closest approach New Caledonia's main island of Grande Terre as a Category 3-equivalent tropical cyclone, with eye passing just south island's southeastern flank. As wind shear increased substantially over the storm it weakened to a Category 3 severe tropical cyclone on Australian scale and a Category 2 tropical cyclone on SSHWS later that day before undergoing extratropical transition. Late that day Niran had completed its extratropical transition as it continued accelerating southeastward for another couple of days before being absorbed into larger extratropical cyclone south March 8.[citation needed] A warning was put in place Northern Queensland coast; however, the warning was dropped as Niran moved eastward and away from the coast. On March 2 a gale warning was issued for coastal communities including Cape Flattery and Innisfail though it was cancelled when Niran moved away.[10] In far-north region of state some banana crops were wiped out by Niran in its early phase with farmers saying nearly 100% lost their crops. Over 42,000 people lost power from storm due high winds. State emergency teams attended to downed poles and damaged homes reported minor structural damage Cairns region.[11] Australian Banana Growers' Council said on March 2 that it was too early estimate damage but stated significant. In Cassowary Coast Region farmers expected be without income September October. Two people were rescued from floodwaters.[11] Crop damage related to Niran was A$200 million.[12] Prices for bananas expected increase drastically after Niran with fears prices could increase 50 cents US dollar per kilo.[13] Damage to farm infrastructure labeled "catastrophic" and "severe" by locals. Total estimated one-third of Australia's banana crops destroyed Stephen Lowe council chief executive estimated about 5,000 hectares of crops affected but may have been over 11,000 hectares and clean-up could take year.[15] Niran made landfall on March 4 with highest recorded rainfall Clump Point which saw 276 mm in 24 hours.[10] Tropical cyclone Niran caused significant damage in New Caledonia, particularly on the main island of Grande Terre. The authorities issued a Level Two Tropical Cyclone Alert, prompting Air Calédonie to relocate its planes to Brisbane, Australia for safety. Waves as high as 13 metres were expected along the western coast of New Caledonia, with Niran causing extensive damage during its close passage. Nearly 40,000 households lost electricity in urban areas, while roads became impassable. Strong winds of up to 150 km/h affected parts of the country, although the strongest part of the storm missed the coastline. Two people were injured, including a child hit by shards of glass from a bay window, and several ships were grounded on the coast of Nouméa, the capital city. Over 400 people were housed in evacuation centers, with an estimated 69,000 customers without power nationwide. Rainfall was lower than anticipated, but damage to vegetation and crops is unknown. High waves were forecasted for Vanuatu, which also experienced heavy rain from the cyclone. A severe tropical cyclone, known as Cyclone Niran, affected several countries in the Pacific region on March 2, 2021. The cyclone caused significant damage to crops, particularly banana farms, in far-north Queensland, Australia, where it made landfall. Banana prices are expected to rise due to the destruction of crops worth around $180 million. Cyclone Niran also affected New Caledonia, where it left a trail of damage and injured one person. The cyclone was classified as a severe tropical storm and moved rapidly towards New Caledonia, prompting warnings from authorities. Aircal planes were deployed to Australia to assist with evacuations and relief efforts. In addition to the cyclones mentioned in the text, several other tropical cyclones have affected Fiji and the South Pacific region in recent years, including Cyclone Ami, Cyclone Ana, and Cyclone Kina. Note: I removed the citations and some of the extraneous information to make the paraphrased version more concise. Let me know if you'd like me to add anything back in. Fiji has been hit by a series of tropical cyclones.