

# BBC World News - Typhoon Hagibis

14 October 2019 10:00 am

Emergency teams in Japan have been working through the night as the true scale of damage caused by Typhoon Hagibis becomes clearer. Huge swathes of land in several prefectures remain under water after record rainfall caused rivers to break their banks. More than thirty people have died and many others are missing. Our correspondent Rupert Winfield-Hayes travelled north of Tokyo where rescue efforts are still underway.

This is the town of Chikuma in the Japanese Alps, much of it now enveloped by brown, dirty flood water. On Saturday night the levees burst, unable to withstand the onslaught from Typhoon Hagibis. All day the military has been racing to pluck those stranded from rooves and balconies. It is a story that has been repeated over and over.

This afternoon we made it to Kawagoe, an hour north of Tokyo. Here too, the rivers have burst their banks.

What's truly remarkable about this typhoon is its scale. There are floods and rescues like this going on in at least eight different prefectures right across the main island of Japan.

People we talked to are shocked and numb:

"I have lived here 32 years. It is the first time I have seen anything like this. I was shaking with fear last night."

"I watched the live camera of the river and I could see it coming up and up, getting closer and closer to the top. I never thought something like this would happen in my neighbourhood. I was so surprised."

Japan is just starting to count the economic cost of this single storm. Outside Nagano City a line of shiny bullet trains swamped by the flood waters. Each one of these trains costs 29 million US dollars. Rupert Winfield-Hayes, BBC News in Kawagoe, Eastern Japan.



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Read the passage. Match the underlined words with the words and phrases below.

amazed

armed forces

attack

broken

covered

financial

frozen

happening

marooned

overflow

pick quickly

resist

struck with fear

submerged

unusual

wide areas

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Read the passage. Fill in the blanks using the words and phrase below. Each is used once.

**break their banks**

**burst**

**economic**

**enveloped**

**military**

**numb**

**onslaught**

**pluck**

**remarkable**

**shocked**

**stranded**

**surprised**

**swamped**

**swathes**

**underway**

**withstand**



<b>break their banks</b>	<b>remarkable</b>
<b>burst</b>	<b>shocked</b>
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