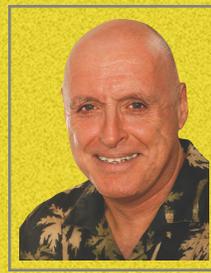


THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



1328 Typhoons are Erratic – Managers Shouldn't Be

Yesterday, we talked about confusion with Typhoon Mawar. How fast were the winds, and where was it headed? If the reporting sources all use pretty much the same resources to make their predictions, why were they different? I'm Jerry Roberts, and along with that, let's look at how managers may want to view the next several days. That's next on The Extra Point.

As I was heading off to sleep on Monday night, Typhoon Mawar was being reported a couple different ways.

One, that it would pass over the southern tip of Guam, maybe a category three storm. On the other hand, another source, perhaps using the same raw data, saw it differently. It had Mawar curling to the left, and possibly missing us entirely, though not by much.

We were certainly going to be impacted by powerful winds, but perhaps not like we've seen from storms named Pamela, Paka, and Pongsona. The storm was cooking along at a good clip as many do, and we all had high hopes that we'd have another one slip by us.

At 1:00 p.m. yesterday the National Weather Service said Mawar was moving at 8 mph, with sustained winds of 130mph. Within six hours, it had intensified to 140mph winds, but had sped up to 13mph. That's good. Storms that speed up are better. I've seen times of its passing listed as early as 1:00p.m., and also 3:00 p.m. or later.

That being said, Mawar also changed direction for maybe the third time in three days. It began to drift to the north slightly. Instead of a track that left it on Guam's southern edge, it now appears to be coming straight at us.

So, there has been a good deal of confusion, but in the end we have a big typhoon on our doorstep.

If this is your first typhoon and you're sheltered and secure, don't venture out if the winds

seemingly go away after a few hours. Wait a while longer until you're sure the storm has passed, or you get official word that you're clear to move about.

I was on the roof of the Hilton when the eye of Typhoon Pamela passed over Guam. It was my first rodeo so to speak, and I didn't know that the super-high gusts would start up again without notice. Hilton staff chased everyone off the roof in time.

If you think you're not well prepared, get to a shelter immediately. If you're not sure, then the shelter is probably the wise choice.

So, the next thing to look at is the recovery. Pamela's restoration was measured in weeks and months. We've gotten much better over the years. Unless something completely unexpected happens, power and water should be back in days in some cases; hopefully just hours for many people. This storm will be a good test of how far we've come.

Restoration also applies to our companies, agencies, and military units. One way people begin to feel normal again, following an event like this, is for life to return to some sense of normalcy. Going to work and resuming our routine is a part of that.

Our leaders and managers have a big role to play. This is your time, your moment to step up and be the one your people can count on for support.

Life may be challenging for a while, and no doubt more so for some than others. They'll need help, guidance, and they'll also need a big measure of enthusiasm.

The aftermath of a storm is the hardest part for most people, especially in the absence of power, water, and other basics. Having a boss who stands with you and stands behind you is a big deal. Enthusiasm may be in short supply. (Con't.)

Make sure that you find a reservoir of it within you, and share it widely. People are going to remember things from Typhoon Mawar. Let your uplifting attitude and support be one of them.

Storms can be erratic. Managers can't be once they pass.

Take care of what you need to for yourself and your family in these hours before and during the storm.

Take care of your family at work once it's gone.

That's the Extra Point. Be responsible and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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