

WHAT: Typhoon Season Preparations

WHO: All Marines on Okinawa including Civilians attached to USMC

FROM: MCIPAC, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate Claims Division

In an effort to reduce potential damage to your personal property, please take note of the following recommendations.

Everyone owns ultimate responsibility for the safety and security of their personal property. There are some preventive measures you can take to avoid damage and/or loss during high winds associated with typhoons.

The following are examples of some of the most common items. This is not an exhaustive list.

\* Sheds, Trampolines, Swing Sets, etc.: These items must be properly secured. Most storage sheds in use on Okinawa tend to maintain their support directly from the roof. When the roof gets ripped off during high winds, the rest of the shed shears apart because it has lost its main support. Placing sand bags on the top and tying rope around the walls of sheds will likely keep the shed in one piece. Turning trampolines over and placing sand bags on the canvas can secure them. Swing sets should be tied down.

Per Military Family Housing Guide, storage sheds cannot exceed 10 feet by 10 feet and must be well anchored. Rubbermaid storage sheds must also be secured. We recommend sand bags on the roof and strapping around the sides to keep them intact.

\* Shed Contents: In the past, many typhoon claims have been presented for items such as TVs and various other items that are meant to be kept inside. Items such as these are not protected from the high humidity levels in our area, and should not be kept in storage sheds at all. The only items that should be placed in storage sheds are common outdoor items such as bicycles, lawn mowers, weed eaters, gas cans, etc. Everyone must make an appropriate assessment of the contents of their storage sheds before typhoons. Certain items such as lawn chairs, lawn ornaments, small toys, and other small items should be removed from sheds and brought inside before forecast storms approach. Everyone knows how vulnerable sheds are, so please be proactive and remove anything that can be easily destroyed or blown away during high winds.

\* Pools: Canvas type pools should be drained and stored inside. Durable plastic type pools should be drained, and sand bags should be placed on the inside base.

\* Grills: Because of their weight, propane gas tanks are likely to remain safe from high winds. Grills should be taken inside. Cold briquettes/ash can be easily removed and discarded. Charcoal grills can also be stored inside using the same method.

\* The asterisk denotes that you will be required to substantiate the above recommendations. Once you have appropriately secured your property, please take a few pictures to help support any future claim.

Hopefully, the above actions will prevent the loss or damage to your personal property and eliminate the need to file a claim after the storm.

If you have any questions regarding claims, please contact MCIPAC, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Claims Division, Bldg. 437, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor at 645-7460.