

PORT AUTHORITY OF GUAM

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NEWS RELEASE

Mawar recovery efforts ongoing at the Port

Piti, Guam, May 26, 2023: Employees of the Port Authority of Guam are working tirelessly to get the Port back up and fully operational after the island's only commercial seaport sustained damage due to Super Typhoon Mawar.

At 12:30 p.m. today, the U.S. Coast Guard gave the Port clearance to begin the major recovery efforts dockside and now the Port is making assessments to include the condition of the gantry cranes. A Port employee dive team will conduct underwater assessments of the docks beginning tomorrow, which is key to the Port's ability to reopen. Apra Harbor remains closed as the U.S. Coast Guard has restricted water entry into the Harbor until further notice.

The Port weathered Super Typhoon Mawar with visible damage to Piers F3, F4, F5 and F6, particularly the Bull Rail. Portions of the Fender System also are damaged or broken off. The storm also caused damage to the Agat and Agana Marinas.

General Manager Rory J. Respicio held a briefing this morning with Port personnel to discuss disaster recovery measures toward reopening the Port which includes an assessment of damage to equipment, container yard, piers, port facilities, and marinas so the Port may mitigate recovery efforts and restore service.

"The Port is working with the carriers and agents in restoring operations so they may deliver much-needed goods and supplies to the community," said General Manager Rory J. Respicio. "We also are working with the petroleum companies to allow the safe discharging of fuel. Our priority right now is to ensure that our gantry cranes and equipment are fully operational and that it is safe for employees and Port users to work within the terminal yard. We also have to inspect the integrity of the piers as we believe the docks were damaged during the Super Typhoon."

Respicio said he hopes to get the Port back up and open for business by next week Monday.

As the Port continues to conduct assessments of its wharves, docks, cranes, and facilities, the operations team is quickly working to address all concerns within the terminal yard to allow vessel entry to the Port and the discharge of cargo as soon as possible.

Other damage the Port sustained over the course of Super Typhoon Mawar includes flooding in the container yard, overturned and damaged empty containers, damaged chassis, as well as damage to port vehicles.

Operations at the Port Authority ceased Sunday evening when Governor Lou Leon Guerrero declared COR 2 for the island. The Port then stood up the Port Command Center, which included personnel from Port Police, Safety, Electrical, Equipment Maintenance, Transportation, Operations, and the Harbor Master Divisions.

"I want to thank our employees who left their families and homes to ride out the typhoon here at the Port," Respicio said. "Your dedication to public service and commitment to our island community is the essence of what it means to be Port Strong."

Port Police rescue Cabras Marine crew

During Super Typhoon Mawar, three fuel barges took refuge from the storm along F4 and F5 and were supported by three tug boats from Cabras Marine with crew members aboard the vessels. At the height of the storm, one tugboat experienced engine failure and the four crew members were rescued by Port Police. The tugboat then ran adrift toward inner Apra Harbor.