



In the eye of Tropical Cyclone Amos: Real time observations

LeA International: Penehuro Lefale
4 May 2016

Penehuro Lefale was in Samoa when Tropical Cyclone Amos made its way there. The following messages reflect his real-time correspondence and coverage as TC Amos swept to the north of the islands on Saturday 23 April and Sunday 24 April.

"On Apr 24, 2016 5:40 AM, "Penehuro Lefale" <pene.lefale@outlook.com> wrote:

Amos changes track overnight and tracked north east of Samoa rather than the southeast forecast track. We had lots of thunderstorms precipitation and gale force winds over night. Our ancestors called these "ua ta'alilinia Afa", literally (my deconstruction of the word - my definition) means "the cyclone is breaking up." I I'm awaiting the next model runs from the GPCs/RSMC Nadi to arrive but it's safe to say Samoa has escaped the worse of Amos. The threat map issued at 1am this morning suggests the system should be closest to Samoa at 6am this morning (Samoa local time). But I suspect the system has already moved further east to American Samoa..It must have moved quickly overnight than its previous movement (slow moving yesterday at 11knots).. I hope I'm right.. It's 4.38am in Utualii and its dead calm with only scaled clouds everywhere..

PFLefale

5.38am, Utualii, Samoa.

On Sat, Apr 23, 2016 17:50:03 +0000, "Penehuro Lefale" <pene.lefale@outlook.com> wrote:

Just got the latest model runs..the system is moving faster at 24 knots (28mph) towards Sanao..So it's not over yet..the good news is that it's current status has been downgraded to cat 2 but expect to be upgraded to cat 3 as it tracks ESE to rge north of Samoa (independent) over the next 6 to 24 hrs..the forecast says it should located NE or E of Apia(Upolu) by 7am TOMORROW monrning. I got my dates mixed up (using the US dates which is one day behind instead of Samoa time - changing the time zones between the two Samoa makes it so hard for us in the met community -:)) in my earlier message..In sum, Amos is weakening to cat2/3 (not cat 4) but Samoa is still not out of the firing line just yet..Please refer to Samoa Met Division for further detailed warnings. A new update should be available now. They are the legally

designated NMS for issuing TC warnings for Samoa..I'm still putting my bet on the Samoa traditional knowledge of weather forecasting concept..ua ta'alilinia Le Afa ..to be correct..that's what my 81 year old mum forecasted this morning..these older observers of nature have strong beliefs and faith! Great spending time with her though..she's being up all night wandering around the house to make sure we're OK!!

Sent from [Outlook Mobile](#)

On Sat, Apr 23, 2016 at 10:23 AM -0700, "Penehuro Lefale" <pene.lefale@outlook.com> wrote:

The system is tracking East Southeast just to the north of Upolu towards American Samoa

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On Sat, Apr 23, 2016 at 10:13 AM -0700, "Penehuro Lefale" <pene.lefale@outlook.com> wrote:

BTW, we had managed without electricity (and main water supply) overnight. But we had all the emergency backup tools (portable camping torches, kerosene lamps, at least 4 charged cell phones, two full water tanks, plenty of food - cereals, can food, etc, medical supplies, tablets, am/fm radio, etc etc).. we're fine..enjoying real life cyclone island experience.. so very different now (with real time warnings via the Internet and all the back ups in place)..very different experience now compared to my first cyclone experience when I was a kid.. times and tech have changed ..

Sent from [Outlook Mobile](#)

On Sat, Apr 23, 2016 at 9:48 AM -0700, "Penehuro Lefale" <pene.lefale@outlook.com> wrote:

for some reason my iPhone auto changes the local times one HR behind in the main text. So the local times should be 7am and 5.38am instead of 6am and 4.38am

Sent from [Outlook Mobile](#)