



**Australian Government**  
**Bureau of Meteorology**

**Severe Tropical Cyclone Alex**  
15 – 26 March 1990

Perth Tropical Cyclone Warning Centre  
Bureau of Meteorology

**A. Summary**

*Alex* began as a tropical low near 12.3°S, 114.1°E at 0000 UTC 15 March. The low developed and moved westward. Tropical cyclone intensity was reached at 0300 UTC 16 March near 12.3°S, 112.0°E. Intensification continued and the eye became evident at 0000 UTC 18 March. The maximum intensity was estimated to be 927 hPa with mean winds of 190 km/h at 1200 UTC 19 March.

Over the next 60 hours the track became more southwesterly and *Alex* weakened steadily. By 22 March it was near 22.1°S, 92.2°E and the central pressure had increased to 976 hPa.

Further weakening and shearing of the cyclone structure occurred as it moved south and then southeast ahead of an approaching frontal system. *Alex* had weakened to below cyclone intensity by 1200 UTC 23 March. Interaction with the frontal system caused the decaying depression to loop before dissipating.

An Indonesian trawler sank near 12.8°S, 110.0°E with the loss of all crew. The number is not known but would probably be about ten.

Table 1. Best track summary for

Note: Add 8 hours to convert to WST. Refer to best track database for complete track details.

Year	Month	Day	Hour (UTC)	Position Latitude S	Position Longitude E	Max wind 10min knots	Central Pressure hPa	Rad. of Gales nm
1990	03	16	0000	12.3	112.4	35	998	
1990	03	16	0600	12.4	111.8	45	991	
1990	03	16	1200	12.4	111.2	50	988	
1990	03	16	1800	12.6	110.6	50	986	
1990	03	17	0000	12.8	110.0	55	984	
1990	03	17	0600	13.0	109.6	60	980	
1990	03	17	1200	13.4	109.0	70	972	
1990	03	17	1800	13.5	108.6	80	962	
1990	03	18	0000	13.6	108.2	95	952	
1990	03	18	0600	14.2	107.5	95	947	
1990	03	18	1200	14.9	106.4	105	941	
1990	03	18	1800	15.0	105.8	105	938	
1990	03	19	0000	15.0	105.0	110	934	
1990	03	19	0600	15.6	103.9	110	930	280
1990	03	19	1200	16.2	102.7	115	927	
1990	03	19	1800	16.5	101.5	115	927	
1990	03	20	0000	16.7	100.6	115	927	
1990	03	20	0600	17.4	99.2	105	941	
1990	03	20	1200	18.4	97.6	100	945	
1990	03	20	1800	19.0	96.6	95	950	
1990	03	21	0000	19.6	95.6	90	954	
1990	03	21	0600	20.4	94.3	85	960	
1990	03	21	1200	21.2	93.0	80	966	160
1990	03	21	1800	21.6	92.6	70	972	
1990	03	22	0000	22.0	92.1	65	976	
1990	03	22	0600	22.6	91.5	60	980	
1990	03	22	1200	24.0	91.0	55	984	
1990	03	22	1800	25.0	91.2	50	987	
1990	03	23	0000	25.8	91.6	45	991	
1990	03	23	0600	26.5	92.3	40	994	
1990	03	23	1200	27.4	92.9	35	997	
1990	03	23	1800	27.1	94.3	35	999	
1990	03	24	0000	26.6	96.1	30	1000	
1990	03	24	0600	26.3	97.6	30	1001	
1990	03	24	1200	25.5	98.5	25	1003	
1990	03	24	1800	24.9	99.2	25	1004	
1990	03	25	0000	22.0	99.5	25	1004	
1990	03	25	0600	20.2	99.0	25	1005	
1990	03	25	1200	19.4	98.0	0	1006	
1990	03	25	1800	18.8	96.6	0	1007	
1990	03	26	0000	18.2	94.9	0	1008	

Figure 1. Track of Tropical Cyclone Alex, 16 – 26 March 1990  
All times in WST.

