Update on Hurricane Tammy

LOCATION: 14.5N 59.7W
90 MI (140 KM) EAST OF MARTINIQUE

PRESENT MOVEMENT: WEST-NORTHWEST AT 7 MPH (11 KM/H)

MAXIMUM SUSTAINED WINDS: 75 MPH (120 KM/H)

MINIMUM CENTRAL PRESSURE: 990 MB (29.23 INCHES)

Update and Prognosis

According to the National Hurricane Center (NHC) as at 8:00 PM AST, the following advisories were in effect:

- A Hurricane Warning is in effect for; Antigua and Barbuda, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis and Anguilla.
- A Hurricane Watch is in effect for Dominica
- A Tropical Storm Warning is in effect for Dominica
- A Tropical Storm Watch is in effect for Barbados

Rainfall: Tammy is expected to produce 4 to 8 inches of rainfall over the Leeward Islands with maximum amounts of 12 inches; 2 to 4 inches of rainfall over the northern Windward Islands with maximum amounts of 6 inches; and 1 to 2 inches over the British Virgin Islands with maximum amounts of 4 inches. These rains may produce isolated flash and urban flooding, along with isolated mudslides in areas of higher terrain.

Wind: Tropical storm conditions are expected within the tropical storm warning area beginning tonight. Hurricane conditions are expected in the hurricane warning area by late tonight or early Saturday. Hurricane conditions are possible in the hurricane watch area in the Leeward Islands on Saturday. Tropical storm conditions are possible within the tropical storm watch area beginning tonight.

Surf: Swells generated by Tammy will continue to affect portions of the Lesser Antilles during the next few days. The swells are likely to cause life-threatening surf and rip current conditions. Storm surge of 1 to 3 feet is possible.
Caribbean Institute For Meteorology And Hydrology (CIMH) Analysis

Disclaimer: The CIMH provides special weather interpretation of the current and forecasted tropical weather affecting the Caribbean Region and is NOT an official forecasting agency.

The Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) is closely monitoring Hurricane Tammy as it moves towards the Northern Leeward Islands.

Deep convection is more organised compared to yesterday, due in part to reduced vertical shear and warm sea surface temperatures. A feeder band of deep convection is beginning to form at the southern fringe of Tammy. Tammy is expected to slightly increase in intensity by Saturday October 21, 2023, while it moves near or over portions of the Leeward Islands.

Hazard Risk Analysis:
- There is a medium likelihood of rainfall with significant impact across the Leeward Islands – the risk level is medium.
- There is a medium likelihood of wind with severe impact across the Leeward Islands – the risk level is medium.
- There is a medium likelihood of maritime impact with significant impact across the Leeward Islands.

Key Messages – Hurricane conditions are expected in portions of the Leeward Islands by late tonight or Saturday morning. Tropical storm conditions are expected to begin in portions of the Lesser Antilles within the warning area later today. Heavy rains from Tammy will begin to affect the Leeward and northern Winward Islands later today and into Saturday morning spreading into the British Virgin Islands as early as Sunday. This rainfall may produce isolated flash and urban flooding, along with isolated mudslides in areas of higher terrain. Storm surge could produce coastal flooding as the center of Tammy moves near or over the Leeward Islands. Near the coast, this surge will be accompanied by large and dangerous waves.

STATUS UPDATES FROM THE CDEMA COORDINATING UNIT

The updates from the CDEMA Coordinating Unit are as follows:

- The Regional Coordination Plan (RCP) remains activated.
- The CARICOM Secretary General and the Chair of CDEMA were briefed by the CDEMA Executive Director on the regional preparations.
- All the Regional Response Teams (CARICOM Disaster Relief Unit (CDRU), CARICOM Operational Support Team (COST), CARICOM Disaster Assessment and Coordination (CDAC), Rapid Needs Assessment Team (RNAT), and the Regional Search and Rescue Teams (RSART)) remain on Alert.
- Emergency communication checks between the CDEMA CU and the threatened PSs are ongoing.
- CDEMA has established and maintains communication with the threatened PSs and continues to monitor the progress of Hurricane Tammy along with the other RRM partners.

WINDS: near 120 km/h (75 mph) extending up to 35 km (25 miles) from center of storm. Tropical storm force winds extend 205 km (125 miles) from centre.

RAINFALL: suggested accumulations of 3 – 6 inches with max. accumulations of 10 inches.

STORM SURGE: could raise water level by 1 – 3 feet above normal tide levels, near the centre of TS Tammy.
UPDATES FROM PARTICIPATING STATES

ANGUILLA

The Department of Disaster Management (DDM) reported:

- A Hurricane Warning is in effect for Anguilla
- The National Disaster Management Committee met this morning and continues to monitor the system.
- The public sector was closed at 1:00pm today October 20, 2023.
- School was closed at 1:00 pm today October 20, 2023.
- No shelters will be opened at this time, but provision will be made to open one if needed.
- The decision on whether to activate the NEOC was to be taken after the 5:00 p.m. advisory.
- The Marigot ferry did not operate today.
- The airport was to be closed at 5:00 p.m.
- Emergency communications checks conducted with CDEMA and the SRFP (Antigua and Barbuda).

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

The National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) reported:

- A Hurricane Warning is in effect for Antigua and Barbuda.
- The Prime Minister and other senior government officials, including heads of departments and ministries have been briefed.
- The national emergency management mechanism is in a heightened state of alert. National volunteer networks have been mobilized.
- All government offices were closed at 12:00 noon today October 20, 2023
- The NEOC was to be activated from 6:00 PM.
- Emergency shelters were to be opened from 6:00 PM.
- Critical Agencies have been contacted to advance their preparations. The Ministry of Works has prepositioned critical equipment at the staging area.
- School was suspended for today, October 20, 2023.
- NODS staff and the members of the Eastern Sub-Region have been briefed on emergency plans in anticipation of any impact.
UPDATES FROM PARTICIPATING STATES

MONTSERRAT

The Disaster Management Coordination Agency (DMCA) reported

• A Hurricane Warning is in effect for Montserrat
• The Governor and other officials have been briefed.
• The NEOC will be partially activated this evening.
• Shelters have been prepared and will be opened based on need.
• The Public Works Department has been briefed and placed on standby to assist with debris clearance in the event of flooding, and lahars.
• The DMCA has updated the public and advised them to have their plans in place and be prepared to activate them at short notice.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) reported

• A Hurricane Warning is in effect.
• The Prime Minister chaired a Pre-Strike meeting at 2:00 p.m. today, 20th October to finalise preparatory activities and addressed the nation between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.
• The Nevis emergency management mechanism also held Pre-Strike meetings.
• The National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) will be activated at 9 pm.
• Schools and the public service closed at 12 pm today.
• Shelters have been identified which will be opened for vulnerable persons.
• The airport closed at 5:00 pm and ferry operations between Nevis and St Kitts closed at 6:00 p.m.
• The district volunteer mechanism has been activated and issued with their response kits today.
• Communications checks have been done with national and regional stakeholders including the Sub-Regional Focal Point
• Telecommunications providers and radio stations have assisted with disseminating public information.
• The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has placed overseas missions on stand-by.
• The private sector is on standby to assist, and commitments of support have been received from international partners.
UPDATES FROM PARTICIPATING STATES

BARBADOS

The Department of Emergency Management (DEM) reported:

• A Tropical Storm Watch remains in effect for Barbados.
• The National Emergency Management System (NEMS) was briefed by the Barbados Meteorological Services at 11:30 am and 4:00 pm today 19th October 2023.
• The agencies of the NEMS are on Alert.
• Public notices have been issued.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

The Department of Disaster Management (BVI DDM) reported

• The Governor and senior government officials were briefed at 2:30 PM today, October 20, 2023.
• The National Emergency Management Mechanism including critical facilities are on high Alert.
• Public awareness campaigns are ongoing. The public has been advised to advance their preparations and to exercise caution.
• Drainage clean-up/clearing is ongoing.

COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA

The Office of Disaster Management (ODM) reported:

• A Hurricane Watch and Tropical Storm Warning is in effect for Dominica.
• The National Emergency Planning Organisation (NEPO) has been meeting continuously to receive updates and take required actions.
• Shelters opened at 7pm on Thursday October 19, 2023.
• The public is being updated by regular press briefs and Meteorological Service notices issued on 3-hour intervals.
• The National Emergency Management System has been placed on Alert, including the District Disaster Committees.
• The Ministry of Public Works has pre-positioned equipment in preparation for any potential impacts.
List of Preparatory Actions being undertaken by the RRM Partners [as of 2:00 p.m. on 19th October 2023]

GENERAL COORDINATION

- The United Nations (UN) mechanism is standing by for deployment and to provide assistance.

- UNICEF and OCHA will convene a UN Emergency Technical Team (UNETT) meeting immediately after the CDPG meeting. UNICEF will meet internally with the immediate Response Team to ensure readiness internally.

- CARPHA will continue to monitor the situation and is on standby to support affected States and other Regional partners.

- United Kingdom Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (UK FCDO) will continue to support RRM surge teams if needed and has prepositioned relief stocks (buckets and shelter kits) in Antigua.

- UNDP Regional Bureau and Headquarters have been updated on the situation currently and will continue to monitor. Team members based in Dominica and Antigua and Barbuda will support governments if needed.

- UK Defense Attache: HMS Dauntless is on standby to provide support if required.

- The International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) will continue to monitor the system and aid in terms of transportation.

- World Food Programme (WFP) has a satellite office in Dominica which will be ready to assist as necessary if the government requires assistance.

- CARICOM Private Sector Organization (CPSO) Executive Committee has been apprised of the situation. The regional private sector stands ready to support as needed.