

# Tropical Storm Kirk

## INFORMATION NOTE No. 2

AS OF 5:00 PM (AST) ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2018

### Synopsis of Tropical Storm Kirk

**LOCATION: APPROXIMATELY 85 MILES NORTH-WEST OF BARBADOS**

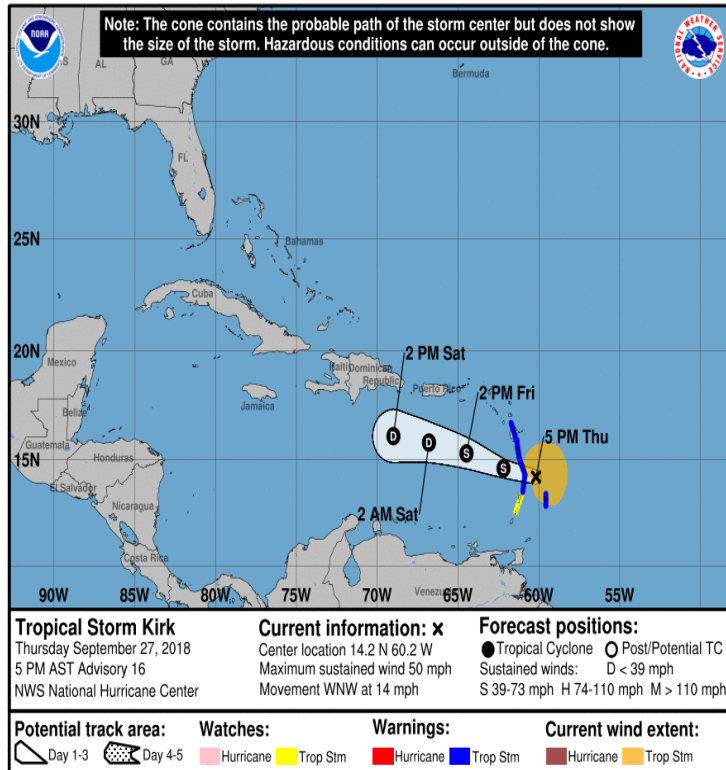
**PRESENT MOVEMENT: WNW AT 14 MPH**

**MAXIMUM SUSTAINED WINDS: 50 MPH**

**MINIMUM CENTRAL PRESSURE: 1000 MB**

**WATCHES AND WARNINGS ISSUED FOR CDEMA PARTICIPATING STATES:**

- **TROPICAL STORM WARNING: Barbados, Saint Lucia, Dominica**
- **TROPICAL STORM WATCH: St. Vincent and the Grenadines**



TS Kirk forecast track – 5:00PM Sept. 27, 2018 -NHC

### NHC Update

According to the National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami, Florida, as of 5:00 PM (AST) on September 27, 2018, the center of Tropical Storm Kirk was located near latitude 14.2 North, longitude 60.2 West.

On the forecast track, the center will move across the Lesser Antilles within the Tropical Storm Warning area this evening. Maximum sustained winds are near 50 mph (85 km/h) with higher gusts. Little change in strength is expected before Kirk moves through the Lesser Antilles. Gradual weakening is anticipated during the next couple of days, while the system moves over the eastern Caribbean Sea. Kirk is forecast to become a tropical depression Friday night, and degenerate into a trough of low pressure by Sunday.

Tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to 140 miles (220 km) primarily to the east of the center.

## **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.*

- **WEATHER:** The center of Tropical storm Kirk has become decoupled from the main area of rainfall which trails the storm in a large area of imbedded showers and thundershowers. There are also feeder bands which extend south to Trinidad with thundershowers and associated lightning. Heavy rain around the eye will persist through this afternoon into tonight over much of the Lesser Antilles with the heaviest areas of showers in the spiral bands over the southern Leeward islands.
- **FLOOD/LANDSLIDES:** Periods of intense rainfall still possible over Barbados and the Northern Windwards during the next 24 - 48 hours with the possibility of localized flash flooding, ponding in low lying areas and minor disruptions to transportation.
- **WINDS:** Winds should gradually increase to Tropical storm force over the Northern Windwards during passage possibly leading to localized tumbling of unsecured objects, flying debris and localized disruptions to the power grid. Damage to old dilapidated infrastructure is possible. Tree fall is likely to occur in some areas.
- **WAVES:** Storm surge of 2 to 4 feet above normal tide levels is possible near and to the north of center. Swells in excess of 5 m resulting in choppy seas and rough waters can be expected. Damage to water craft possible if not secured. Significant risk to small craft operators.
- **In summary:** Periods of intense rainfall should spread across the island chain as Kirk passes just North of Barbados and over the Southern Windwards this afternoon into night. Spiral bands from Kirk are expected to affect Barbados and the Northern Windwards with near storm force winds and heavy rainfall Thursday night and whilst the remainder of the island chain may get caught in trailing feeder bands resulting in periods of intense rainfall and gusty winds overnight into Friday.

## **Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) Actions**

- The Regional Coordination Plan remains activated as of 8:00AM September 26, 2018 upon the directive from the CDEMA Executive Director.
- The Regional Response Units - CDRU, CDAC, COST, RNAT and SAR members continue to be on ALERT.
- CDEMA's CU continues to liaise with the Participating States with regard to their ongoing preparations, anticipated impact, current capabilities and potential needs.
- The Regional Response Mechanism- Caribbean Development Partners Group - Disaster Management (CDPG DM), meeting will reconvene pending the impact level on Participating States
- The CDEMA CU will continue to monitor Tropical Storm Kirk and provide updates as necessary.

## Summary of National Actions Undertaken by CDEMA PS



### BARBADOS - CENTRAL SUB-REGIONAL FOCAL POINT

#### DEM

- The public continues to be advised through the national Early Warning System.
- The Hon Dale Marshall, MP QC Acting Prime Minister chaired a Pre-Strike Meeting of stakeholders from the National Emergency Management System (NEMS) at 2:00 pm on Wednesday, 26 September 2018. A Press Briefing was conducted immediately following the Pre-strike meeting.
- Activation of the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) at 5:00 am on Thursday, 27 September 2018.
- Agencies have activated their Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and have personnel and supplies prepositioned.
- All schools were closed on Thursday, 27 September 2018.
- One Category 1 shelter was opened, one family sought refuge; however, the shelter has since closed and the family has returned home.
- Community emergency supplies prepositioned.
- District Emergency Organisations (DEOs) have been placed on alert
- Public Service Announcement (PSA) issued to public stating that it is business as usual as well as advising persons to be cautious and to continue to monitor the progress of the system.
- Tropical Storm Warning still in effect.
- Press Briefings continue to be held.



### COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA

#### ODM

- The National Emergency Planning Organization (NEPO) convened two (2) meetings on Wednesday, 27 September 2018 with Ministers of Cabinet, Permanent Secretaries, Senior Public Officials and chairs of various Sub-Committees. Reports were received from various sub-committees on their state of readiness and preparatory actions for the arrival of TS Kirk.
- The ODM along with the Dominica Meteorological Service will continue to monitor the system and provide updates to the decision-makers and the general public.
- The Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) has been partially activated as of 6pm Wednesday 26 September, 2018.
- Shelters have been opened as of 6pm Wednesday 26 September, 2018.
- Announcements on the suspension of school and work have been made.
- The Ministry of Public Works has prepositioned heavy equipment.
- Media briefs were also held to keep the public informed.

## Summary of National Actions Undertaken by CDEMA PS



### SAINT LUCIA

#### NEMO

- The NEOC is partially activated.
- Media interviews continue with various media houses.
- National Emergency Communications test was completed on 26 September 2018.
- A pre-strive meeting was convened on 26 September 2018.
- Schools will remain closed on 28 September 2018.
- Continue to disseminate information to the public via the National Early Warning System.
- Advised private sector and essential services to discontinue operations by 6PM on Thursday, 27 September 2018.



### ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

#### NEMO

- All standard protocols for notification of the Prime Minister, Permanent Secretary, key agencies and Sub-Committees were completed.
- The Acting Prime Minister briefed the media on actions taken and stressed that all residents must be prepared, especially persons living in the most northern communities and those living near rivers and streams and coastal areas
- NEOC partially activated
- All schools were closed on Thursday, 27 September 2018.
- Will reassess the school closure on Thursday evening after update from the Meteorological Services
- Television and radio interviews by the Director of NEMO
- Continue to update to the public on the progress of TS Kirk with regular releases

## List preparatory actions being undertaken by the RRM Partners [as of 5:00PM (AST) September 27, 2018]

### GENERAL COORDINATION

#### IsraAID

- 4 international staff, 9 national staff currently in Dominica and ready to mobilise for rapid assessment

#### UNICEF

- Pre-impact data on the status of all the water points compiled and shared with partners in Dominica.
- UNICEF and WFP are ready to support Rapid Assessment if the need arises in Dominica.
- Latest baseline data for population estimates (including children and other population sub-groups) for Barbados, Dominica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines being readied to ensure consistency of data used for response.
- In Dominica, UNICEF's main preparedness assets include 260 trained community mobilizers and teachers that can easily start up psychosocial support interventions in affected areas. UNICEF is in contact with Social Welfare/Social Protection counterparts in the potentially affected locations, and is reviewing the current country-specific cash-based initiatives for a potential scale-up for emergency response.
- Personnel on standby to provide support if required.



### EDUCATION

#### IsraAID

- DRR and PSS trained teachers and principals at the 73 schools in Dominica ready to mobilise with the Ministry of Education

#### UNICEF

- Pre-positioned supplies in Antigua, Barbados and Trinidad, including the following quantities in each location: Tents 72m<sup>2</sup> (10); Recreation kits (35); Early Childhood Development kits (34); school-in-a-box for 40 students each (50).

## List preparatory actions being undertaken by the RRM Partners [as of 5:00PM (AST) September 27, 2018]



### HEALTH & SANITATION

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#### UNFPA

- National counterparts are on standby to assess and respond to gender-based violence and the sexual and reproductive health needs of the population
- Emergency supplies (1,264 hygiene kits) are prepositioned in Barbados for immediate response to affected countries. Additional supplies are on standby at regional and HQ levels.
- Surge deployment team is being organized for rapid assistance to countries.



### COMMUNICATIONS

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#### UNICEF:

- Pre-emergency messages on child protection, WASH, health and education broadcast via radio and tv stations in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.



### WATER SANITATION HYGIENE

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#### UNICEF:

- Coordinating with WASH partners on ground in Dominica. Pre-impact data on the status of all the water points compiled and shared with partners in Dominica.
- Made available funds for DOWASCO, which can be used for immediate response.
- Pre-positioned supplies in Antigua, Barbados and Trinidad, including 250 Family Hygiene and Dignity Kits in each location.