

Tropical Storm Ernesto

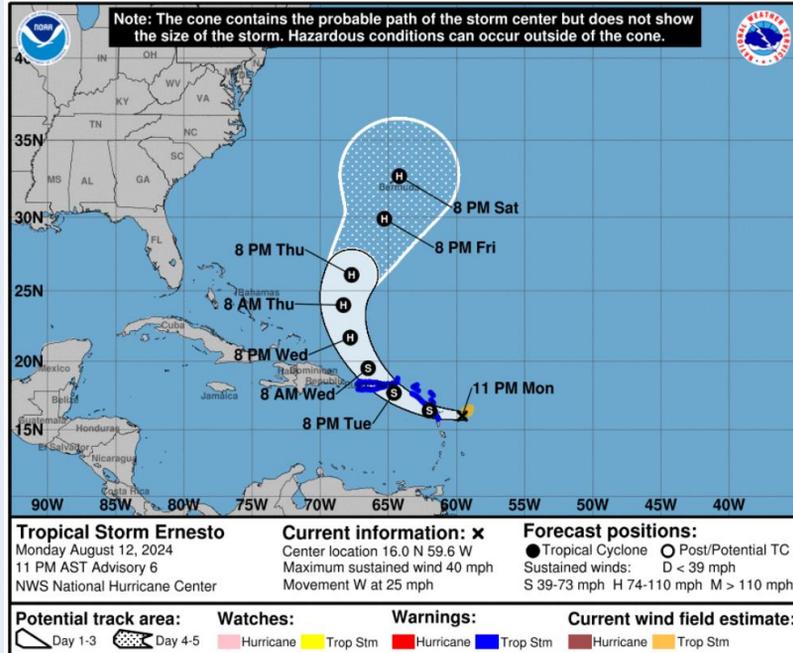
INFORMATION NOTE No. 1

AS OF 11:00 PM (AST) ON 12th AUGUST 2024

Tropical Storm Ernesto Threatens CDEMA Participating States

According to the National Hurricane Centre (NHC), **Tropical Storm Ernesto** is expected to bring tropical storm conditions to portions of the Leeward Islands late tonight and Tuesday and to the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico by late Tuesday.

Tropical Storm Watches are in effect for Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, St Kitts and Nevis, and Sint Maarten.



(Source: [National Hurricane Centre](#))

The National Hurricane Center issued advisories on newly formed Tropical Storm Ernesto, Recently upgraded Tropical Storm Ernesto is centered near 16.0N 57.5W at 12/2100 UTC or 260 nm ESE of Antigua, moving WNW at 24kt. Estimated minimum central pressure is 1009 mb. Maximum sustained wind speed is 35 kt with gusts to 45 kt, with maximum seas near 13 ft. A fast west-northwestward motion is expected to continue, taking the storm across the northern Leeward Islands overnight and near or over the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico Tuesday afternoon or Tuesday night. After that time, a significant slowdown and a turn to the north over the Atlantic is expected.

Weather Update from the Caribbean Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) at 1:00 PM, 12th August 2024.

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 disturbance was about 15 degrees north, 55 degree point 6 degrees west, approximately 435 miles, or 700 kilometers east, southeast of Antigua, and about 730 miles, 1,175 kilometers east, southeast of San Juan Puerto Rico. It was projected to expected to move across the Leeward Islands late tonight into Tuesday and approach the US and British Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico by Tuesday afternoon. It is forecast to move towards Puerto Rico, over the Western Atlantic, through the midweek.

Rainfall: The accumulated rainfall expected is about 4 to 6 inches over portions of the Leewards and Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico, 6 to 3 to 6 inches of rainfall is expected with maximum of 10 inches.

Winds: Maximum sustained winds increased to near 35 miles per hour, with higher gusts.

Marine: Storm surge is expected to cause rising water levels of as much as one to 3 feet above ground level on the eastern coast of Puerto Rico, and possibly within the Leeward islands. Storm surge will raise water levels as much above normal tide over the U.S Virgin islands and coasts, accompanied by large waves swell, generated by the system, would likely affect portions of the leeward, beginning tonight with swells, causing some life, threatening surf and conditions as it progresses through the islands.

Updates from the CDEMA Participating States



ANGUILLA

- ✓ The National Disaster Management Committee met at 9:00 am and 2:00 pm August 12th to ascertain the island's readiness for Potential Tropical Cyclone 5 (now Tropical Storm Ernesto)
- ✓ Government workers were asked to secure their offices at the end of the workday on August 12th, 2024 and no government offices will be opened August 13th
- ✓ Shelters have not been opened.
- ✓ The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has not been activated.

Updates from the CDEMA Participating States



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

- ✓ There has been ongoing dialogue is taking place between the National Disaster Coordinator and key stakeholders such as the Cabinet Secretary and Director for Meteorological Services.
- ✓ Emergency volunteers have been placed on alert and is monitoring the system
- ✓ Agencies conducting maintenance work have been advised to ensure that drainages be cleaned in order to minimize or prevent flooding.
- ✓ Utilities company has been working on pruning trees adjacent to powerlines.
- ✓ A briefing took place with the National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) which will be going into monitoring mode, with a skeletal staff of the Secretariat, as well as a number of officers from fire and police just to monitor the system as it passes.
- ✓ A briefing was also held with the National Emergency Operations Agencies and teams have been placed on standby, including the shelter management team
- ✓ At least one shelter will be opened to service a flood-proned area.



BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

- ✓ The Governor hosted a meeting with National Emergency Operations Center group to determine the state of readiness amongst key agencies.
- ✓ School crews have secured schools and ongoing summer programmes have been alerted as to the potential impact of the system and placed on hold pending the passing of TS Ernesto
- ✓ The health sector indicated that there are clinics in flood prone areas and preparations are being made in the event that these clinics need to be closed and alternate locations utilised.
- ✓ The National Disaster Management Office has been in contact with relevant personnel in the smaller outlying islands to ensure that preparations are ongoing, and communications, satellite EOCs and satellite warehouses are adequately functioning.
- ✓ The Ministry of finance has indicated that efforts have been made to secure funding in the event of severe flooding.
- ✓ Several ferry voyages have been postponed and operators have been securing vessels.
- ✓ No shelters have been opened.

Updates from the CDEMA Participating States



MONTSERRAT

- ✓ The National Disaster Coordinator (NDC) briefed the Governor and the Premier on the approaching system.
- ✓ The NDC participated in a radio interview to inform the public of the system and preparatory actions to be taken.
- ✓ Shelters have not been opened, however if there are requests for shelters, the NDMO staff is prepared to open one or two as needed.
- ✓ Efforts have been ongoing by the Ministry of Works to keep the drains and waterways, as well as the overhanging trees on the verges of roads clear.
- ✓ The Ministry of Works is prepared to pre-position equipment in flood-prone areas to quickly respond if there is a need.

Status of Preparedness of the CDEMA System

The Regional Coordination Plan and Regional Coordination Centre remain active following response to Hurricane Beryl. In response to Tropical Storm Ernesto, the CDEMA CU:

- ✓ Convened the 1st Caribbean Development Partners Group (CDPG) meeting on 12 August 2024
- ✓ The Regional Security Chiefs were also alerted

Response Teams:

- ✓ The CARICOM Operational Support Team have been placed on alert
- ✓ The CARICOM Disaster Relief Unit remains on the ground providing support to Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines

RRM PARTNER UPDATES

IFRC

- ✓ They continue to connect coordination with our local Red Cross agencies on the ground.
- ✓ A cache of sock is available in St. Kitts and Nevis and in Antigua and Barbuda that could be used should the need arise.
- ✓ A meeting was slated from 5:00pm on August 12th to further gauge what preparations were needed.

RRM PARTNER UPDATES

PAHO/WHO

- ✓ They have been in contact with ministries of health and key focal points in the countries
- ✓ The power country offices in the Caribbean are all in alert and monitoring the system; they have staff based in Dominica and in Antigua and Barbuda.
- ✓ The EOC is still activated and will continue monitoring the system
- ✓ Stock in Barbados and Panama is being assessed as they remain in response and recovery mode following Hurricane Beryl
- ✓ Members of the regional response team have been informed and updated

UNICEF

EDUCATION

- ✓ Education sector in preparation mode
- ✓ Preparedness messages for children sent to Ministry of Education and Health in all countries this morning
- ✓ Supplies (Tents, Tarpaulin, ECD and Recreational kits) pre-positioned in Barbados

WASH

- ✓ WASH specialists available to deploy if needed.
- ✓ WASH supplies (hygiene kits, collapsible water containers) pre-positioned in Barbados

PROTECTION

- ✓ Simulation tied to SRSP conducted in Anguilla early June
- ✓ Supplies (Tents and Tarpaulins) pre-positioned in Barbados

PERSONNEL

- ✓ Regional office informed and monitoring
- ✓ In contact with our national coordinator based in Antigua and Barbuda

UN OCHA

- ✓ The team continues to support the UN
- ✓ The Emergency Technical Team is on standby to support the countries when needed.
- ✓ Contact has been made with the coordinator officers both in St. Kitts and Nevis and Antigua and Barbuda