



METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE

Branch of the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation

Telephone: 876-924-8055/924-8404

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***** HURRICANE WARNING STILL IN EFFECT FOR JAMAICA AS STRONG CATEGORY 5 HURRICANE BERYL CONTINUES MOVING QUICKLY TO THE CENTRAL CARIBBEAN*****

A **Hurricane Warning** remains in effect for Jamaica as Hurricane Beryl continues on a track towards the island. This means that the following dangerous effects of a hurricane are expected to affect Jamaica in 36 hours or less:

- Dangerously high water or a combination of dangerously high water and exceptionally high waves, even though winds expected may be less than hurricane force, and
- Average winds of at least 119 km/h (74 mph).

At 4:00 a.m. the eye of Hurricane Beryl was located near latitude 14.6 degrees North, longitude 66.9 degrees West. This is about 595 km (370 miles) southeast of Isla Beata, Dominican Republic, or 1,120 km (695 miles) east-southeast of Kingston, Jamaica.

Beryl is moving toward the west-northwest near 35 km/h (22 mph) and is forecast to continue moving rapidly west-northwestward during the next couple of days and turn westward by Thursday.

Maximum sustained winds have increased to near 270 km/h (165 mph), with higher gusts. Beryl is a Category 5 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale. Weakening should begin later today, but Beryl is still expected to be near major hurricane intensity as it moves into the central Caribbean and passes near Jamaica on Wednesday and the Cayman Islands on Thursday. Additional weakening is expected thereafter, although Beryl is forecast to remain a hurricane in the northwestern Caribbean.

Hurricane-force winds extend outward up to 65 km (40 miles) from the centre and tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to 205 km (125 miles).

All small craft operators, including fishers from the cays and banks, should by now have completed all the necessary safety precautions and are advised to remain in safe harbour until all warning messages have been lifted and wind and sea conditions have returned to normal.

Based on the current official forecast track, the eye of Hurricane Beryl is expected to be south of Hispaniola on Tuesday afternoon and evening before it moves just southeast of Jamaica on Wednesday morning and then follows a path adjacent to the coastline throughout the rest of the day. As the centre of Beryl moves closer to the island, expect heavy rainfall to begin affecting the island early on Wednesday. This would later be accompanied by possible hurricane force winds across the island, and dangerous storm surges, and battering waves along coastal areas of mainly southern parishes.

The Meteorological Service continues to monitor the progress of Hurricane Beryl and all interests are encouraged to pay special attention to further Releases.

The next Bulletin on this system will be issued at 8:00 a.m. tomorrow.

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