



METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE

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***** HURRICANE WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT FOR JAMAICA... AS DANGEROUS CATEGORY 4 HURRICANE MOVES TOWARDS THE ISLAND**

A Hurricane Warning remains in effect for Jamaica as Hurricane Beryl continues to race towards the island. The following dangerous effects of a hurricane are expected to reach Jamaica by tomorrow:

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

At 10:00 p.m. the eye of Hurricane Beryl was located near latitude 16.2 degrees North, longitude 72.7 degrees West. This is about 420 km (261 miles) east-southeast of Morant Point, or 480 km (300 miles) east-southeast of Kingston, Jamaica.

Beryl is moving toward the west-northwest near 35 km/h (22 mph) and this general motion should continue through Wednesday, followed by a turn more toward the west on Wednesday night or Thursday.

Maximum sustained winds have decreased to near 240 km/h (150 mph), with higher gusts, making Beryl a Category 4 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale. Weakening is forecast during the next day or two; however, Beryl is forecast to be at or near major hurricane intensity when it reaches near Jamaica on Wednesday and the Cayman Islands on Wednesday night.

Hurricane-force winds extend outward up to 65 km (40 miles) from the centre and tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to 295 km (185 miles).

The eye of Hurricane Beryl is expected to be south of Haiti tonight before it approaches the southeastern coast of Jamaica on Wednesday morning. On this forecast track, the centre of the hurricane is expected to move very near or over the island's southern coastline during Wednesday afternoon.

Rainfall from the outer bands of Beryl will, however, start affecting Jamaica very early on Wednesday morning, beginning with sections of eastern and north-central parishes. These will gradually spread across the island as the centre moves closer to the coast, and totals of 100-200 millimetres (4-8 inches) are forecast over the period.

Strong winds are also expected to gradually increase to hurricane force across the island during the morning.

Dangerous storm surges raising water levels by as much as 2-3 metres (6-9 feet) and battering waves, will also be generated on Wednesday, starting along coastal areas of eastern and north central 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 5:00 a.m. tomorrow.

END