

**TROPICAL STORM MARIA - INFORMATION NOTE # 1  
AS OF 6:00PM (EDT) ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2017**

**MESSAGE:** Tropical Storm Maria forms over in the Atlantic. Hurricane Watches issued for Antigua, Barbuda, St. Kitts, Nevis and Montserrat. Tropical Storm Warnings issued for Saint Lucia, Dominica, Barbados and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

**THE SITUATION:**

Tropical Storm Maria, the eleventh (11<sup>th</sup>) named storm of the 2017 Tropical Atlantic Hurricane Season, has formed in the central Atlantic Ocean. According to the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida, as at 5:00 pm (AST), Saturday September 16, 2017, Tropical Storm (TS) Maria was located 12.3N and 52.6W, about 620 miles ESE of the Lesser Antilles. TS Maria has maximum sustained winds of 50 mph with a minimum central pressure of 1002 mb. Environmental conditions appear generally conducive for further development while it moves towards the west near 20 mph. Some strengthening is forecast during the next 48 hours and Maria is forecast to be a hurricane when it approaches the Leeward Islands early next week.



Tropical Storm Maria forecast track, September 16, 2017 - NHC

A **Hurricane Watch** is in effect for:

- Antigua, Barbuda, St. Kitts, Nevis and Montserrat

A **Tropical Storm Warning** is in effect for:

- Saint Lucia, Dominica, Barbados, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines

**Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) Weather Update**

The Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) provided a briefing for Regional Response Mechanism partners today at 1:00PM. CIMH models suggest that the system will produce rainfall maximums of 400mm in the area of Dominica and Guadeloupe and wave heights of 5-6m in these areas. CIMH continues to monitor the progress of TS Maria and will provide further updates on the progress of Maria.

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

The CDEMA CU urges all members of the Regional Response Mechanism, and the public to monitor the progress of this system.

The CDEMA CU will continue to monitor the progress of TS Maria and provide updates as necessary.

**CONTACT DETAILS: The CDEMA CU 24-hour contact number 1(246) 434-4880**

**Participating States:**

Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, Virgin Islands



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### The public is advised to...

- Monitor radio or television and other **official sources of information** for progress reports
- Update your personal family preparedness plan and action items according to that plan
- The website [www.weready.org](http://www.weready.org) provides additional information

### Tropical Storm and Hurricane Safety tips

Hurricanes can be dangerous, listening to the hurricane warning messages and planning ahead can reduce the chances of injury or major property damage. Here are a few steps to help you be prepared this hurricane season:

- ✓ *Know your Emergency Shelters:* Contact the National Disaster Office for the closest shelters. Have evacuation routes planned to the emergency shelters near you.
- ✓ *Have a Hurricane Survival Kit*
- ✓ *Protect your windows:* Permanent shutters are the best protection. A lower-cost approach is to put up plywood panels. Use 1/2 inch plywood--marine plywood is best--cut to fit each window. Remember to label each panel according to its respective window. Pre-drill holes every 18 inches for screws. Do this long before the storm.
- ✓ *Trim back branches from trees:* Trim branches away from your home and cut all dead or weak branches on any trees on your property.
- ✓ *Check into your Home and Auto Insurance:* Confirm that policies are valid and coverage is appropriate.
- ✓ *Make arrangements for pets and livestock:* Pets may not be allowed into emergency shelters for health and space reasons. Contact your local humane society for information on animal shelters.
- ✓ *Develop an emergency communication plan:* Make sure that all family members know what to do. Teach family members how and when to turn off gas, electricity, and water. Teach children how and when to call police or fire department and which radio station to tune to for emergency information. In case family members are separated from one another during a disaster (a real possibility during the day when adults are at work and children are at school), have a plan for getting back together

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## Hurricane Watches and Warnings

A **Hurricane Watch** is issued when there is a threat of hurricane conditions within 24-36 hours.

A **Hurricane Warning** is issued when hurricane conditions (winds of 74 miles per hour or greater or dangerously high water and rough seas) are expected in 24 hours or less.

### During a Hurricane Watch

- Listen to the radio or television for hurricane progress reports.
- Check emergency supplies.
- Fuel car.
- Get cash (in case ATMs stop working after the hurricane)
- Bring in outdoor objects such as lawn furniture, toys, and garden tools and anchor objects that cannot be brought inside.
- Secure buildings by closing and boarding up windows.
- Remove outside antennas and satellite dishes.
- Turn refrigerator and freezer to coldest settings. Open only when absolutely necessary and close quickly.
- Store drinking water in clean jugs, bottles, and cooking utensils.
- Bring pets safely inside with adequate food and water.
- Charge cell phone
- Check your Hurricane Survival Kit to ensure it contains all that you will need.

### During a Hurricane Warning

- Listen constantly to a radio or television for official instructions.
- Store valuables and personal papers in a waterproof container on the highest level of your home.
- Stay inside, away from windows, skylights, and glass doors.
- Keep a supply of flashlights and extra batteries handy. Avoid open flames, such as candles and kerosene lamps, as a source of light.
- If power is lost, turn off major appliances to reduce power "surge" when electricity is restored.
- Put your refrigerator on the coldest setting and keep its doors closed. Turn off utilities if instructed to do so.
- Keep phone lines clear except for serious emergencies
- If you need to evacuate your home, lock up home and go to the nearest shelter.
- Take blankets and sleeping bags to shelter.

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