



NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

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Hurricane Maria Public Advisory

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WTNT35 KNHC 180835
TCPAT5

BULLETIN

Hurricane Maria Advisory Number 8
NWS National Hurricane Center Miami FL AL152017
500 AM AST Mon Sep 18 2017

...MARIA HEADED FOR THE LEEWARD ISLANDS...
...EXPECTED TO BECOME A MAJOR HURRICANE BY TONIGHT OR EARLY
TUESDAY...

SUMMARY OF 500 AM AST...0900 UTC...INFORMATION

LOCATION...14.6N 59.5W
ABOUT 100 MI...160 KM E OF MARTINIQUE
ABOUT 130 MI...215 KM ESE OF DOMINICA
MAXIMUM SUSTAINED WINDS...90 MPH...150 KM/H
PRESENT MOVEMENT...WNW OR 290 DEGREES AT 13 MPH...20 KM/H
MINIMUM CENTRAL PRESSURE...977 MB...28.85 INCHES

WATCHES AND WARNINGS

CHANGES WITH THIS ADVISORY:

A Hurricane Watch has been issued for Puerto Rico, Vieques, and Culebra.

SUMMARY OF WATCHES AND WARNINGS IN EFFECT:

A Hurricane Warning is in effect for...

- * Guadeloupe
- * Dominica
- * St. Kitts, Nevis, and Montserrat
- * Martinique

A Tropical Storm Warning is in effect for...

- * Antigua and Barbuda
- * Saba and St. Eustatius
- * St. Lucia

A Hurricane Watch is in effect for...

- * Puerto Rico, Vieques, and Culebra
- * U.S. Virgin Islands
- * British Virgin Islands
- * Saba and St. Eustatius
- * St. Maarten
- * St. Martin and St. Barthelemy
- * Anguilla

A Tropical Storm Watch is in effect for...

- * Barbados
- * St. Vincent and the Grenadines

A Hurricane Warning means that hurricane conditions are expected somewhere within the warning area. Preparations to protect life and property should be rushed to completion.

A Tropical Storm Warning means that tropical storm conditions are expected somewhere within the warning area.

A Hurricane Watch means that hurricane conditions are possible within the watch area. A watch is typically issued 48 hours before the anticipated first occurrence of tropical-storm-force winds, conditions that make outside preparations difficult or dangerous.

A Tropical Storm Watch means that tropical storm conditions are possible within the watch area, generally within 48 hours.

Interests elsewhere in the Lesser Antilles and the Dominican Republic should monitor the progress of this system.

For storm information specific to your area in the United States, including possible inland watches and warnings, please monitor products issued by your local National Weather Service forecast office. For storm information specific to your area outside the United States, please monitor products issued by your national meteorological service.

DISCUSSION AND 48-HOUR OUTLOOK

At 500 AM AST (0900 UTC), the center of Hurricane Maria was located near latitude 14.6 North, longitude 59.5 West. Maria is moving toward the west-northwest near 13 mph (20 km/h), and this motion with a decrease in forward speed is expected through Tuesday night. On the forecast track, the center of Maria will move across the Leeward Islands late today and tonight and then over the extreme northeastern Caribbean Sea Tuesday and Tuesday night.

Maximum sustained winds are near 90 mph (150 km/h) with higher gusts. Significant strengthening is forecast during the next 48 hours, and Maria is expected to become a dangerous major hurricane before it moves through the Leeward Islands.

Hurricane-force winds extend outward up to 15 miles (30 km) from the center and tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to 105 miles (165 km).

The estimated minimum central pressure is 977 mb (28.85 inches).

HAZARDS AFFECTING LAND

WIND: Hurricane conditions are first expected within portions of the Leeward Islands by late today, with tropical storm conditions beginning during the day today. Hurricane conditions are possible within the hurricane watch area by Tuesday, with tropical storm conditions possible tonight. Tropical storm conditions are possible in the tropical storm watch area through tonight.

STORM SURGE: A dangerous storm surge accompanied by large and destructive waves will raise water levels by as much as 5 to 7 feet above normal tide levels near where the center of Maria moves across the Leeward Islands.

RAINFALL: Maria is expected to produce total rain accumulations of 6 to 12 inches with isolated maximum amounts of 20 inches across the central and southern Leeward Islands, including Puerto Rico and the U.S. and British Virgin Islands, through Wednesday night. Maria is also expected to produce total rain accumulations of 2 to 4 inches with isolated maximum amounts of 8 inches over the remaining northern Leeward Islands from Barbuda to Anguilla, as well as the Windward Islands and Barbados. Rainfall on all of these islands could cause life-threatening flash floods and mudslides.

SURF: Swells generated by Maria are affecting the Lesser Antilles. These swells are likely to cause life-threatening surf and rip current conditions. Please consult products from your local weather office.

NEXT ADVISORY

Next intermediate advisory at 800 AM AST.

Next complete advisory at 1100 AM AST.

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Forecaster Pasch

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TROPICAL CYCLONE FORECASTS

[Tropical Cyclone Advisories](#)
[Tropical Weather Outlook](#)
[Audio/Podcasts](#)
[About Advisories](#)

MARINE FORECASTS

[Offshore Waters Forecasts](#)
[Gridded Forecasts](#)
[Graphicast](#)
[About Marine](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA

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 [NHC Blog: "Inside the Eye"](#)

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

[Preparedness Guide \(PDF\)](#)
[Hurricane Hazards](#)
[Watches and Warnings](#)
[Marine Safety](#)
[Ready.gov Hurricanes](#)
[Weather-Ready Nation](#)
[Emergency Management Offices](#)

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

[NOAA Hurricane Research Division](#)
[Joint Hurricane Testbed](#)
[Hurricane Forecast Improvement Program](#)

OTHER RESOURCES

[Q & A with NHC](#)
[NHC/AOML Library Branch](#)
[NOAA: Hurricane FAQs](#)
[National Hurricane Operations Plan](#)
[WX4NHC Amateur Radio](#)

NWS FORECAST OFFICES

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[Ocean Prediction Center](#)
[Local Forecast Offices](#)
[Central Pacific Hurricane Center](#)

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[Canadian Hurricane Centre](#)
[Joint Typhoon Warning Center](#)
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