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# Information Bulletin

## Americas: Tropical Depression Isaac and Hurricane Florence

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>Information Bulletin N° 3</b>	<b>Date of issue:</b> 14 September 2018
<b>Date of disaster:</b> Ongoing since 6 September 2018	<b>Point of contact:</b> <b>Raphael Hamoir:</b> <a href="mailto:raphael.hamoir@croix-rouge.fr">raphael.hamoir@croix-rouge.fr</a> ; <a href="mailto:PIRAC.Americas@ifrc.org">PIRAC.Americas@ifrc.org</a> <b>Cell Phone:</b> +590 690 74 12 72
<b>N° of National Societies currently involved in the operation (if available and relevant):</b> Red Cross <b>Movement actors currently involved in the operation:</b> The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the French Red Cross-PIRAC (Regional Intervention Platform for the Americas and the Caribbean), Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross, British Red Cross overseas branches, Dominica Red Cross Society, Netherlands Red Cross overseas branches, Saint Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society; American Red Cross	
<b>N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation (if available and relevant):</b> Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and the United Nations system (United Nations Population Fund [UNFPA], United Nations Development Programme [UNDP], United Nations Office for Humanitarian Affairs [UNOCHA], Pan American Health Organization [PAHO]), Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPM) in Trinidad and Tobago, Samaritan's Purse, the International Organization of Migration (IOM), Office of Disaster Management (ODM) in Dominica	

*This bulletin is being issued for information only; it reflects the current situation and details available at this time.*

## The situation

### Hurricane Florence

According to the United States of America's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s National Hurricane Centre (NHC), **Hurricane Florence arrived on the east coast of the United States of America as a Category 1 storm early on 14 September**, delivering heavy rain, strong gusts and "catastrophic" flash flooding, according to the National Hurricane Center. The centre of the storm arrived about 7:15 a.m. EDT near Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina, close to the South Carolina border. **Florence made landfall with winds of 90 mph and slowed a bit in its movement as its outward winds lashed North and South Carolina.**

In its 2 p.m. EDT advisory on 14 September, the NHC said Florence was moving slowly inland over the southern part of North Carolina. The eye of the storm was about 35 miles west-southwest of Wilmington, North Carolina, and 35 miles east-northeast of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. It was moving west at 5 mph and had maximum sustained winds of 75 mph. News reports indicate that at least four people died in North Carolina due to Hurricane Florence.

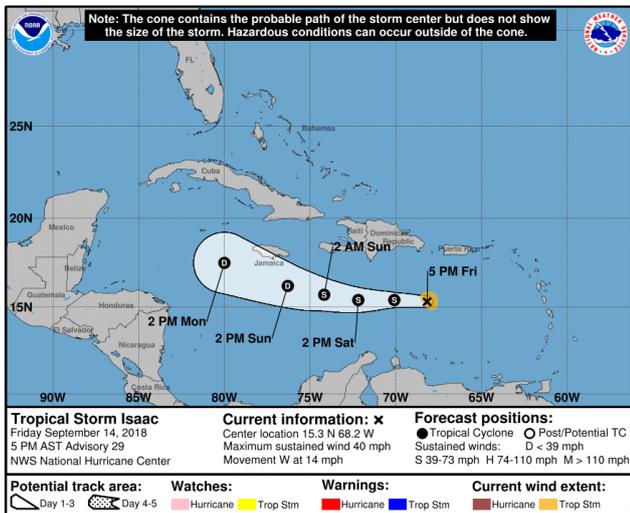


**Predicted trajectory of Hurricane Florence as of 2 PM AST, 14 September 2018. Source: NOAA**

Although wind speed has reduced over the past two days, the slow speed of the hurricane's travel indicates catastrophic flooding is the primary threat for the coast. Life-threatening, catastrophic flash flooding and prolonged significant river flooding are likely over portions of the Carolinas and the southern and central

Appalachians through early next week, as Florence is expected to slow down while it moves inland. The NHC on 14 September noted rain totals for several locations in the storm zone. Oriental, North Carolina, has seen nearly 19 inches, Surf City 14 and WFO Morehead City 14 inches and Jacksonville 13 inches.

Tropical Depression Isaac



According to the National Hurricane Centre, Tropical Storm Isaac **has weakened to a tropical depression and is passing over the Caribbean.**

At 5 a.m. EDT on 14 September, the center of the storm was located 190 miles south of St. Croix and 440 miles southeast of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Isaac was moving west at 15 mph with maximum sustained winds of 35 mph. Local governments canceled all warnings and watches associated with Isaac, which had been a hurricane for a few days this week.

Forecasters said Isaac will diminish in the next several days and could bring 2 to 5 inches of rain and flash flooding to the Windward Islands, Leeward Islands and eastern Puerto Rico. The tropical depression is heading west toward Central America.

Predicted trajectory of Tropical Depression Isaac as of 5 PM AST, 14 September 2018. Source: NOAA

According to the NHC’s Advisories for Isaac and Florence as of 2 PM AST, 14 September 2018:

**HURRICANE FLORENCE**

On 14 September in the early hours, forecasters said water levels were 7 feet above normal and expected to rise.

<b>Storm Surge Warning</b>	A storm surge warning was in effect from South Santee River, S.C., north to Duck, N.C., and for Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds. A storm surge watch, tropical warning and hurricane watch covered Edisto Beach, S.C., to South Santee River.
<b>Hurricane Warning</b>	A hurricane warning was in effect from South Santee River north to Bogue Inlet, N.C., and Pamlico Sound. A tropical storm warning was in effect for Bogue Inlet to Duck, and Albemarle Sound.

Authorities are recommending that eastern and mid-Atlantic states should monitor the movement of Florence.

**TROPICAL DEPRESSION ISAAC**

Forecasters said Isaac will dissipate within 3 days and could bring 2 to 5 inches of rain and flash flooding to the Windward Islands, Leeward Islands and eastern Puerto Rico. It's heading west toward Central America.

<b>Floods Warning</b>	* Dominica
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## Red Cross and Red Crescent Actions

**HURRICANE FLORENCE****United States of America****American Red Cross (AmCross) actions**

- As Hurricane Florence comes ashore, the AmCross is providing safe shelter and comfort for evacuees across six states: South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, Tennessee and Maryland.
- More than 20,000 people sought refuge in over 200 AmCross and community shelters on the night of 13 September to escape the storm's wrath. As of the evening of 13 September, 14,000 people were in 124 shelters in North Carolina, and 5,600 people in 59 shelters in South Carolina. An additional 430 people stayed in 23 shelters in Virginia, Georgia, Tennessee and Maryland.
- Working with partners, the AmCross has served 47,000 meals and snacks in North Carolina and South Carolina.
- About 2,000 AmCross disaster workers from all over the country have been mobilized to help shelter, feed and support people affected by Hurricane Florence.
- AmCross is mobilizing nearly 100 emergency response vehicles and more than 120 trailers of equipment and supplies, including 100,000 ready-to-eat meals and enough cots and blankets for more than 42,000 people.
- Since 11 September, more than 2.5 million weather alerts have been sent through American Red Cross apps to help people make lifesaving decisions.
- Through a longstanding partnership, American Red Cross is currently mobilizing approximately 35 disaster specialists from Canadian Red Cross to work in staffing, sheltering, operations management, and logistics.

**TROPICAL DEPRESSION ISAAC****National Societies situation report****Antigua and Barbuda****Antigua and Barbuda Red Cross Society (ABRCS) situation report**

- No damages reported in Antigua & Barbuda

**British Overseas Territories****British Red Cross (BRC) situation report**

- Anguilla: No damage reported
- Montserrat: No damage reported



## Dominica

### Dominica Red Cross Society (DRCS) situation report

- No serious damage except some structural damage to Grand Bay Bridge.
- No reports of significant damage reported by DRCS branches.
- 19 shelters were opened with 200 people housed in preparation of possible landfall of TC Isaac.
- Rains and streams full, but not overrun. Rain continues. Flood watch continues.
- Airports reopened.
- Curfew has ended on 13 September at 9 pm.
- Water system functioning. Electric grid never stopped working.
- Government institutions opened (students return to school on 17 September).
- Dominica Red Cross Society fully staffed.
- Interagency coordination review meeting to be held today, hosted by the UNDP, including: IOM, UNICEF, PAHO, Samaritans Purse, Caritas, Hands and Hearts and Israaid.



## Dutch Overseas Territories

### Netherlands Red Cross (NRC) situation report

- Sint Maarten, Saba, Statia: No damage reported by these branches.



## French Overseas Territories

### French Red Cross (FRC) situation report

- Saint Martin, Saint Barthelemy, Guadeloupe, Martinique: No damage reported by these branches.
- Guadeloupe: Minor flood event



## Saint Kitts and Nevis

### Saint Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society (SKNRCS) situation report

- No damage reported



## Jamaica

### Jamaica Red Cross (JRC) situation report

- No damage reported



## IFRC

### IFRC actions and situation report

- The IFRC's Regional Office for the Americas (ARO) lifted institutional alert level II lifted for Isaac<sup>1</sup> and declared institutional alert level II for Florence.
- ARO deactivated its regional emergency operations centre on the afternoon of 14 September.
- The ARO is in constant coordination with the American Red Cross.
- Continued contact with the IFRC's Caribbean Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) and operational teams in Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia
- Issued [information Bulletin no. 1](#) and Information Bulletin no. 2 about the Hurricane Isaac and Florence
- Developed a [Dashboard](#) for monitoring purposes

## Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

**In the Caribbean:**

- Caribbean Country Cluster Office; email: [TrinidadOffice.Americas@ifrc.org](mailto:TrinidadOffice.Americas@ifrc.org)

**IFRC Regional Representation in the Caribbean:**

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## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

<sup>1</sup> Alert 2. Is issued when an event or crisis occurs and there is a need to take specific and predetermined protection measures and ensure that appropriate monitoring of the event is conducted due to its development, behaviour and characteristics and the possibility of the event causing adverse effects. (For more information, please refer to the IFRC's Americas Region Emergency Standard Operating Procedures).