

# Information Bulletin

## Caribbean: Tropical Storm Bret

<b>Information Bulletin N° 1</b>	<b>Date of issue:</b> 19 June 2017
<b>Date of disaster:</b> 19 June 2017	<b>Point of contact:</b> Felipe Del Cid, Disaster and Crisis Department Operations Coordinator, email: <a href="mailto:felipe.delcid@ifrc.org">felipe.delcid@ifrc.org</a>
<b>N° of National Societies 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)	
<b>N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation:</b> Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)	

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

## The Situation

According to the United States' National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Hurricane Centre, Tropical Storm Bret's centre was near latitude 9.4 North, longitude 59.8 West at 500 PM Atlantic Standard Time (AST) (2100 Coordinated Universal Time [UTC]), per an Air Force Hurricane Hunter aircraft. Bret is moving toward the west-northwest at around 30 mph (48 km/h), and it is expected to continue at a slightly slower speed over the next 48 hours. On the forecast track, the tropical storm is expected to move near or over Trinidad and the eastern coast of Venezuela tonight and early Tuesday. Maximum sustained winds are approximately 40 mph (65 km/h), with higher gusts. Little change in strength is forecast over the next 48 hours. Tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to 80 miles (130 km) from the centre, and they are mainly north of the centre. The estimated minimum central pressure is 1007 mb (29.74 inches).



**Location of Tropical Storm Bret and Potential Tropical Cyclone 3 in the Gulf of Mexico. Source: NOAA**

### SUMMARY OF WATCHES AND WARNINGS IN EFFECT

- The government of St. Vincent and the Grenadine Islands has discontinued the Tropical Storm Warning for that country.

A Tropical Storm Warning<sup>1</sup> is in effect for:

<sup>1</sup> Tropical Storm Warning means that tropical storm conditions are expected somewhere within the warning area, within 24 hours in this case.

- Trinidad & Tobago
- Grenada
- Venezuela from Pedernales to Cumana including Isla de Margarita

A Tropical Storm Watch<sup>2</sup> is in effect for:

- Bonaire
- Aruba
- Curacao

#### **Additional points of interest:**

1. Trinidad and Tobago is not usually affected by tropical storms.
2. The system is not only developing at an unusually low latitude, but it also located at an unusually far east longitude; only two previous tropical storms in recorded history have developed this far east before July (in the region of the deep tropics between the Lesser Antilles and Africa): One formed on 24 June 1933, and the other on 19 June 1979. The two seasons during which these June storms formed were quite active and included some of the most infamous storms in history.
3. Usually, disturbances passing through this region so early in the season — originating from Africa — are quite weak and/or environmental conditions are hostile to development.
4. Once this system enters the Caribbean Sea, the environment is not expected to be as favourable to the development of a tropical cyclone, and it will likely succumb to strong vertical wind shear by Thursday, 22 June 2017.

#### **Central America, Mexico and Cuba**

A broad area of low pressure extends from north of the Yucatan Peninsula across adjacent portions of the southern Gulf of Mexico; this system is producing a large area of disorganized shower and thunderstorm activity well east and north-east of the low over much of the eastern Gulf of Mexico. While this system does not have a well-defined surface circulation, satellite wind data indicate that tropical-storm-force winds are occurring in a band 100 to 150 miles north-east of the broad low; additionally, upper-level winds are expected to be marginally conducive for some additional development of this system during the next day or two while it moves northward to north-westward into the central Gulf of Mexico, and a tropical or subtropical cyclone is likely to form during that time. Regardless of its development, interests along the United States' Gulf Coast--ranging from the central Texas coast to the western Florida Panhandle--should monitor this system's progress, as a tropical storm watch or warning could be issued for portions of this area later today.

Also, heavy rains are expected to continue over portions of Central America, the Yucatan Peninsula, the Cayman Islands, western Cuba, the Florida Keys, the Florida Peninsula, and spread into central and eastern portions of the United States' Gulf Coast during the next day or two. An Air Force Reserve Hurricane Hunter aircraft is scheduled to investigate this system this afternoon.

\* Formation chance through 48 hours...high...80 percent.

\* Formation chance through 5 days...high...80 percent.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### **National Society actions**

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<sup>2</sup> A Tropical Storm Watch means that tropical storm conditions are possible within the watch area, generally within 48 hours.

Regarding the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society (TTRCS)'s readiness, it has taken the following measures thus far:

- In contact with Trinidad and Tobago's Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM) last night (18 June 2017) at 8pm and this morning at 8am for a status update and to receive necessary preliminary guidance for operations.
- The TTRCS Executive Committee has been briefed via email to keep them updated.
- All TTRCS Staff have been alerted via email with necessary guidance.
- Branch leaders have been asked to notify their volunteers about the potential impacts and ensure which personnel are put on standby for response if needed.
- TTRCS is locked in to all radio communication channels for monitoring purposes as well as its nationwide online reporting system known as WebEOC (Emergency Operations Centre), which is continuously monitored.

TTRCS's human resource capacity is as follows:

- National Intervention Team (NIT) - 14 people are on stand-by
- Branch Disaster Response personnel - approximately 40 people

TTRCS's non-food item (NFI) stock is as follows:

- Blankets - 450
- Jerry Cans - 350
- Tarpaulins - 400
- Mosquito Nets - 100
- Disinfectant - 30 Cases (x12)
- Solar Lanterns - 150

TTRCS's Contingency Plans for Adverse Weather calls for the coordination of activities in three main areas with the municipal disaster response agencies within the 14 municipalities at the local government level; the National Society focuses on supporting damage assessments, the distribution of immediate relief items and the provision of support to collective centre operations.

All TTRCS personnel are being asked to secure themselves during the passage of the storm and await communications after the impact to determine safe assembly locations. The emergency collective centre listings have been widely circulated.

Lastly, official ODPM and Meteorological Services information is being rebroadcast to the public.

### **PIRAC actions**

- PIRAC is continually monitoring the situation and maintaining regular contact with the Caribbean National Societies
- PIRAC has shared information bulletins with French-speaking stakeholders in the region
- PIRAC has been incorporated into the regional response mechanism coordination structure, and it is maintaining close coordination with the IFRC's disaster management coordinators

### **IFRC actions**

- The IFRC issued a second Declaration of Alert about the developing situation in the Caribbean.
- The IFRC is continually monitoring the situation and maintaining regular contact with the Caribbean National Societies through its Pan-American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU).
- Disaster management coordinator team coordination at the IFRC level to plan the initial support actions for the region

## Contact information

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

### 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 (NGOs) 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.

[www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

Saving lives, changing minds.



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.