



METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE, JAMAICA
Branch of the Ministry of Water, Environment & Climate Change
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BULLETIN No: 30

***** MELISSA NEAR HURRICANE STRENGTH AND FORECAST TO RAPIDLY INTENSIFY... HURRICANE WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT FOR JAMAICA *****

A HURRICANE WARNING remains in effect for Jamaica, as Tropical Storm Melissa nears hurricane strength and is expected to rapidly intensify today.

At **10:00 a.m.**, the centre of Tropical Storm Melissa was located by Air Force Reserve and NOAA Hurricane Hunters near latitude **16.5 degrees North**, longitude **75.1 degrees West**. This is about 195 kilometres (121 miles) southeast of Morant Point, or **245 kilometres (155 miles) southeast of Kingston, Jamaica.**

Tropical Storm Melissa is **moving toward the west-northwest near 2 km/h (1 mph)**. A slow west-north-westward or westward motion is expected today through Sunday night. A turn to the north and northeast is forecast on Monday and Tuesday.

Reports from NOAA and Air Force Reserve reconnaissance aircraft indicate that **maximum sustained winds remain near 70 mph (110 km/h) with higher gusts. Rapid intensification is forecast to occur over the next 24 hours. Melissa is forecast to become a hurricane later today and a major hurricane by Sunday.**

On the forecast track, the centre of Melissa is expected to move near or over Jamaica during the weekend and early next week, and it could be near or over eastern Cuba by the middle of next week.

Tropical Storm Melissa is expected to produce rainfall amounts reaching **350 to 650 millimetres (15 to 25 inches)** over parts of Jamaica in the next few days. **Catastrophic flash floods and landslides are likely.**

As the tropical storm moves closer to the island, expect tropical storm force winds to initially affect the island, mainly over eastern parishes by tonight, with hurricane conditions expected by Sunday or Monday.

Life-threatening storm surge is becoming more likely along the south coast of Jamaica later in the weekend or early next week. Peak storm surge heights could reach 7 to 11 feet above ground level, near and to the east of where the center of Melissa makes landfall. This storm surge will be accompanied by large and destructive waves.

Small craft operators, including fishers on the cays and banks, are strongly advised to remain in safe harbour until all warning messages have been lifted and wind and sea conditions have returned to normal.

The Meteorological Service continues to closely monitor the progress of Tropical Storm Melissa, and all interests are encouraged to pay special attention to further releases.

The next Bulletin on this system will be issued at 2:00 p.m. today.

Note:

HURRICANE WARNING means that the following dangerous effects of a hurricane are expected to affect Jamaica within 36 hours or less:

- Dangerously high water or a combination of dangerously high water and exceptionally high waves, even though winds expected may be less than hurricane force;
- Average winds 119 km/h(74mph or 64 knots) or higher.

For recorded updates, please dial 116. See also our website at <http://metservice.gov.jm>

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