



## METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE

Branch of the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation

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### BULLETIN No: 14

#### \*\*\* FLASH FLOOD WARNING IN EFFECT FOR SOUTHERN PARISHES AND FLASH FLOOD WATCH FOR NORTHERN PARISHES...

#### TROPICAL STORM WARNING DISCONTINUED. \*\*\*

Although the **TROPICAL STORM WARNING** for Jamaica has now been discontinued, a **Flash Flood Warning** is now in effect for southern parishes (Westmoreland, St Elizabeth, Manchester, Clarendon, St Catherine, Kingston, St Andrew and St Thomas) and a **Flash Flood Watch** for northern parishes (Hanover, St James, Trelawny, St Ann, St Mary and Portland) until 5:00 p.m. The centre of Tropical Storm Rafael continues to move away from the western coast of Jamaica; however, rainbands east of the centre continue to impact conditions across the island.

**Flash Flood Warning** - Flooding has been reported or will occur shortly. Residents are warned about possible fast rising waters and urged to take precautionary action. Motorists, pedestrians and other road users are also warned of the dangers of crossing fords, flooded streets or other flooded areas.

**Flash Flood Watch** - Flash flooding is possible, and residents are urged to take precautionary measures.

**At 1:00 p.m.** the centre of Tropical Storm Rafael was located near latitude 18.6 degrees North, longitude 79.1 degrees West. This is about 115 kilometres (70 miles) southwest of Montego Bay, and 90 kilometres (55 miles) west of Negril Point, Jamaica.

**Rafael is now moving** toward the northwest near 23 km/h (14 mph) and this general motion is expected to continue over the next few days. On the forecast track, the storm is forecast to continue moving away from Jamaica today, be near the Cayman Islands this evening and tonight, and be near or over western Cuba on Wednesday.

**Maximum sustained winds** remain near 95 km/h (60 mph) with higher gusts. Some strengthening is forecast over the next 24 to 36 hours, and Rafael is expected to become a hurricane near the Cayman Islands, strengthening further before it makes landfall in Cuba. Tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to 165 kilometres (105 miles) from the centre.

**Rainfall amounts** of over 75-97 millimetres (3-4 inches), have been reported over sections of some southern parishes, resulting in flooding. Based on the forecast for more rain from the spiral bands around Tropical Storm Rafael, these are expected to continue through the afternoon and into the evening. Expect periods of heavy rainfall, measuring 75-150 mm (3-6 inches), to continue over Jamaica today, producing flash flooding in flood-prone areas island-wide. Higher amounts are likely in higher elevations and landslides should also be anticipated along hilly slopes of the island.

**Strong, gusty winds** are also expected to continue in thunderstorms and squalls, associated with Rafael's spiral bands.

**Small craft operators** are reminded to remain in safe harbour until wind and sea conditions have returned to normal over marine areas.

**This is the Final Bulletin** that will be issued on Tropical Storm Rafael; however, the Meteorological Service continues to monitor the progress of this and other severe weather systems.

All interests are encouraged to pay special attention to further News Releases from the National Meteorological Centre. These are available from your usual media sources, at our website at <https://metservice.gov.jm/daily-forecast/>, under the News Release tab, or by dialing our toll-free hotline at 116.

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