



## METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE

Branch of the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation  
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### BULLETIN No: 8

\*\*\* TROPICAL DEPRESSION STRENGTHENS INTO TROPICAL STORM RAFAEL  
TROPICAL STORM WARNING STILL IN EFFECT... \*\*\*

A **TROPICAL STORM WARNING** remains in effect for Jamaica as the Area of Low Pressure over the south-central Caribbean Sea has now developed into **Tropical Storm Rafael**. This means that tropical storm conditions are expected to affect Jamaica within the next 6 to 12 hours.

At 4:00 p.m. the center of **Tropical Storm Rafael** was located near latitude 15.5 degrees North, longitude 76.7 degrees West. This is about 280 kilometres (200 miles) south of Kingston, Jamaica or 355 kilometres (221 miles) southeast of Negril Point, Jamaica.

**Tropical Storm Rafael** is moving toward the north near 15 km/h (9 mph) and a north-westward motion is expected to begin later tonight and forecast to continue for the next few days. Maximum sustained winds have increased to near 75 km/h (45 mph) with higher gusts. Steady to rapid strengthening is now forecast and the system is forecast to become a hurricane on Tuesday.

On the forecast track, Rafael is expected to continue moving towards Jamaica this evening and, **be near Jamaica by late tonight or early on Tuesday**, near or over the Cayman Islands on Tuesday night, and approach Cuba on Wednesday. Moderate to heavy showers and thunderstorms are currently affecting sections of most parishes and the rainfall is expected to become widespread across the island as the system approaches Jamaica from the south. As the rain continues, flooding and landslides are possible in vulnerable sections of the island. Observations indicate that periods of strong gusty winds are affecting sections of southern parishes and this is forecast to extend to the remainder of the island throughout the night.

Over the marine areas, the forecast is for widespread showers and thunderstorms, which may be heavy at times, **with strong gusty winds up to tropical storm force** to affect all marine zones this evening and into Tuesday, especially inshore and offshore the south coast.

All small craft operators including fishers from the cays and banks should by now have completed all the necessary safety precautions and are 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 monitor the progress of **Tropical Storm Rafael**, and all interests are encouraged to pay special attention to further Releases.

The next Bulletin on this system will be issued at 8:00 p.m. today.

END