



METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE, JAMAICA
Branch of the Ministry of Water, Environment & Climate Change
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BULLETIN No: 17

***** HURRICANE WATCH AND TROPICAL STORM WARNING REMAIN IN EFFECT FOR JAMAICA...AS MELISSA CONTINUES TO SLOWLY DRIFT NORTH-NORTHWEST... *****

A TROPICAL STORM WARNING, and a HURRICANE WATCH remain in effect as Tropical Storm Melissa moves slowly across the Caribbean Sea south-southeast of Jamaica. This means tropical storm conditions pose a possible threat to Jamaica within 36 hours and Hurricane conditions are likely to pose a threat within 48 hours.

At 1:00 p.m. the centre of Tropical Storm Melissa was located near latitude 15.5 degrees North, longitude 75.3 degrees West. This is about 280 kilometres (175 miles) south-southeast of Morant Point, Jamaica or about 320 kilometres (200 miles) south-southeast of the capital Kingston.

Tropical Storm Melissa is moving very slowly toward the north-northwest near 4 km/h (2 mph). A slow forward speed and northward motion is forecast during the next couple of days, followed by a westward turn over the weekend.

Maximum sustained winds are near 75 km/h (45 mph) with higher gusts. Gradual strengthening is forecast during the next day or so, and Melissa could become a hurricane in a couple of days, and a major hurricane by Sunday.

On its forecast track, **Tropical Storm Melissa** is expected to continue moving toward Jamaica before turning westward on Saturday and passing over the waters south of the island. As the system approaches, **showers and thunderstorms are forecast to begin affecting the island late this evening or by Friday morning, with periods of moderate to heavy rainfall expected to continue through the weekend resulting in flooding and possible landslides.**

Strong, gusty winds, possibly reaching tropical storm strength, are expected to gradually develop on Friday, continuing into the weekend. These winds will initially affect eastern and southern parishes, before gradually spreading across the remainder of the island. Winds reaching hurricane strength are possible over sections of eastern parishes as early as Saturday, as Tropical Storm Melissa continues to move closer to Jamaica.

Marine interests should expect widespread heavy showers and thunderstorms, accompanied by tropical-storm-force winds today and continuing through the weekend. Winds reaching hurricane strength are likely on Saturday, particularly over southern and eastern offshore waters, as Tropical Storm Melissa moves closer to the island. **All small craft operators including fishers from the cays and banks should by now be in port and are urged to complete their necessary safety precautions without delay.**

Tropical Storm Warning - A public release from the Meteorological Service indicating tropical storm conditions, including possible sustained wind speeds of 63–118 km/h (39–73 m/h), are expected to affect Jamaica in 36 hours or less.

Hurricane Watch - A public release from Meteorological Service indicating that hurricane conditions including sustained winds of 119 km/h or higher (74 m/h or more) pose a possible threat to Jamaica within 48 hours.

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 5:00 p.m.

For recorded updates, please dial 116.

See also our website: <http://metservice.gov.jm>

END.