

Tropical Cyclone Gonzalo

INFORMATION NOTE No. 2

AS OF 8:00 PM (AST) ON JULY 24, 2020

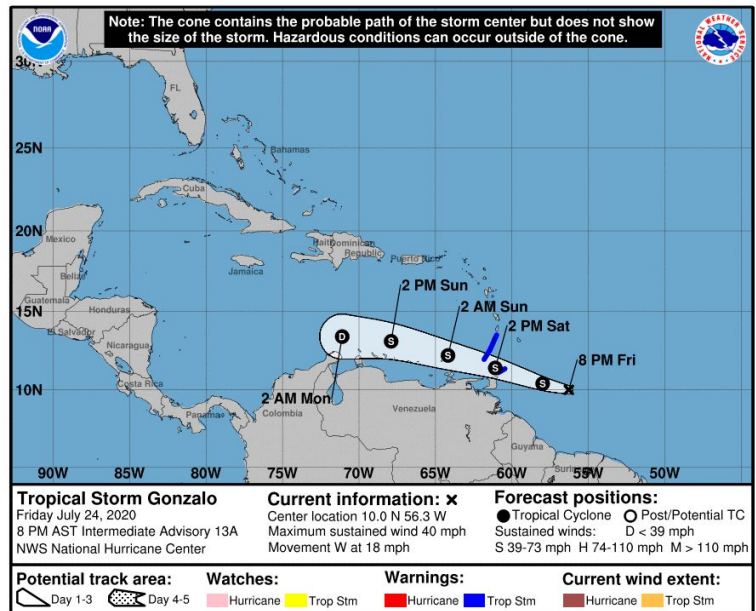
Synopsis of Tropical Cyclone Gonzalo

LOCATION: 340 MILES EAST OF THE SOUTHERN WINDWARD ISLANDS

PRESENT MOVEMENT: WEST AT 18 MPH

TROPICAL STORM WARNING IN EFFECT FOR:

- **ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**
- **TOBAGO**
- **GRENADA**



NHC Update

According to the National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami, Florida, as of 8:00 PM (AST) on July 24, 2020, the center of Tropical Storm Gonzalo was located near latitude 10 degrees North, longitude 56.3 degrees West. Gonzalo is moving toward the west near 18 mph (30 km/h). A general westward to west-northwestward motion is expected over the next two days. On the forecast track, Gonzalo will move across the southern Windward Islands Saturday afternoon or evening and over the eastern Caribbean Sea on Sunday.

Maximum sustained winds are near 40 mph (65 km/h) with higher gusts. Some slight strengthening is possible before Gonzalo reaches the southern Windward Islands. Weakening is expected after Gonzalo moves into the Caribbean Sea and the system is forecast to dissipate early next week. Tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to 25 miles (35 km) from the center. The estimated minimum central pressure is 1008 mb (29.77 inches).

Caribbean Institute For Meteorology And Hydrology (CIMH) Analysis

Disclaimer: The CIMH provides special weather interpretation of the current and forecasted tropical weather affecting the Caribbean Region and is NOT an official forecasting agency.

The Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) is closely monitoring this system as it continues on its trajectory towards the Lesser Antilles. CIMH has provided the below weather update as at Friday, July 24, 2020.

OBSERVATIONS: Tropical Storm Gonzalo continues to has burst of thunderstorm activity but the intensify dropped in the last few hours. There remains a chance for it to attain Hurricane status east of the Southern Lesser Antilles as it moves over warmer waters.

PATH: The models suggest a path over the Grenadines and St. Vincent Saturday 25 July, 2020 into Sunday 26 July 2020.

WEATHER: Tropical Storm Gonzalo is relatively small in size and is projected to intensify to a Hurricane east of the Southern Lesser Antilles. Frequent showers with occasional to frequent thunderstorms are expected over Grenada, and the Grenadines. Banding showers/thundershowers expected over Barbados and St. Vincent.

WINDS: Tumbling and rolling of unsecured objects, falling limbs and trees and damage to power lines. Possible damage to weak structures and wind turbines. Temporary closure of roads can also be expected.

RAINFALL: The CIMH advises that Tropical Storm Gonzalo is likely to be a heavy rainfall event with up to 6 to 7 inches (150 - 200 mm) of rainfall expected.

Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) Actions

- As at July 24, the RRM and RCC remains activated to provide joint coordination of the regional preparedness and response planning operations.
- The RCC established communications with the Participating States under threat from TS Gonzalo to gain a sense of their preparedness.
- The Regional Response Teams remain on ALERT! The RCC has commenced administrative and logistical arrangements for the possible deployment of teams.
- The second (2nd) meeting of the Caribbean Development Partners Group (CDPG) for TS Gonzalo was convened today July 24, 2020 at 1:00 PM. The partners received a briefing from the Caribbean Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), CDEMA, CARICOM Institutions present, and the UN Regional Partners.
- CDEMA continues to refine the regional deployment protocols for a multi-hazard scenario.
- CDEMA will continue to monitor the progress of the system and provide updates as information becomes available

Updates from the CDEMA Participating States



BARBADOS – Department of Emergency Management (DEM)

- The tropical storm warning for Barbados has been discontinued.
- A pre-strike meeting of national stakeholders was convened yesterday July 23, 2020.
- A small craft and high surf warning is in effect for Barbados and is valid from 6:00PM today July 24, 2020 to Sunday July 26, 2020.
- The Government of Barbados issued a national shutdown today July 24, 2020 at 3:00 PM.



ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES – National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO)

- On Tuesday 21 July when Tropical Depression 7 was formed, NEMO commenced alerting all communities, especially the Grenadines.
- The SVG Meteorological Services has been sending alerts and advisories to the general public.
- Briefing of communities and shelter managers continue, along with the distribution of thermometers, shelter packages and additional relief supplies.
- NEMO continues to share public education paraphernalia on its website and social media pages, as well as via radio and television interviews.
- The manager of the Meteorological Services and director of NEMO briefed the Hon. Prime Minister at 8:00 am on Thursday July 23 on the impending storm.
- The Hon. Prime Minister convened a pre-strike meeting at 10:30 am on Thursday 23rd July which was attended by members of cabinet, heads of subcommittees, permanent secretaries, private sector and NGOs.
- The Hon. Prime Minister did a national address simultaneously on several radio stations at 5:30 pm July 23rd.
- The manager of the Met Services and director of NEMO briefed the Hon. Prime Minister today July 24 on national concerns which include flood risks from heavy rainfall. Several vulnerable communities were identified and the authorities are working to strengthen preparedness in these areas.

Updates from the CDEMA Participating States



TRINIDAD & TOBAGO – Office of Disaster Preparedness & Management (ODPM)

- The Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service has issued a storm warning for Tobago.
- The public has been notified of heavy/intense downpours which can result in flash flooding and landslides in vulnerable areas.
- An Orange Level alert has been issued for Tobago and the public has been advised to take immediate actions to protect lives, livelihoods, and property including actions such as:
 - Stocking up on food, water, and medicine for at least 7 days in waterproof containers;
 - Securing loose outdoor objects and trimming tree branches near homes;
 - Preparing and pre-positioning sandbags in flood-prone areas;
 - Monitoring official news sources.
- The EOC in Tobago has been activated as at 6pm today.
- For Trinidad, the 14 Regional Corporations have advanced preparations and are on standby. They are monitoring the system and any potential flooding impacts.
- The Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM) continues to monitor TS Gonzalo closely and is on standby to provide support as necessary.