

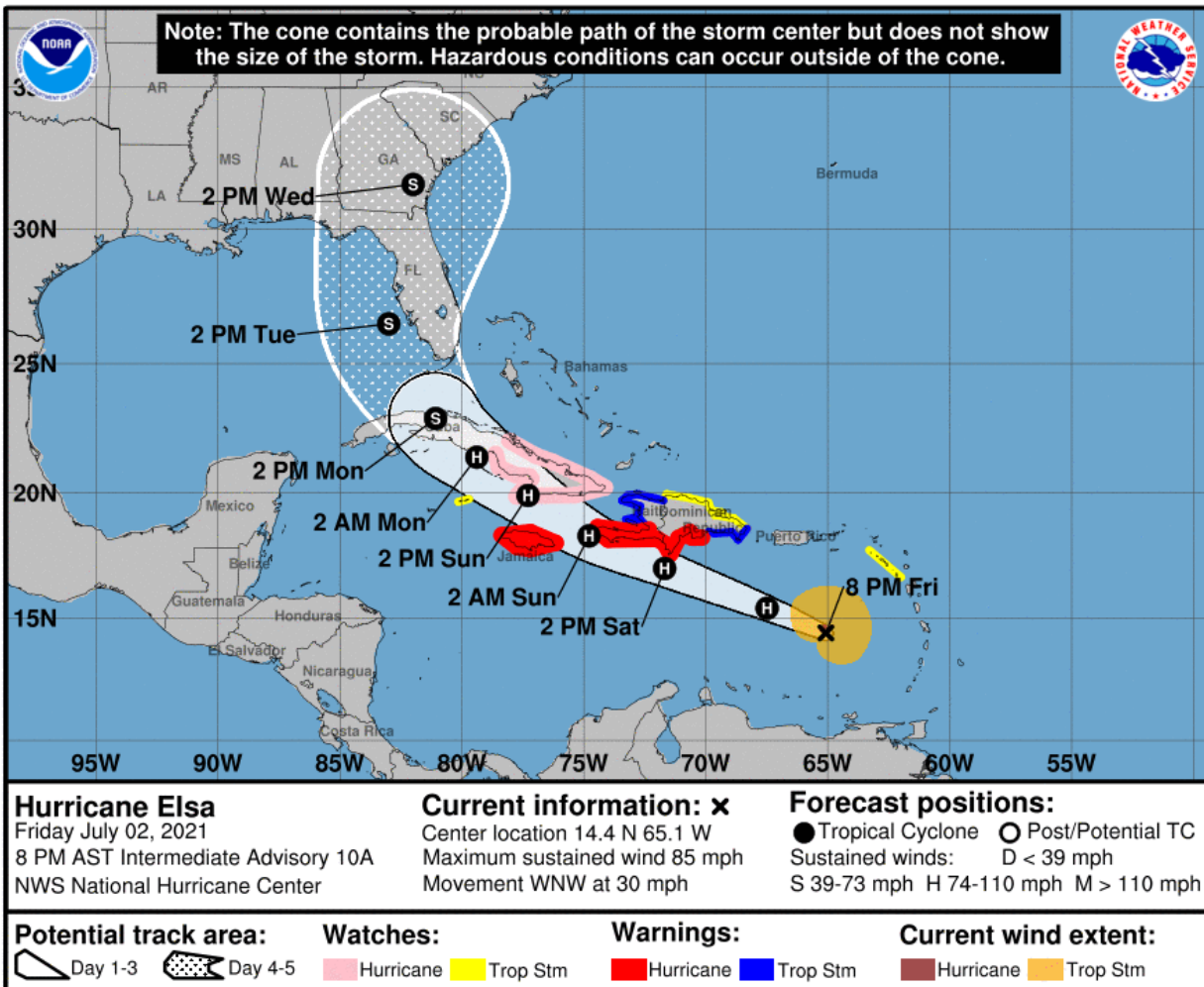
Situation Report 1

2 July 2021

Event: Tropical Storm Elsa (Hurricane)

Situation overview

At 9:20 a.m. on 1st July, the National Hurricane Centre (NHC) informed that the Meteorological Service of Barbados has issued a Tropical Storm Warning for Dominica.



At 11:00 a.m. the National Hurricane Centre (NHC) informed of that the center of Elsa passing near St. Vincent and the Grenadines and St. Lucia and hurricane conditions spreading through the windward islands.

A Hurricane Warning was in effect for St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and a Tropical Storm Warning was in effect for Barbados, Martinique, Dominica

A Tropical Storm Watch was in effect for Grenada and its dependencies Elsa, the first named storm of 2021 in the tropical Atlantic, arrived as forecasters predicted just before 8 a.m. packing winds of 60 miles per hour, and hurricane strength gusts. This is first hurricane to hit the island in 65 years.

The powerful winds and rain were associated with feeder bands associated with the cyclone which spread around 100 miles from the centre of the system.

T

he Barbados Meteorological Service has forecasted that Barbados could be dumped between six and eight inches of rain.

At 1100 AM AST (1500 UTC), the center of Hurricane Elsa was located near latitude 13.4 North, longitude 61.2 West.

Elsa is moving toward the west-northwest near 29 mph (46 km/h), and this motion is expected to continue during the next couple of days, with some decrease in forward speed expected Sunday night.

On the forecast track, Elsa will move away from the Windward Islands during the next several hours, move across the eastern Caribbean Sea later today and tonight, and move near the southern coast of Hispaniola late Saturday or Saturday night. Hurricane-force winds extend outward up to 25 miles (35 km) from the center and tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to 140 miles (220 km).

The Hewanorra Airport on St. Lucia recently reported sustained winds of 46 mph (74 km/h) and a wind gust of 79 mph (127 km/h).

WIND: Hurricane conditions are expected in the hurricane warning area in the Windward Islands for the next few hours. Tropical storm conditions are expected in portions of the Windward and southern Leeward Islands within the tropical storm warning areas and are possible in the tropical storm watch areas later today.

RAINFALL: Elsa is expected to produce rainfall totals of 4 to 8 inches with maximum amounts of 15 inches today across the Windward and southern Leeward Islands, including Barbados. This rain may lead to isolated flash flooding and mudslides.

Post impact

Barbados

All clear was announced at around 5:00 pm According to the Minister of home affairs and public information There is widespread damage to property. There are roofs that have come off, roofs have collapsed, houses have collapsed. There are downed power lines across Barbados, live power lines, downed trees, some roads are impassable.”

Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley said that based on initial assessments, around 177 roofs had been damaged and at least seven homes had collapsed in the island of 287,025. The Health Minister also stated that some health facilities have been affected by the storm including leaking roofs and damaged infrastructure. Hospital communication facilities, internet and phone services were down. The storm is the first hurricane to hit Barbados in more than 60 years.



Photo Reuters

Saint Vincent

Tropical Storm warning discontinued at 6:00PM

No reported damage to health facilities, except few leaking roofs minor flooding to covid-19 isolation facility. Power outage in most facilities reported.

Lahars, or mudflows, continue to pose a dangerous threat to the river valleys surrounding the volcano. Residents are asked to limit or avoid visiting these areas at this time. The heavy rainfall can result in flooding, lahars and mudflows especially in areas that had significant ashfall is anticipated.

Saint Lucia

The Meteorological Service of St. Lucia has discontinued the Tropical Storm Warning for St. Lucia at 6:00 PM but no all clear given. Preliminary assessment given by the health officials that all facilities are in good conditions.

Grenada

The Meteorological Service of Trinidad and Tobago has discontinued the Tropical Storm Watch for Grenada And Its Dependencies. There are some flooding at the Grand Anse Medical Centre where PAHO CPS satellite office is housed. No damage to office equipment.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The affected countries present a multi-hazard scenario, where in addition to the impacts of the tropical storm the Eastern Caribbean countries have been facing an ongoing COVID19 pandemic which have been saturating their already vulnerable health services for months.

It is also compounded in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines which is recovering from La Soufriere volcanic eruption.

PRIORITY CONCERNS

- Safe water supply and sanitation problems in areas affected by the hurricane and prior emergency (VCT)
- Low vaccine uptake for covid-19 (GRE, VCT)
- Active cases of covid-19 and transmission in some counties if individuals continue attending evacuation shelter, e.g., Saint Vincent
- Mud flow (flooding) volcanic ash

RESPONSE ACTIONS

PAHO Barbados and ECC has activated its Emergency Operation center and contacted ministry of health officials in each country to collect initial damage assessment

Mobilization of emergency supplies and medicines to most affected countries from the Panama humanitarian hub and strategic health partners if required.

Support in the rapid evaluation of health establishments relying on PAHO - Rapid Assessment of Health Facilities (ERES) tool.

Activation of emergency plans and support for the Ministry of Health, in addition to COVID19 response operation
