



## **Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: Bridgetown (Barbados), Tropical Depression ("Isaac")** Hurricanes

Western Hemisphere > Barbados

8/21/2012

The following Emergency Message is being transmitted to alert U.S. citizens to the development and progress of Tropical Depression Nine (which could be renamed Isaac).

The National Hurricane Center (NHC; [www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov)) reports that a tropical depression is headed for the Lesser Antilles and expected to become a tropical storm today. A tropical storm warning is in effect for Martinique, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Desirade, Les Saintes, Marie Galante, St. Martin, St. Kitts and Nevis, Antigua and Barbuda, Montserrat and Anguilla. A tropical storm warning means that tropical storm conditions are expected somewhere within the warning area within 36 hours. A tropical storm watch is in effect for Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Maarten, British Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Vieques, Culebra and the U.S. Virgin Islands. A tropical storm watch means that tropical storm conditions are possible within the watch area, generally within 48 hours. Tropical storm conditions in terms of wind are expected to reach the warning area by Wednesday afternoon, making outside preparations difficult or dangerous. Total rain accumulations of 4 to 8 inches are possible over the northern windward islands and the leeward islands.

U.S. citizens residing and traveling in coastal areas in this region and floodplains near rivers and creeks descending from mountainous areas should be alert to flooding and landslides in rural areas.

Tropical storms can escalate into hurricanes very quickly, limiting the time available for a safe evacuation. Travelers should apprise family and friends in the United States of their whereabouts, and keep in close contact with their tour operator, hotel staff, and local officials for evacuation instructions in the event of a weather emergency. Travelers should also protect their travel and identity documents against loss or damage, as the need to replace lost documentation could hamper or delay return to the United States.

The U.S. Embassy advises all U.S. citizens living in and/or visiting this region take certain basic precautions in preparation of a possible storm.

Supplies and Preparation:



- If you are living in this region: Ensure you have adequate supplies of food, water, medications and other essential supplies on hand. It is not unusual for stores and shops to close before, during and after a hurricane. Check your generators and make sure you have an adequate supply of fuel; cut down any dead foliage and remove any debris around your home; secure any items that could become dangerous flying objects (patio furniture, umbrellas, barbecues, etc); have the tools and supplies on hand to secure your house (plywood, nails, shutters, etc). Upper floors in high-rise buildings are at increased risk of windows being blown out, due to the fact that wind speed increases with height.

- If you are a tourist, talk to your hotel front desk to learn about the hotel's emergency plan for a hurricane. Notify your family and friends of your whereabouts and your plans until the storm passes. Be sure to have an adequate supply of necessary prescriptions and medications on hand.

#### During the Storm:

-Do not go outside, flying debris is lethal;

-Do not watch the storm from beaches as storm surge, rip tides and rogue waves are hazardous;

-Stay inside in an interior room of your residence (bathroom, large closet or pantry). Choose a room with little or no windows that is located away from the exterior wall of the residence;

-Stay off your home/cell phone and radio. Keep all means of communication available for an emergency;

-If a member of your family sustains an injury during the storm, report the injury and degree of severity to the local authorities as soon as possible.

U.S. citizens should monitor local radio, the National Weather Service and local media to stay aware of any weather developments in their area. The U.S. Embassy will update this emergency message if new information becomes available. American citizens should stay current with media coverage of local events and be aware of their surroundings at all times. U.S. citizens traveling or residing overseas are encouraged to register with the appropriate U.S. Embassy or Consulate on the State Department's travel registration website at <https://travelregistration.state.gov>. Additional information on hurricanes and storm preparedness may be found on our "Hurricane Season-Know Before You Go" webpage, and on the "Natural Disasters" page of the Bureau of Consular Affairs website. Updated information on travel in the Caribbean may be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States and Canada, or from overseas, 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 am to 8:00 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE



BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY

For any emergencies involving U.S. citizens, please contact the American Citizens Services (ACS) Unit of the U.S. Embassy's Consular Section, located at Wildey Business Park, Wildey, St. Michael, Barbados; Telephone (246) 227-4000; ACS Unit Fax (246) 431-0179; email [BridgetownACS@state.gov](mailto:BridgetownACS@state.gov); website: <http://barbados.usembassy.gov>.  
Regards,

American Citizens Services  
U.S. Embassy  
Bridgetown, Barbados