



World Meteorological Organization
RA IV HURRICANE COMMITTEE
FORTY-FIRST SESSION

Curaçao, Dutch Caribbean,
18 to 22 March 2019

RA IV/HC-41/Doc. 3.2(4)

Submitted by:
BCT
12.02.2019

Original: English

Ref.: 04390/2019_1A WDS/STCP
Approved by Xu Tang, Thu Feb 14 12:36:41 UTC 2019

AGENDA ITEM NO.3: REVIEW OF THE 2018 CYCLONE SEASON

AGENDA ITEM NO.3.2: COUNTRY REPORT

AGENDA ITEM NO.3.2(4): BRITISH CARIBBEAN TERRITORIES

Reports of hurricanes, tropical storms, tropical disturbances and related flooding during 2018

1. Impacts related of tropical cyclones or other severe weather events

Tropical Storm Kirk

The centre of Tropical Storm Kirk passed over Saint Lucia between 0000UTC and 0130UTC on 28 September. However, prior to its passage over Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines was placed under a tropical storm watch at 0900UTC on 26 September until 1500UTC on 28 September. Although the centre passed approximately 80km to the north of St. Vincent, the island measured a maximum gust of 27kt at the Argyle International Airport in the southwest of the island. Rainfall measured at Argyle for the 24-hour period ending 1200UTC on 28 September was 46.8mm, although there were higher rainfall totals in the centre of the island.

There was widespread flooding from the passage of Tropical Storm Kirk in St. Vincent, including coastal flooding in Sandy Bay in the northeast of the island, which resulted in three families having to be evacuated from the coast. Unfortunately, two fishermen did not heed the warnings and set out from the island of Canouan in the south heading for St. Vincent on 27 September, when the centre of Kirk was approximately 275km away from the south coast of St. Vincent and disappeared; presumed drowned. Figures 1-4 show radar imagery, rainfall totals and the impact of the rainfall, respectively.

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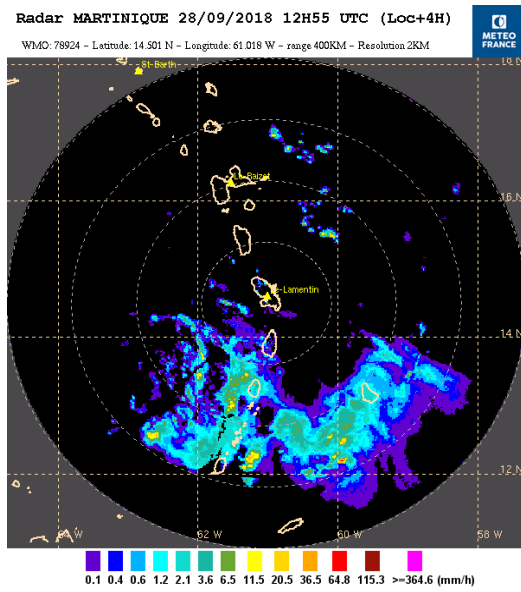


Figure 1: Radar imagery courtesy Météo-France

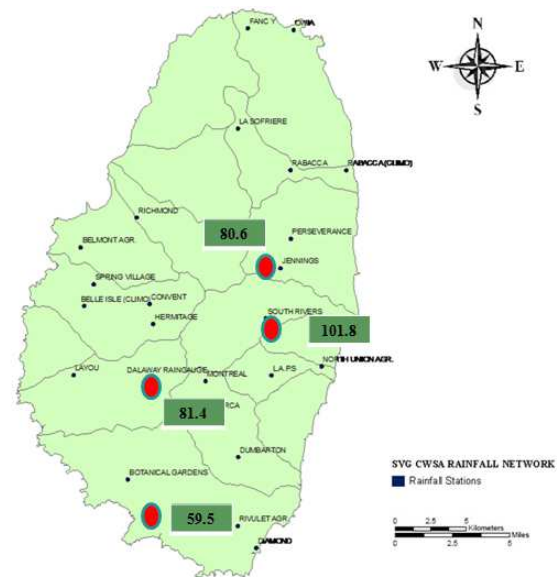


Figure 2: Rainfall accumulations



Figure 3: Flood Rabacca River in the northeast of the island



Figure 4: Flooded Overland Village in the northeast of the island

Tropical Wave and Upper Trough Interaction

Widespread rainfall occurred during the period 17-22 October in association with the interaction between a tropical wave and an upper-level trough, which produced in excess of 73mm during a 3-hour period in the south of St. Vincent on 17 October and rainfall totalling 238mm over the full period. This caused widespread flooding and landslides as shown in Figures 5 and 6.

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Figure 5: Landslide At Jax wall in Ratho Mill



Figure 6: Flooding on Union Island

Grenada's Flooding

On 1 August due to the interaction of a tropical wave and an upper-level trough, Grenada experienced torrential widespread rainfall over the 24-hour period ending at 1200UTC on 2 August. The highest rainfall recorded was at Vendome, St. George with 173mm, both Concord in St. John and Point Salines, St. George recorded approximately 154 millimeters as shown in Figure 7.

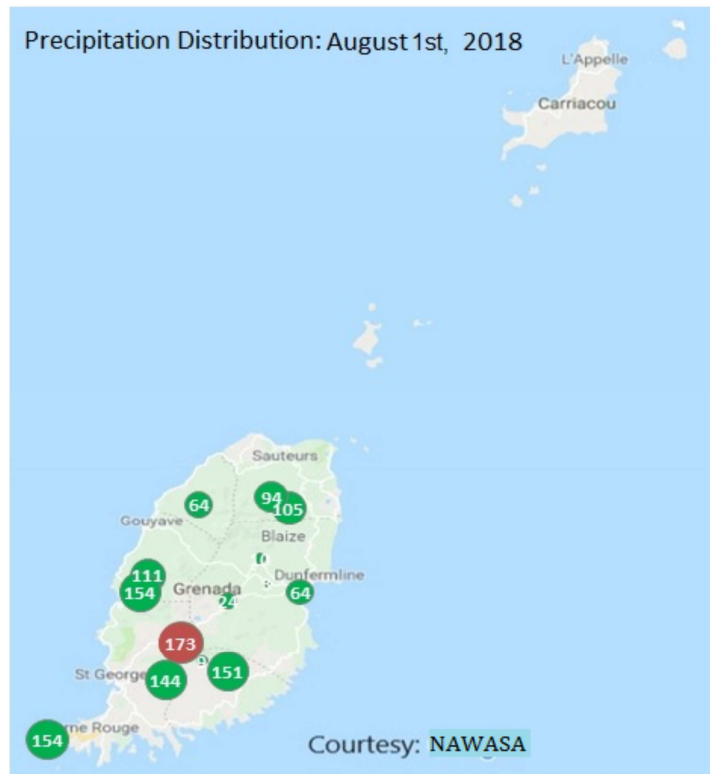


Figure 7: Rainfall totals for the 1 August event.

Initial reports indicated that there were more than 75 landslides throughout the island. St. George, the capital was flooded, also several areas in the parishes of St. David and St. George and some areas of the airport. Unfortunately, there was one death due to apparent drowning in the flood waters.

2 Coordination with emergency managers and other stakeholders

Both countries indicated that there was significant cooperation between the National Meteorological Service and the National Disaster Agency. In relation to Tropical Storm Kirk in St. Vincent the following actions were taken:

- A Tropical Storm Watch was issued for St. Vincent and the Grenadines at 0900UTC on 26 September;
- The National Emergency Council met on 26 September to discuss plan of action;
- The National Emergency Operations Centre was partially activated at 2100UTC on 27 September;
- Schools were closed for 27-28 September;
- On 27 September high surf and coastal flooding impacted three families in Sandy Bay and they sought shelter in a nearby hurricane shelter. The shelter was closed at 1900UTC on 28 September after the families returned to their homes.
- The NEOC was deactivated at 2100UTC on 28 September.

In regards to the rainfall event on 1 August in Grenada, the National Disaster Management Agency (NaDMA) took the following actions:

- A press conference was conducted, 1pm August 1, 2018;
- All public sector employees were released at 1600UTC August 1, 2018;
- The private sector were encouraged to release employees at 3 pm;
- A meeting of the National Emergency Advisory Council was held on 2 August at 1400UTC. At this meeting the Parishes of St. David and St. George were declared as disaster areas.
