# Tropical Storm Beryl Strengthens, Targets Caribbean with Major Hurricane Threat



### Tropical Storm Beryl Approaches Caribbean, Expected to Intensify

Tropical Storm Beryl is projected to strengthen into a major hurricane as it heads toward the southeastern Caribbean, specifically targeting Barbados by Sunday. A major hurricane, classified as Category 3 or higher, has winds exceeding 111 mph.

Hurricane watches are active for Barbados, St. Lucia, Grenada, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, while Martinique and Tobago remain under a tropical storm watch. According to Sabu Best, director of Barbados' meteorological service, Beryl's center is forecast to pass 26 miles south of Barbados.

As of Saturday morning, Beryl was situated approximately 820 miles east-southeast of Barbados, with sustained winds of 65 mph, moving westward at 23 mph. The Miami-based National Hurricane Center has noted the storm’s potential for rapid intensification, driven by record-high ocean heat content.

Beryl is the second named storm of the 2024 Atlantic hurricane season, which is predicted to be above average. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration forecasts 17 to 25 named storms, with up to 13 hurricanes, including four major ones.

Prime Minister Mia Mottley of Barbados has urged residents to prepare, emphasizing the significance of readiness amid the Twenty20 World Cup cricket final in Bridgetown on Saturday. Previous storms this year include Tropical Storm Alberto, which caused four fatalities in Mexico due to heavy rains.

Beryl is expected to bring up to six inches of rainfall and high surf warnings with waves potentially reaching 13 feet. Additionally, a storm surge of up to 7 feet is predicted. The storm’s approach follows recent flooding in Trinidad and Tobago, and earlier unseasonable heavy rainfall in South Florida.