# Historic Hurricane Beryl Approaches Caribbean Islands with Devastating Force



**Historic Hurricane Beryl Approaches Caribbean Islands**

On July 1, 2024, Hurricane Beryl, a Category 3 storm, neared the southeastern Caribbean, prompting urgent calls from officials for residents to seek shelter. The U.S. National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami reported Beryl was expected to make landfall over the Windward Islands early Monday and continue moving across the southeastern and central Caribbean through Wednesday. Hurricane warnings were issued for Barbados, St. Lucia, Grenada, Tobago, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

As of 5 a.m. EDT, Beryl was located about 125 miles east-southeast of Grenada and 140 miles southeast of St. Vincent, moving west at 20 mph with sustained winds of 120 mph. The storm previously reached Category 4 strength before slightly weakening. The storm's intensity was partially linked to eyewall replacement cycles, according to CBS News.

Tropical storm warnings were also in effect for Martinique and Trinidad, while watches extended to Dominica and parts of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Forecasts showed Beryl passing just south of Barbados and entering the Caribbean Sea as a major hurricane. The storm is expected to weaken midweek but remain a hurricane as it heads towards Mexico.

Beryl broke several records, becoming the earliest Category 4 Atlantic hurricane on record for June. The storm rapidly intensified, taking just 42 hours to escalate from a tropical depression to a major hurricane, a rare event noted by experts like Sam Lillo and Michael Lowry.

Beryl's imminent landfall has seen significant preparations across the region. Grenada declared a state of emergency, and St. Lucia announced a national shutdown. Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley emphasized the need for readiness, with businesses closing and long lines forming at gas stations and stores.

The NOAA predicts an above-average hurricane season, with up to 25 named storms and seven major hurricanes, driven partly by record high ocean temperatures.