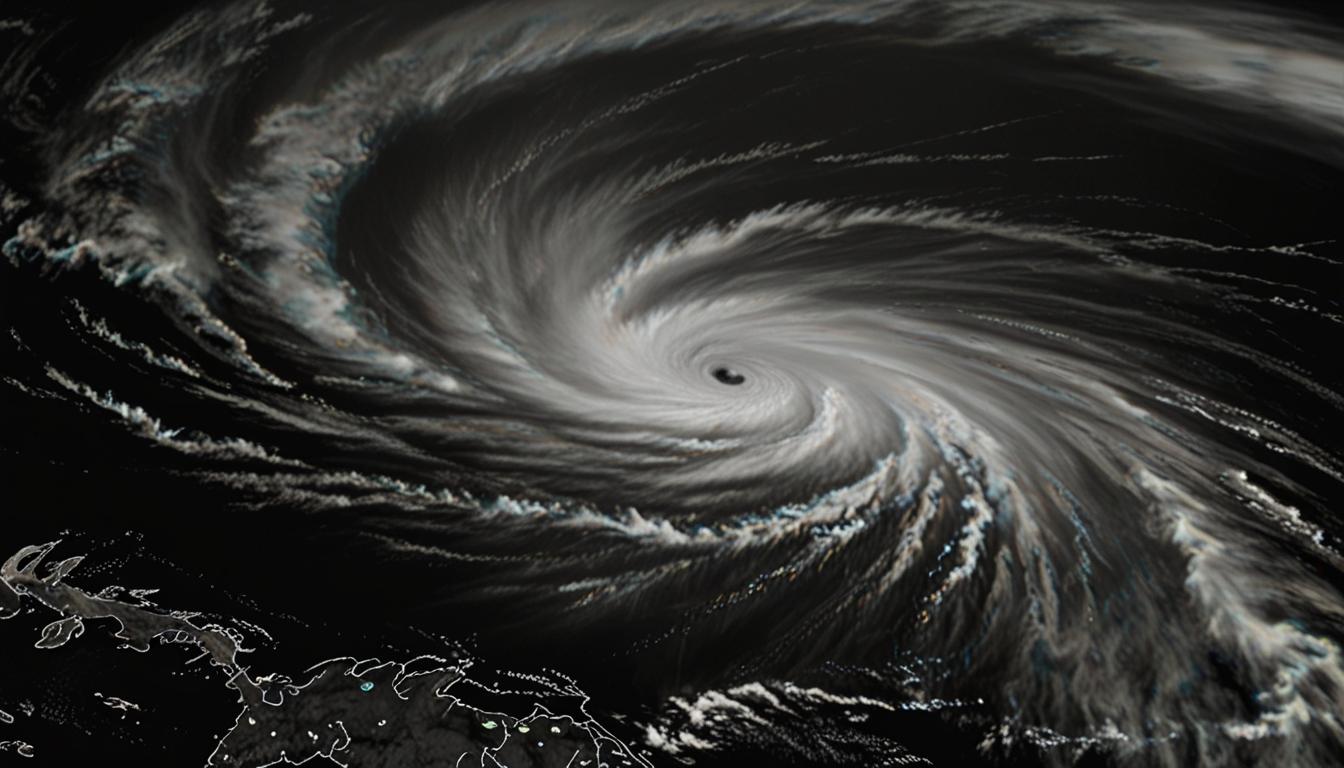
# Hurricane Beryl Strengthens to Category 4 as it Approaches Caribbean Islands



**Hurricane Beryl Approaches Caribbean Islands as Record-Breaking Storm**

**Location:** Caribbean  
**Date:** July 1, 2024  
**Primary Entities:** Hurricane Beryl, Windward Islands, National Hurricane Center (NHC), Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves

Hurricane Beryl, currently categorized as a Category 3 storm, is approaching the Caribbean's Windward Islands with significant force. Initially intensifying to Category 4 status, Beryl is noted as the earliest such powerful storm in the Atlantic hurricane season's history, and the only Category 4 recorded in June.

The National Hurricane Center has issued warnings emphasizing the potential for "catastrophic" impacts. Key areas of concern include Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada, where life-threatening winds, storm surges, and damaging waves are anticipated. Additionally, heavy rainfall is expected to result in localized flooding across multiple islands, including Barbados and Saint Lucia.

In light of Beryl's impending impact, Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has urged residents to halt carnival festivities and prioritize storm preparations. Authorities have preempted the storm by closing airports in Barbados, Grenada, and Saint Lucia.

Residents across the Caribbean are advised to heed local government and emergency management directives, especially regarding preparedness and evacuation procedures. Beryl is forecast to remain a powerful hurricane as it progresses across the Caribbean Sea.