# Hurricane Beryl: Caribbean Devastation Caused by Unprecedented Category 5 Storm



**Hurricane Beryl: Record-Breaking Storm Causes Devastation in the Caribbean**

Hurricane Beryl has become the earliest Category 5 hurricane on record in the Atlantic, causing significant destruction as it moves through the Caribbean. Beryl made landfall on Monday, July 1, 2024, on Carriacou, an island in Grenada, with sustained winds of 150 mph. It is the strongest hurricane to ever pass through the Grenadines. Beryl’s path has caused notable damage in Barbados, St. Vincent, and the Grenadines, with reports of at least two fatalities.

The storm's rapid intensification from a tropical depression to a major hurricane in just 42 hours is unprecedented for this time of year, fueled by unusually warm ocean waters. This trend has heightened concerns about the abnormally active hurricane season predicted by meteorologists, pointing to climate change's role in creating conducive conditions for such storms.

Jamaica has activated its Disaster Risk Management Act in preparation for Beryl's expected landfall on Wednesday, July 3, 2024. The storm is forecasted to bring life-threatening winds, storm surges, and heavy rainfall to Jamaica, and a hurricane watch has been issued for the Cayman Islands, anticipating Beryl's impact on Thursday.

Prime Ministers Ralph Gonsalves of St. Vincent and Grenada's Dickon Mitchell have shared reports of extensive damage, including severely damaged homes and public infrastructure. In Barbados, preliminary reports show significant damage to fishing vessels and homes. Recovery efforts are ongoing across the affected islands.

Beryl's unprecedented strength so early in the hurricane season has shattered several records, including being the farthest east major hurricane to form in the tropical Atlantic in June. The National Hurricane Center continues to monitor Beryl as it heads towards Mexico’s Yucatán Peninsula later this week.