# Category 5 Hurricane Beryl Leaves Trail of Devastation in Caribbean Islands



Hurricane Beryl, the earliest Category 5 storm on record, has caused severe devastation in the southeastern Caribbean, resulting in seven deaths and near-complete destruction on the islands of Grenada. The hurricane flattened Carriacou and Petite Martinique, leaving Grenada's Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell to describe "almost total destruction" of homes, public buildings, and vegetation.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines also suffered extensively, with Union Island seeing 90 percent of homes severely damaged. Connectivity issues have hindered assessment and relief efforts and left many areas without power. Three people died in Venezuela and one in St. Vincent, compounding the tragedy.

Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves of St. Vincent and the Grenadines highlighted the immense destruction and drew parallels to a major volcanic eruption in 2021. Both leaders called attention to the climate crisis, with Beryl's rapid intensification linked to higher-than-normal ocean temperatures. As Beryl moves toward Jamaica, emergency preparations are underway.

The damage from the hurricane underscores the vulnerability of small island nations to climate-related disasters and emphasizes the need for international support and climate action.