# Hurricane Beryl Devastates Caribbean Islands, Approaches Jamaica as a Category 4 Storm



### Hurricane Beryl Approaches Jamaica: Category 4 Storm Devastates Caribbean

**KINGSTON, Jamaica, July 3, 2024** - Hurricane Beryl, a Category 4 storm, is expected to make landfall near Jamaica on Wednesday afternoon. The storm has already caused significant destruction across several Caribbean islands, resulting in at least seven fatalities.

**Incident Overview**:  
- **Where**: Jamaica is the immediate target, while affected regions include Grenada, Venezuela, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Barbados.  
- **When**: The storm will hit Jamaica by Wednesday afternoon, with subsequent potential impacts on the Yucatán Peninsula by Friday and the Gulf of Mexico by the weekend.  
- **Who**: Those most at risk are residents of Jamaica, Grenada, and surrounding Caribbean nations. Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness has responded by declaring the country a disaster area, imposing a curfew, and issuing evacuation orders for low-lying areas.

**Storm Impact**:  
- **Storm Surge**: Jamaica is expecting water levels to rise by up to nine feet. Heavy rainfall up to a foot may also cause life-threatening floods and mudslides.  
- **Affected Regions**: Grenada’s islands of Carriacou and Petite Martinique experienced near-total destruction. Northern Venezuela reported severe flooding and three deaths.   
- **Preparations**: Evacuations and emergency plans are underway in the Yucatán Peninsula and Grand Cayman as the storm progresses.

**Forecast**:  
- Current forecasts suggest Beryl may weaken as it approaches Jamaica, but it might restrengthen in the Gulf of Mexico. A hurricane watch is in place for Mexico's east coast, indicating possible hurricane-force winds and significant storm surge.

**Local Response**:  
- Jamaican authorities have closed international airports and mobilized emergency services to maintain order and assist with relief efforts.

Hurricane Beryl marked historical weather phenomena by becoming the earliest Category 5 hurricane in Atlantic history, further underlining concerns over the ongoing hurricane season.