# Hurricane Beryl leaves trail of destruction in Caribbean, claims at least seven lives



Hurricane Beryl has caused extensive devastation in the Caribbean, claiming at least seven lives. The Category 4 storm, with sustained winds of 150 mph, severely impacted the southeast Caribbean, including Grenada, the Grenadines, and northern Venezuela. Grenada’s Prime Minister, Dickon Mitchell, described the damage as “total” and “unimaginable” after surveying the worst-hit areas, particularly Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

In Union Island, part of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, residents reported near-total homelessness. The storm destroyed nearly 90% of the homes on the island. Eyewitness accounts described flattened buildings, blocked roads, and downed power lines.

As of July 2, 2024, Beryl is on a trajectory towards Jamaica and is expected to pass near the Cayman Islands by Thursday and reach Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula on Friday. Jamaica is under a hurricane warning with forecasts of life-threatening winds and storm surges of 6-9 feet, as well as heavy rainfall. Prime Minister Andrew Holness urged residents to take the threat seriously.

Three fatalities were reported in Grenada and Carriacou, while St. Vincent and the Grenadines accounted for one death. Additionally, two deaths and five missing persons were reported in northern Venezuela. Rescue teams are assessing the full extent of the damage in affected areas.

Hurricane Beryl disrupted travel plans, forcing several cruise lines to alter routes and prompting evacuations to Florida. The National Hurricane Center continues to monitor the storm’s path closely, emphasizing the potential for life-threatening flash floods and mudslides.