# Hurricane Beryl Threatens Jamaica and Caribbean Islands



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**Location and Trajectory:**
Hurricane Beryl, currently classified as a Category 4 storm, is on its final approach toward Jamaica, with significant impacts anticipated by early Wednesday afternoon. The storm’s center was located approximately 125 miles southeast of Kingston, Jamaica, moving west-northwest at 20 mph, with maximum sustained winds of 145 mph.

**Initial Impacts:**
Beryl first made landfall on Monday on Grenada's Carriacou Island, leaving extensive destruction in its wake. Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell of Grenada confirmed three fatalities and significant damage, particularly on smaller islands like Carriacou and Petite Martinique. St. Vincent and the Grenadines also reported substantial aftermath, including one death.

**Warnings and Preparations:**
Hurricane warnings are active for Jamaica, the Cayman Islands, and parts of Haiti. Jamaica has been declared a disaster zone, and Prime Minister Andrew Holness has announced an island-wide curfew from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesday. Residents, especially those in low-lying areas, are urged to evacuate.

**Projected Path:**
Beryl is expected to continue westward, posing threats to the Cayman Islands by Thursday and reaching Mexico’s Yucatán Peninsula by Friday, likely as a Category 1 or 2 hurricane. Forecasts indicate potential impacts on Texas and five other US states over the weekend.

**Historical Significance:**
Beryl has broken records as the earliest-forming Category 5 hurricane in the Atlantic and the most rapidly intensifying storm observed before September.

**Future Concerns:**
Meteorologists highlight the uncertainty of Beryl’s future path, with scenarios ranging from a weakening tropical storm hitting eastern Mexico to a major hurricane impacting the Texas coast. Elevated sea temperatures and varying atmospheric conditions will influence the storm’s strength and trajectory.

**Summary:**
Hurricane Beryl poses severe threats to the Caribbean and possibly the US Gulf Coast, necessitating vigilance and preparedness from affected regions.