

Severe Weather Advisory: Western Windward Islands, Colombia, Venezuela, Jamaica, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Turks and Caicos and The Bahamas.

Hurricane Matthew

Update Summary Issued on Friday 30th September 2016 at **1230** (all times are based on UK local time)

Update: Latest forecast track from NHC (09Z) has continued to shift slightly further west. It should be noted though that ECMWF and GM deterministic models continue to prefer a track to the east of this close to the western tip of Haiti. Ensembles still indicate large spread though, so no improvement in confidence levels, although majority of members between the official and GM/EC deterministic track. The other major change is the strengthening of the storm (now Cat 2) and potentially reaching Cat 3 ahead of landfall on Monday.

Headline – Text/Graphic below not updated from 0630L issue.

Hurricane Matthew is currently north of Curacao in the central Caribbean Sea bringing heavy rain and tropical storm force winds to the Windward Islands and coastal northern Venezuela and Colombia through Friday and Saturday. Matthew is then expected to turn north on Sunday and head towards Jamaica, Haiti and Cuba early next week.

Impacts

- Hurricane force winds bringing damage and destruction to infrastructure, property, utility supply and transportation (including aviation).
- Heavy rainfall, rough seas and storm surge bringing an increased risk of significant flooding, plus land and mudslides.

Discussion

Hurricane Matthew is currently approximately 125 miles N west of Curacao, moving west at 14mph. Maximum sustained winds are now 80mph, with gusts 95mph. Matthew is expected to continue to track broadly westwards in the next 2 days and continue to strengthen. By Sunday the storm is expected to turn northwards, as it nears the western of a ridge of an upper high. Matthew is by this time likely to be a category 2 hurricane with sustained winds 105 mph and gusts 125 mph.



There is good model agreement until Saturday for Matthew to move slowly west in the central Caribbean, though the GM deterministic takes the storm very close to the northern tip of Colombia, somewhat further south than other models. Thereafter however there is still some uncertainty as the storms track northwards. The official track from NHC is very close to the GFS deterministic solution. GM and EC deterministic take Matthew across western Haiti late Monday / early Tuesday. Ensemble members have a broad spread of tracks from western Jamaica to eastern Haiti or the western Dominican Republic, though the majority favour a track from eastern Jamaica to western Haiti.

Tropical storm force winds and very heavy rain are likely across Bonaire, Curacao, Aruba and the northern tip of Colombia on Friday and Saturday with a tropical storm watch in force for these areas. There is an increasing likelihood of hurricane impacts across Jamaica, Cuba and Haiti on Monday and Tuesday, possibly extending to Turks and Caicos Islands and The Bahamas. These include destructive winds, very heavy rainfall, flooding, storm surge and coastal floods, landslides and mudslides. Matthew poses a significant risk to life and infrastructure in the affected areas and is likely to lead to significant disruption to travel through the region.

Sources: Met Office, ECMWF, NCEP, NHC.

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This forecast may be amended at any time

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