

TROPICAL STORM HELENE

SITUATION REPORT #1

8:00 PM on September 24th, 2024

Tropical Storm Warning for Grand Cayman Discontinued at 1:00 PM (AST) [12:00 noon Cayman Time]

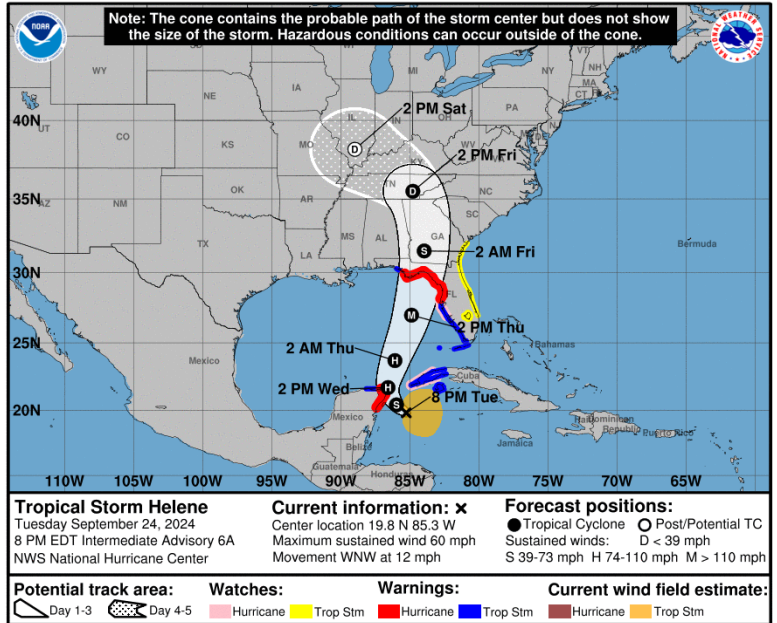
Tropical Storm Warning for Grand Cayman Discontinued at 1:00 PM (AST)

Location: 19.8N 85.3W
About 145 MI (235 KM) South of the Western Tip of Cuba

Maximum Sustained Winds: 60 MPH (95 KM/H)

Present Movement: WNW or 300 degrees at 12 MPH (19 KM/H)

Minimum Central Pressure: 991 MB (29.26 IN)



(Source: [National Hurricane Centre](https://www.nhc.noaa.gov))

Severe Weather Update from the Caribbean Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) at 1:00 PM, September 24, 2024.

Potential Hazards:

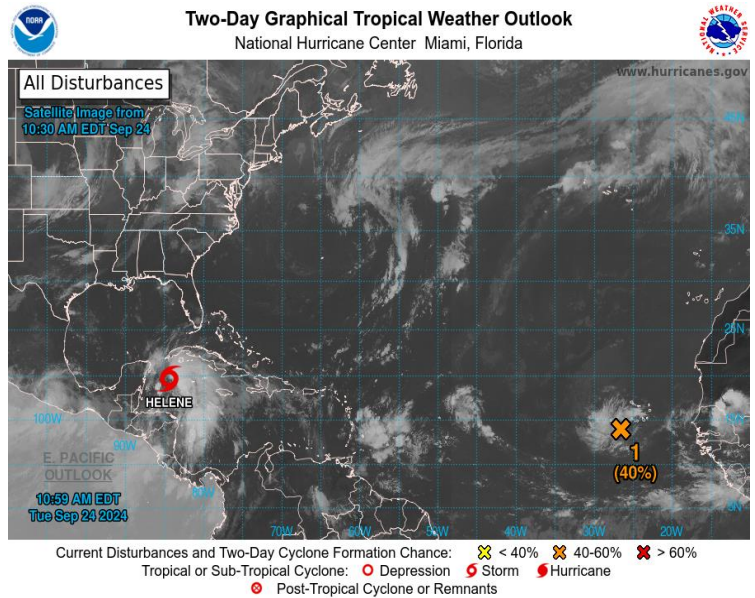
- **Rainfall:** Grand Cayman will experience significant rainfall over the next 48 hours, with expected accumulations of 4-8 inches and isolated totals up to 12 inches. This poses a high risk of widespread flooding, particularly as an extensive area of trailing thunderstorm activity is forecast to continue affecting the islands through Wednesday.
- **Winds:** Tropical storm gusts have been observed across Grand Cayman today. As Helene moves northward, the tropical storm effects will diminish. Winds are originating from an unusual southerly direction.
- **Storm Surge:** Rough wave conditions are anticipated today into tomorrow, with a high potential for marine impacts. Coastal areas may experience moderate beach erosion.

Severe Weather Update from the Caribbean Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) at 1:00 PM, September 24, 2024.

Disclaimer: The CIMH provides special weather interpretation of the current and forecasted tropical weather affecting the Caribbean Region and is NOT an official forecasting agency.

Forecast and Potential Impacts

- **Strengthening:** Helene is expected to intensify into a hurricane as it enters the Gulf of Mexico.
- **Public Services:** Flooding may result in significant delays in public transportation and hazardous road conditions, disrupting first responder operations and emergency services.
- **Tourism:** Flooding in low-lying and coastal areas may affect hotel and restaurant properties, leading to disruptions in tourism activities and delays in flight and port operations.
- **Infrastructure:** Thunderstorms may cause power outages, disrupting water supply and telecommunication services. Renewable energy production may be temporarily halted.
- **Marine:** Unsecured fishing vessels are at risk of damage, and port operations may face minor disruptions.



(Source: [National Hurricane Centre](https://www.nhc.noaa.gov))

Recommendations:

- The public should remain alert to the risk of flooding and dangerous driving conditions.
- Coastal and flood-prone areas should take precautionary measures to mitigate the risk of damage and disruption.



CDEMA Coordinating Unit (CU) and the Regional Response Mechanism (RRM)

As of 7:45 PM on September 23, 2024, the Regional Coordination Plan (RCP) has been activated. The following actions have been undertaken:

- All RRM Teams (CDRU, COST, RNAT, CDAC, RSART) have been placed on **ALERT**.



CDEMA Coordinating Unit (CU) and the Regional Response Mechanism (RRM)

- The Sub-Regional Focal Point (SRFP) – Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) Jamaica, has been contacted and is on **ALERT** to support potential response operations. ODPEM is in communication with Cayman Islands emergency authorities to assess potential support needs from the SRFP.
- A CDPG meeting was convened at 1:00 PM (AST), and Thematic Group Leads were contacted to provide preparedness updates. Discussions with key RRM partners focused on joint coordination of preparedness activities and potential response support, are ongoing.
- CDEMA's Coordinating Unit has established and maintains contact with the Office of Hazard Management, Cayman Islands. Preliminary reports indicate incidents of flooding, gusty winds, and storm surges. Damage assessments are ongoing however, no request for RRM support has been made at this time.
- The CDEMA Coordinating Unit continues to provide updates to Dr. Carla Natalie Barnett, CARICOM's Secretary General, and Hon. Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and current Chair of CDEMA.

Report from Threatened/ Impacted Participating State



THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

- The Tropical Storm Warning for Grand Cayman has been lifted as of 1:00 PM (AST) [12 noon Cayman time]. However, the ALL CLEAR has not yet been issued due to expected adverse effects from the trailing bands of Tropical Storm Helene.
- The National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC) has partially activated and staff from the Office of Hazard Management, Cayman Islands, continue to support and coordinate emergency operations.
- Reports indicate significant rainfall, flooding, and strong gusts in various areas of Grand Cayman. Sandbagging arrangements are in place, and emergency flood pumps have been in operation over the past two days to manage floodwaters.
- Emergency shelters have been opened, though no shelterees are currently housed.
- Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA) teams have been deployed to assess the impacts on electrical networks, water sources, gas lines, and private entities. Initial assessments of 102 households from a utilities perspective show no significant damage.
- The airport remains closed due to ongoing adverse weather conditions. All schools have been closed since yesterday, with closures expected to continue through today.
- The Civil Service is operating remotely, except for critical service entities. Normal operations are expected to resume tomorrow, pending the outcome of the DANA reports.

Reports from the CDPG Thematic Groups

Relief and Logistics

- The relief and logistics parts stand ready to provide supply chain support.
- The WFP regional stocks have been recently replenished with stocks from the Panama warehouse and prepositioned in Barbados.
- One (1) Supply Chain Officer is stationed in Jamaica to support the sub-regional response, if needed.

Emergency Telecommunications

- Established contact with the Hazard Management Cayman Islands Authorities via cellphone, WhatsApp, and email.
- A satellite phone test is planned for this evening.

Civil Military Coordination

- The UK has a vessel prepositioned in the region
- The MNCCC is currently not activated as there is currently no request for their support.
- They remain on ALERT to assist if activated.

