

Message for U.S. Citizens – Tropical Storm Bertha Landfall

The following Emergency Message is being transmitted to alert U.S. citizens to the issuance of a tropical storm warning in the Turks & Caicos Islands and the Southeastern Bahamas for Tropical Storm Bertha.

The National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami, FL reported this morning that Tropical Storm Bertha is moving in the direction of the Turks & Caicos Islands and Southeastern Bahamas. A tropical storm warning has been issued for the Turks & Caicos Islands and the southeastern Bahamas, which includes The Acklins, Crooked Island, Long Cay, The Inaguas, Mayaguana, and the Ragged Islands. A tropical storm watch is in effect for the Central Bahamas, including Cat Island, The Exumas, Long Island, Rum Cay, and San Salvador.

Tropical storm conditions are possible in the Turks & Caicos Islands and the southeastern Bahamas on Sunday. Tropical storm watches are issued when gale and storm force winds of between 34–63 knots (39–73 mph; 63–118 km/h) are possible, within 48 hours in a specified area in association with a tropical, subtropical or post-tropical storm. These watches are upgraded to tropical storm warnings, when gale and storm force winds become expected to occur somewhere in the warning area within 36 hours.

Bertha is expected to produce very high rainfall amounts and storm force winds across its path.

U.S. citizens residing and traveling in coastal areas in this region and floodplains near rivers and creeks should be alert to flooding.

Tropical storms can escalate into hurricanes very quickly, limiting the time available for a safe evacuation. Travelers should apprise family and friends in the United States of their whereabouts, and keep in close contact with their tour operator, hotel staff, and local officials for evacuation instructions in the event of a weather emergency. Travelers should also protect their travel and identity documents against loss or damage, as the need to replace lost documentation could hamper or delay return to the United States.

The U.S. Embassy advises all U.S. citizens living in and/or visiting this region take certain basic precautions in preparation of a possible storm.

Supplies and Preparation:

- If you are living in this region: Ensure you have adequate supplies of food, water, medications and other essential supplies on hand. It is not unusual for stores and shops to close before, during and after a hurricane or tropical storm. Check your generators and make sure you have an adequate supply of fuel; cut down any dead foliage and remove any debris around your home; secure any items that could become dangerous flying objects (patio furniture, umbrellas, barbeques, etc); have the tools and supplies on hand to secure your house (plywood, nails, shutters, etc). Upper floors in high-rise buildings are at increased risk of windows being blown out, due to the fact that wind speed increases with height.
- If you are a tourist, talk to your hotel front desk to learn about the hotel's emergency plan for a hurricane. Notify your family and friends of your whereabouts and your plans until the storm passes. Be sure to have an adequate supply of necessary prescriptions and medications on hand.

During the Storm:

- Do not go outside, flying debris is lethal;
- Do not watch the storm from beaches as storm surge, rip tides and rogue waves are hazardous;
- Stay inside in an interior room of your residence (bathroom, large closet or pantry). Choose a room with little or no windows that is located away from the exterior wall of the residence
- Stay off your home/cell phone and radio. Keep all means of communication available for an emergency;
- If a member of your family sustains an injury during the storm, report the injury and degree of severity to the local authorities as soon as possible.

U.S. citizens in The Bahamas and Turks & Caicos Islands should monitor local radio, the National Weather Service and local media to stay aware of any weather developments in their area. The U.S. Embassy will update this emergency message if new information becomes available. American citizens should stay current with media coverage of local events and be aware of their surroundings at all times. Small craft operators in The Bahamas and Turks & Caicos should remain in port.

U.S. citizens should also stay current with media coverage of local events, weather and marine forecasts, and monitor the [National Hurricane Center](#) and local media to stay aware of any weather developments in their area. For official information

from The Bahamas or Turks & Caicos government regarding weather conditions, please monitor local media outlets.

Additional information on hurricanes and storm preparedness may be found on our “[Hurricane Season-Know Before You Go](#)” webpage, and on the “[Natural Disasters](#)” page of the [Bureau of Consular Affairs website](#). Updated information on travel in the Turks & Caicos Islands may also be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States and Canada, or from overseas, 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 am to 8:00 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Please continue to monitor the Embassy’s [website](#) for updated information.

For any emergencies involving U.S. citizens, please contact the U.S. Citizens Services Unit of the U.S. Embassy’s Consular Section, located 42 Queen Street (across from the British Colonial Hilton Hotel), Nassau; telephone: 242-322-1181; after hours emergency telephone: 242-357-7004; ACS unit fax: 242-356-7174; e-mail: ACSNASSAU@state.gov; web page: <http://nassau.usembassy.gov>. The Turks & Caicos Consular Agency is located at 2 Venture Ct., Grace Bay Suite 102E, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos.

U. S. Embassy
Nassau, The Bahamas