



## Hurricane Maria 9.18.17 Analysis

Risk Services Division

18 September 2017

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## Hurricane Maria September 18, 2017 (11am EST)

### Summary

The National Hurricane Center has issued advisories for Tropical Storm Maria which is currently forecast to pass over or near the islands on Tuesday and Wednesday, possibly as hurricanes.

On the forecast track, the center of Maria will move across the Leeward Islands late today and tonight, and then over the extreme northeastern Caribbean Sea Tuesday and Tuesday night. Maria is currently a Category 2 hurricane. Additional rapid strengthening is forecast during the next 48 hours, and Maria is expected to become a dangerous major hurricane before it moves through the Leeward Islands.

The Department of State continues to warn U.S. citizens to avoid travel to Sint Maarten due to Hurricane Irma. Limited humanitarian and commercial airline evacuation flights continue to operate and provide evacuation services on a case by case basis.

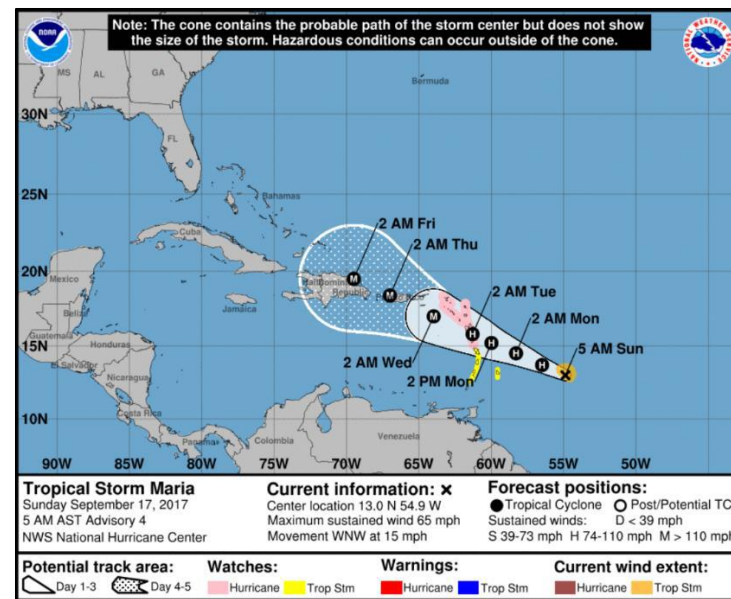
### Watches and Warnings

**Hurricane Warning:** Guadeloupe, Dominica, St. Kitts, Nevis, and Montserrat, Martinique, St. Lucia

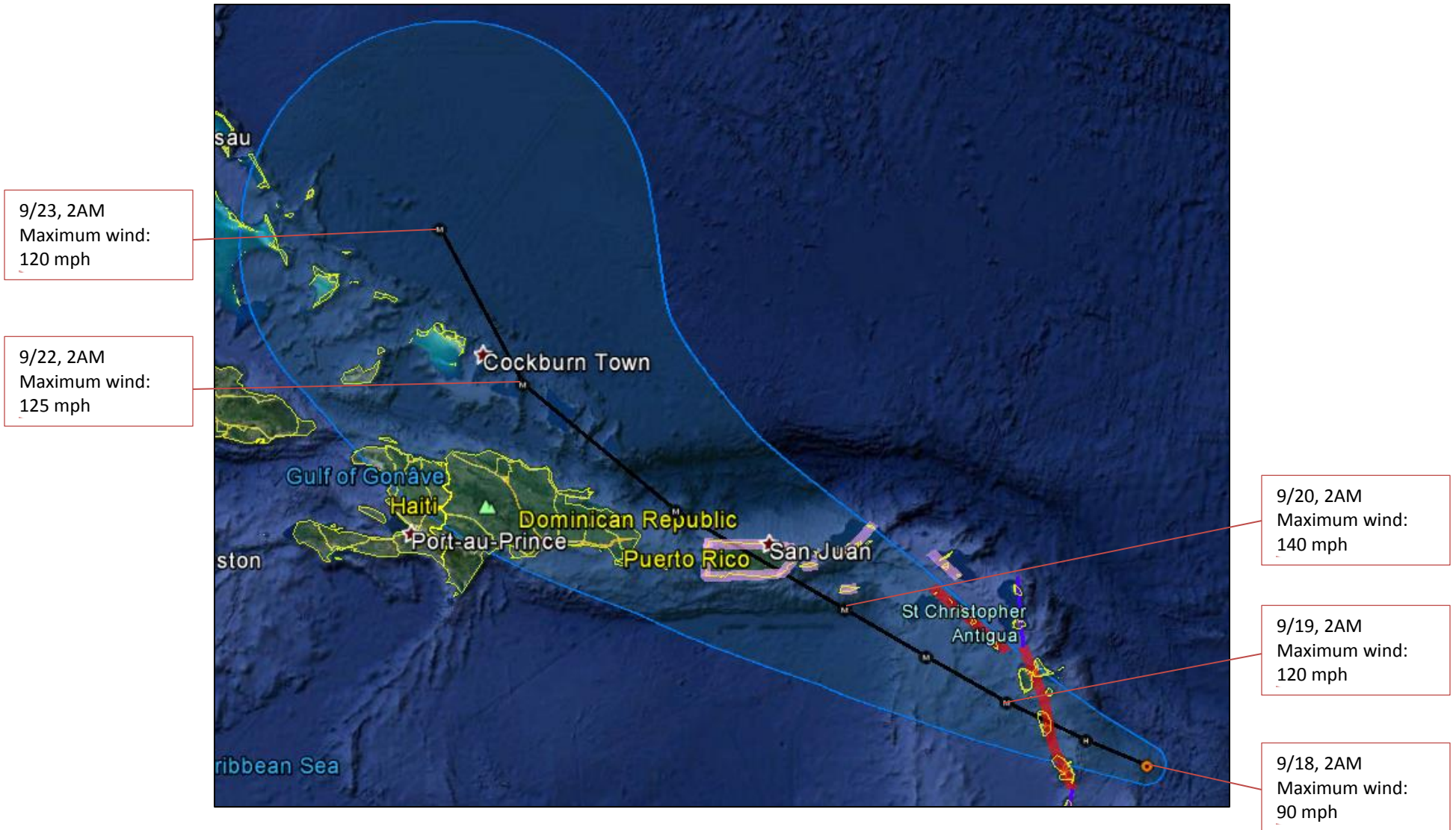
**Tropical Storm Warning:** Antigua and Barbuda, Saba and St. Eustatius, St. Maarten

**Hurricane Watch:** Puerto Rico, Vieques, and Culebra, U.S. Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands, Saba and St. Eustatius, St. Maarten, St. Martin and St. Barthelemy, Anguilla

**Tropical Storm Watch:** Barbados, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

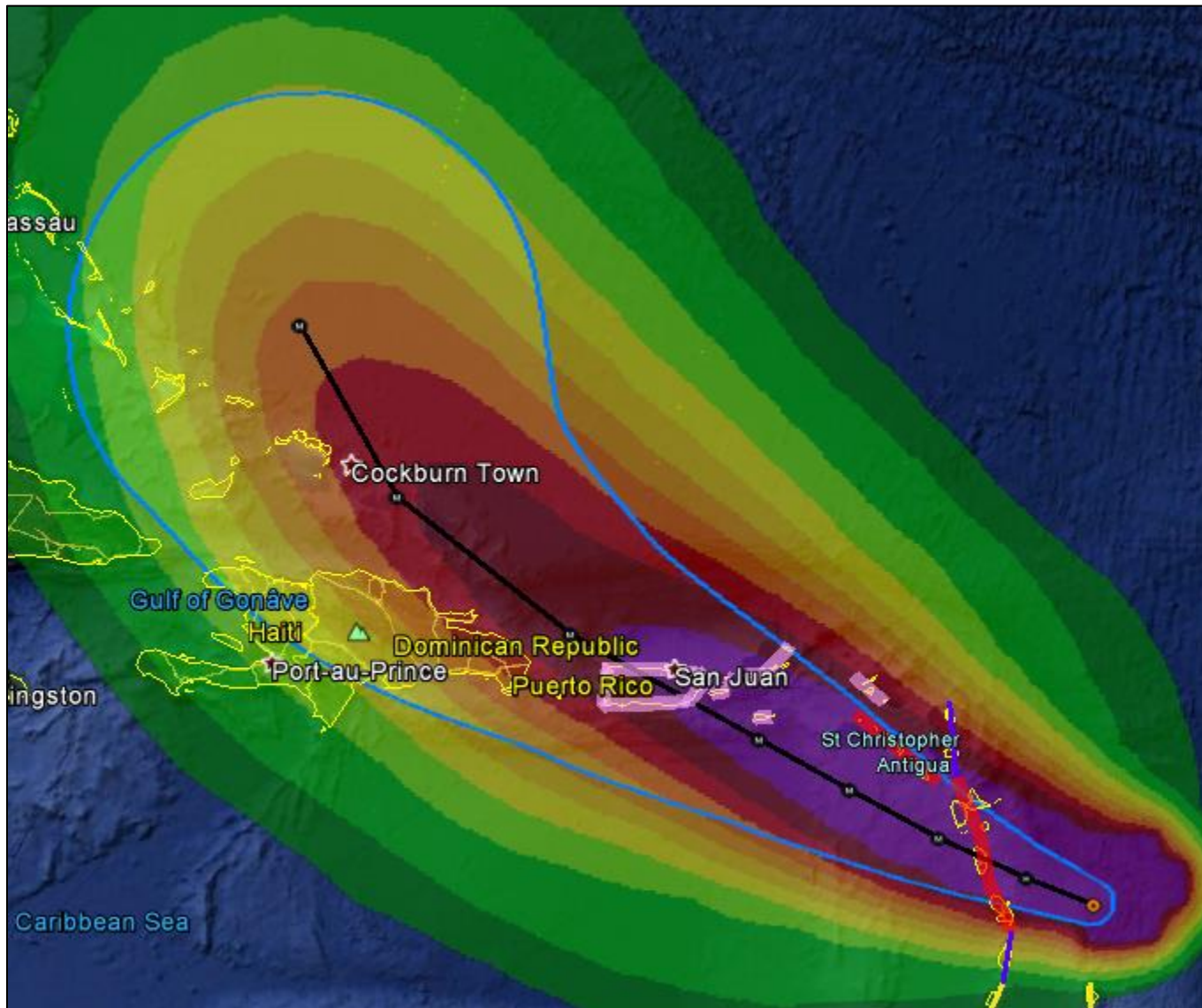


Predicted Path



Wind Speed Probabilities

**Yellow Line** – 30 to 50 mph winds, **Orange Line** – 50 to 70 mph winds, **Red Line** – 70 to 90 mph winds, **Purple Area** – 90+ mph winds





## Hurricane Hazards

While hurricanes pose the greatest threat to life and property, tropical storms and depression also can be devastating. The primary hazards from tropical cyclones (which include tropical depressions, tropical storms, and hurricanes) are storm surge flooding, inland flooding from heavy rains, destructive winds, tornadoes, and high surf and rip currents.

- Storm surge is the abnormal rise of water generated by a storm's winds. This hazard is historically the leading cause of hurricane related deaths in the United States. Storm surge and large battering waves can result in large loss of life and cause massive destruction along the coast.
- Storm surge can travel several miles inland, especially along bays, rivers, and estuaries.
- Flooding from heavy rains is the second leading cause of fatalities from landfalling tropical cyclones. Widespread torrential rains associated with these storms often cause flooding hundreds of miles inland. This flooding can persist for several days after a storm has dissipated.
- Winds from a hurricane can destroy buildings and manufactured homes. Signs, roofing material, and other items left outside can become flying missiles during hurricanes.
- Tornadoes can accompany landfalling tropical cyclones. These tornadoes typically occur in rain bands well away from the center of the storm.
- Dangerous waves produced by a tropical cyclone's strong winds can pose a significant hazard to coastal residents and mariners. These waves can cause deadly rip currents, significant beach erosion, and damage to structures along the coastline, even when the storm is more than a 1,000 miles offshore.

## Actions to Take When a Tropical Storm or Hurricane Threatens

When a hurricane threatens your community, be prepared to evacuate if you live in a storm surge risk area. Allow enough time to pack and inform friends and family if you need to leave your home.

- **Secure your home:** Cover all of your home's windows. Permanent storm shutters offer the best protection for windows. A second option is to board up windows with 5/8 inch exterior grade or marine plywood, built to fit, and ready to install. Buy supplies before the hurricane season rather than waiting for the pre-storm rush.
- **Stayed tuned in:** Check the websites of your local [National Weather Service office](#) and [local government/emergency management office](#). Find out what type of emergencies could occur and how you should respond. Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or other radio or TV stations for the latest storm news.
- Follow instructions issued by local officials. Leave immediately if ordered!
- If NOT ordered to evacuate:
  - Take refuge in a small interior room, closet, or hallway on the lowest level during the storm. Put as many walls between you and the outside as you can.
  - Stay away from windows, skylights, and glass doors.
  - If the eye of the storm passes over your area, there will be a short period of calm, but at the other side of the eye, the wind speed rapidly increases to hurricane force winds coming from the opposite direction.

**For Additional Information:**

American Red Cross  
<http://www.redcross.org/>

US Coast Guard Storm Center  
<https://www.uscg.mil/news/stormcenter/>

US National Hurricane Center  
[www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov)

US Federal Emergency Management Agency  
<http://www.ready.gov/hurricanes>

FEMA – Mobile App  
<https://www.fema.gov/mobile-app>

Ready Gov  
[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

Listo Gov (Spanish)  
[www.listo.gov](http://www.listo.gov)

Emergency Management Agencies  
<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-management-agencies>