

SXM Weekly News Special Edition, 8/31/17: Major Hurricane Irma

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1. Irma's Current Track / Where it Will Be Monday

The National Hurricane Center at 11 a.m. today declared Irma to be a hurricane. It added that the storm was intensifying rapidly and already had sustained winds of over 100 mph. It said it expected those winds to exceed 110 mph by tonight, which would make Irma a category 3 major hurricane that is still intensifying.

The storm is roughly 1700 miles from SXM in the Eastern Atlantic. It's moving slowly WNW now, will switch to W and possibly WSW between now and Monday.

Many variables are in play which will help steer the storm on Monday or after.

In his 10 a.m. EDT message to Crown Weather subscribers, Rob Lightbown included this terse assessment: *"For Those Of You In The Central & Northern Lesser Antilles, Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico: Irma has the potential to be a major hurricane when it impacts some part of the northeastern Caribbean starting on Tuesday and continuing through Wednesday. The islands I am most concerned with right now for a major hurricane impact are Guadeloupe, Antigua, Barbuda, St. Martin(/St. Maarten), Anguilla, the entire US & British Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Please monitor the progress of Irma extremely closely and it may be a good idea to go through your hurricane prep kit and be prepared for a major hurricane impact."*

It is not a 100% certainty that Irma will

strike SXM, but as of today it appears likely that the island will have some sort of impact from the storm, most likely on Tuesday and Wednesday.

2. Possible Effects on SXM

Too early to predict; listen to our partner, Island 92 radio, 91.9 FM or online at www.island92.com for the latest locally originated forecasts, watches, and warnings, particularly this weekend and Monday.

You will also find a link to forecasts and advisories directly from the island under "Information Sources" near the top of our expanded "Weather" page on our SXM site, everythingxsm.com.

3. Storm Preparation Sources of Info

FEMA has excellent resources. A link to them is on the Weather page on our site, everythingxsm.com, or go here: <https://www.ready.gov/hurricanes>

There's also an extensive Storm Preparedness List in the Files area, which is on the top left corner of our Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/6297726366/>. You will find much more valuable weather-related info there as well.

4. If you plan to be in SXM, what should you do?

As we said above, at this point (Thursday morning) there is not 100% certainty the storm will hit SXM. There is a high likelihood the island will be affected by the storm, one way or another. See story #2 and monitor reports there and see the Weather page on our everythingxsm.com site for more.

If you are on the island, listen to Island 92 and heed the advice of local authorities. Never rely on any site for life or death

guidance when a storm is headed right at you. Our site is for informational purposes only.

5. Please help us keep you posted on what's happening in SXM

Your ongoing support is essential to our ability to bring you *SXM Weekly News* every week, our storm coverage, our vacation giveaways, and of course the 300+ discounts offered through JMB memberships. If you join our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program, you also get many other benefits, like the ability to publish multiple ads for timeshares in SXM or elsewhere that you want to rent out or sell. Plus our "Dog Days" sale is in its final days. Join, reinstate, or renew today, here:
http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_xsm/paypal.shtml

You can also get a great deal on SkyMed Medevac protection -- and getting it through us "takes you home" when you become critically ill or injured while traveling, and supports SkyMed, our long-time sponsor.

Here's how our new SkyMed bonus works. Buy a new SkyMed one, three, or five year membership --OR-- upgrade to a three or five year membership at www.getskymed.com or by phone at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only)... forward your approval letter from SkyMed to support@jmbcommunications.com with the subject SkyMed Sale along with your full street address and daytime phone number... and we will issue you a new or extended JMB membership for the same number of years.

You've been thinking about doing this, and now it's time. Upgrade bonus applies to SkyMed memberships bought from us.

6. Future updates / Next Regular SXM Weekly News issue

Updated forecasts and storm track info are posted constantly on our Weather page

at www.everythingsxm.com. We will also be publishing updates as they happen on our Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site; see story #3.

The next regular issue of *SXM Weekly News* will be distributed Sunday and Monday as usual. Normally during holiday weeks, Weekly News is published on Tuesdays: we are not doing that so we are free to keep all readers up to date, if necessary, Monday and Tuesday regarding Irma, via our Everything St. Maarten Facebook Site.

Thank you.

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