



Thursday, September 7, 2017 – 1:30 p.m. EST

Irma Tears through Caribbean; Southeast U.S. braces for storm

Hurricane Irma, described as the most powerful Atlantic storm in a decade, is battering the Caribbean. The category 5 storm has wind speeds of 185 mph. Early reports of damage to buildings, hotels and infrastructure are being reported on several Caribbean islands along with major flooding.

The first islands to bear the brunt of Irma were Antigua and Barbuda before the hurricane moved to Saint Martin and Saint Barthelemy (St. Barts). News outlets are reporting that 90 percent of the structures and vehicles on Barbuda have been destroyed and there is no water or phone service for residents.¹

This morning the storm battered parts of the Dominican Republic and Haiti and is projected to hit the islands of Turks and Caicos and the Bahamas next.

“Our Catastrophe Services™ team is focused on meeting client commitments while keeping a close eye on Irma,” said Crawford U.S. Property & Casualty CEO, Ken Tolson. “We are continuing to have discussions with clients who have risks in the affected areas and are planning to deploy adjusters, WeGoLook® Lookers® and drone operators.”

Crawford will leverage both its U.S. and international claims adjusting teams to make resources available to handle claims from Irma while simultaneously responding to Harvey.

“As part of our preparation for Irma, we have made arrangements for two possible sites – on both the east and west coasts of Florida - for our mobile induction center that will support claims from Irma in the U.S. and the Caribbean,” said Tolson.

In view of the destructive nature of the storm, and the priority of personal safety, we anticipate that many claims will take several days to be notified.

“While we are working on claims from Harvey, we continue to monitor this storm as it develops in the Atlantic,” said Tolson. “We will continue to leverage our entire suite of solutions for both auto and property claims stemming from both commercial and residential losses as we support our clients during these weather events.”

For assistance with Hurricane Irma, Harvey, or other catastrophic events, contact our 24-hour ClaimsAlert® call center at 1-877-346-0300.

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1 ABCnews.com "Hurricane Irma causes at least 3 deaths in Caribbean as Florida, Georgia, SC brace for storm." Retrieved 9/6/17 from <http://abcnews.go.com/US/hurricane-irma-slams-caribbean-florida-face-direct-impacts/story?id=49645643>

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