

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

CARIBBEAN: HURRICANE FRANCES

31 August 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

This Information Bulletin (no. 01/2004) is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Situation

Since yesterday, 30 August, Hurricane Frances passed north of the northern Leeward Islands and has continued to gather strength, becoming a powerful category 4 hurricane today, 31 August. On Tuesday evening, the eye of the hurricane was located some 150 miles north of San Juan, Puerto Rico. Heavy rainfall of up to 3 inches could fall tonight over parts of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands as a result of the passage of Frances. On its current track, the core of hurricane Frances is expected to pass near or over the Turks and Caicos Islands and the South Eastern Bahamas during the next 24 hours. A hurricane warning is in effect for the South Eastern Bahamas which includes Acklins, Crooked, Inaguas, Mayaguana and Ragged Islands, and for the Turks and Caicos Islands. The Central Bahamas may also be affected and a hurricane watch is in place in Cat, Exumas, Long Islands, Rum Cay and San Salvador. In addition, a tropical storm warning has been issued for the north coast of the Dominican Republic from Punta Gorda to Manzanillo Bay. High waves may occur along the north coast of Hispaniola.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In the British Virgin Islands, the Red Cross held a preparedness meeting on Saturday, 28 August and verified emergency supplies. Red Cross volunteers were on standby to deploy to shelters, provide first aid and to assist with shelter management, if required. Red Cross volunteers were identified to work in shelters in Anguilla, should the hurricane hit, and in Antigua and Barbuda, a preparedness meeting was held and the Red Cross encouraged fishermen not to go out to sea. As of today, 31 August, fishermen returned to work and the tropical storm watch was cancelled.

Given the current track of Hurricane Frances and the tropical storm advisory in the Dominican Republic, a meeting will be held between the Dominican Red Cross, the Federation and PNS tomorrow morning, 1 September.

In Turks and Caicos, the Red Cross Overseas Branch is bracing for the hurricane. All volunteers are carrying out distributions of sand bags and, as part of the national disaster plan, are preparing shelters which were opened at 13.00 hours. The shelters have a capacity of 1,500 people. There is particular concern about populations living in the lowlands close to the sea. In the Bahamas, preparedness measures are being undertaken by the Bahamas Red Cross Society in coordination with the government.

The Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), the Panama Regional Delegation and the Port of Spain Sub Regional Office are closely monitoring the situation. Two disaster management delegates from PADRU are on standby, ready for immediate deployment to either Turks and Caicos or the Bahamas.

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