

# **BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS REPORT**

## **TROPICAL STORM JEANNE**



photo courtesy of [www.bviplatinum.com](http://www.bviplatinum.com)

**PREPARED BY  
THE DEPARTMENT OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

## 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> September, 2004

### EVENT

#### TROPICAL STORM JEANNE

#### Sequence of Events (13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2004)

##### ► Monday 13<sup>th</sup>

DDM issued an urgent weather advisory on a developing depression located to the east of the Caribbean Islands, that showed conditions were favorable for development to a tropical depression or a tropical storm in the northeast Caribbean Sea within later that afternoon or on Tuesday. At that time the center of the storm was located approximately 175 miles east-southeast of Guadeloupe. Meteorologists stated that the wave was going to move in a westerly direction near 10 mph. The system was due to track to the west-northwest toward the US Virgin Islands, BVI and Puerto Rico in 36-48 hours. Residents were asked to monitor the system, which was expected to produce heavy rains, squalls and wind gusts of 50 to 60 mph. A small craft advisory was issued.

At 5:00 pm the **second** weather advisory was issued by the DDM. The Government of Antigua issued a tropical storm watch for the British Virgin Islands. The wave had developed into a depression. The center at this time was near latitude 16.0 north and longitude 60.4 west about 70 miles east-southeast of Guadeloupe. Forecasters predicted that the depression would track to the west-northwest toward the U.S. Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico in 36-48 hrs with further development. The staff at DDM continued to monitor the storm and issued advisories on the development of the system.

##### ► Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>

The **third** advisory was released at 8:00 am. The depression was expected to strengthen into a storm as the system became better organized and it was named Jeanne. The center was located at latitude 16.6 north and 62.5 west longitude or about 165 miles east-southeast of St. Croix and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

At 11:00 am the **fourth** advisory was issued. The system had already developed into a Tropical Storm Jeanne. The center of the tropical storm was located near latitude 16.6 north, longitude 63.1 west or about 135 miles southeast of St. Croix.

The **fifth** advisory was issued at 2:00 p.m. The center of Tropical Storm Jeanne was located near latitude 16.7 north, longitude 63.5 west or about 100 miles southeast of St. Croix. Heavy squalls were already impacting the northern Leeward Islands, and was expected to spread into the Virgin Islands. Tropical Storm Jeanne was expected to continue moving slowly in a west-northwest to northwesterly direction over the next few days, taking the center just south of the Virgin Islands later in the day and over Puerto Rico early Wednesday. A shift system was implemented at the DDM to monitor the system—the first from 4:30pm to 12 midnight and the second from 12 midnight until.

The **sixth** advisory was issued at 5:00 p.m. A tropical storm warning continued to remain in effect for the BVI. The location of the tropical storm was near latitude 16.8 north, longitude 63.9 west or about 85 miles southeast of St. Croix. The center was becoming more embedded within the deeper thunderstorms and the outflow pattern continued to improve. Forecasters at this time were beginning to be more concerned that Jeanne could be very close to hurricane strength by the time it reached Puerto Rico early Wednesday morning.

The **seventh** advisory was issued at 8:00 pm. A tropical storm warning remained in effect for the BVI. Jeanne was located near latitude 17.0 north, longitude 64.1 west or about 65 miles southeast of St. Croix.

The **eighth** advisory was issued at 11:00 pm. The BVI still remained under a tropical storm warning. The center of Jeanne was located near latitude 17.2 north, longitude 64.5 west or about 40 miles south-southeast of St. Croix. Jeanne's west-northwesterly motion was expected to bring the center near St. Croix later that night into early Wednesday and near Puerto Rico Wednesday afternoon. By early morning the heavy squalls and rains began to affect the BVI.

#### ► **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>**

At approximately 7:30 am the Governor issued a statement to the general public. He mentioned that travel conditions were hazardous in some parts of the island, particularly in the hills and along some of the coastal roads where there were seas breaking over the road and some fallen debris. The Chief Education Officer had already announced that all public schools in the Territory would be closed. He urged all essential staff to make every effort to report for duty, and others were to report to work only if it was safe to do so.

The Public Works Department (PWD) mobilized their teams at around 7:00 am this morning to clear all roads of debris including a small landslide at Brewers Bay. They also reported that most of the public drains were clear. They stated that they would monitor weather conditions into the night and mobilize additional crews if necessary.

Wave action and storm surge put debris onto the coastal road between Sea Cows Bay and West End, at the Carrot Bay area and at the Beef Island bridge. There were no significant reports of damage from the sister islands.

The **ninth** advisory was issued at 8:00 am. The center of Tropical Storm Jeanne was estimated to be near latitude 17.6 north, longitude 65.4 west or about 70 miles southeast of San Juan, Puerto Rico. Radar indicated that a strong band of squalls passed across St. Croix over the past 6 hours and was now moving toward the southeast coast of Puerto Rico. Some slight strengthening was possible over the next 6 hours before the center began to pass across southern Puerto Rico. Tropical Storm force winds were to affect Puerto Rico later that morning and continue until the center exited the western coast early Thursday. Forecasters expected the storm to weaken on

Thursday as it moved inland and track west-northwest across northern Hispaniola. However, with the current track, forecasters expected gradual strengthening again after the center emerged off the northern coast of Haiti on Friday and that the storm could become a hurricane by Sunday.

The **tenth** advisory was issued at 11:00 am. A tropical storm warning remained in effect and a hurricane watch was also issued for the BVI. This situation of both a warning and a watch at the same time was because Meteorologists predicted that conditions were favorable for the storm to strengthen to a hurricane before reaching the BVI. The center was estimated to be near latitude 17.8 north, longitude 65.8 west or about 45 miles south-southeast of San Juan, Puerto Rico or 65 miles west of St. Croix. Unofficial reports indicated that St. Croix recorded a gust of 96 mph at an elevation of 300 feet during the past few hours.

The windspeed during the passage of Jeanne was measured from 12:00 am to 1:00 pm. Five stations recorded windspeed, Chalwell (Roger Downing), East End (J. Cope), Airport, Cable & Wireless (Chalwell) and the DDM site. The highest windspeed was recorded at Cable & Wireless (Chalwell) and was 80 mph. The lowest speed was recorded at the Terrance B. Lettsome International Airport and was 21 mph. **(See Appendix 1)**

The **eleventh** advisory was issued at 2:00 pm. A hurricane watch and tropical storm warning remained in effect for the British Virgin Islands. The center of Tropical Storm Jeanne was located near latitude 18.1 north, longitude 66.1 west or about 25 miles south-southwest of San Juan, Puerto Rico. During the last few hours, the center of Jeanne made landfall in Puerto Rico near Yabucoa. This motion was expected to bring the center through central and western Puerto Rico that afternoon and evening. Isolated tornadoes were possible over Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands that day. Residents were asked to continue to listen for advisories from the DDM, as the system would continue to bring heavy rains, squalls and wind gusts throughout the day and possibly into Thursday. A small craft advisory remained in effect. Persons traveling on the roads were asked to exercise extreme caution.

The electricity supply remained available throughout the passage of the storm, except for one brief wide-area outage, which was quickly rectified by the BVIEC.

At 5:00 pm the Governor issued a statement regarding previous weather conditions and conditions that could be expected. Essential agencies such as the Public Works Department would be mobilized if necessary. All public institutions were expected to be opened for Thursday.

From the twelfth advisory at 5:00 pm to the fifteenth advisory at 2:00 pm on Thursday 16th September, saw a significant movement by the center of the storm. The center of the storm moved from near latitude 18.4 north, longitude 66.5 west or about 25 miles west of San Juan, Puerto Rico to latitude 18.8 north, longitude 69.0 west or inland about 65 miles east of Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic. During this period, the

weather conditions forecasted remained the same as in advisory number eleven, and a small craft advisory remained in effect.

Rainfall was measured at four locations for the entire day of the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2004: Chalwell (Roger Downing), East End (J. Cope), Brewers Bay (Jeff Morgan) and the DDM site. The highest rainfall occurred at DDM, which measured 3.71 inches. The lowest rainfall occurred at Chalwell, which measured 2.48 inches. **(See Appendix 2)**

Hurricane Jeanne was about 300 miles west of the BVI with most of the weather from a feeder band that lapped into the eastern side of hurricane Jeanne. This feeder band extended from the hurricane right across the eastern end of the BVI and its effects decreased as the hurricane moved slowly out of the area at about 7 to 10 miles per hour.

The **final advisory** was issued at 5:00 pm on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> September. Rainfall and some squalls were expected across the Virgin Islands and forecasters expected these squalls and rain to diminish later on in the evening as Jeanne moved further westward. A small craft advisory remained in effect.

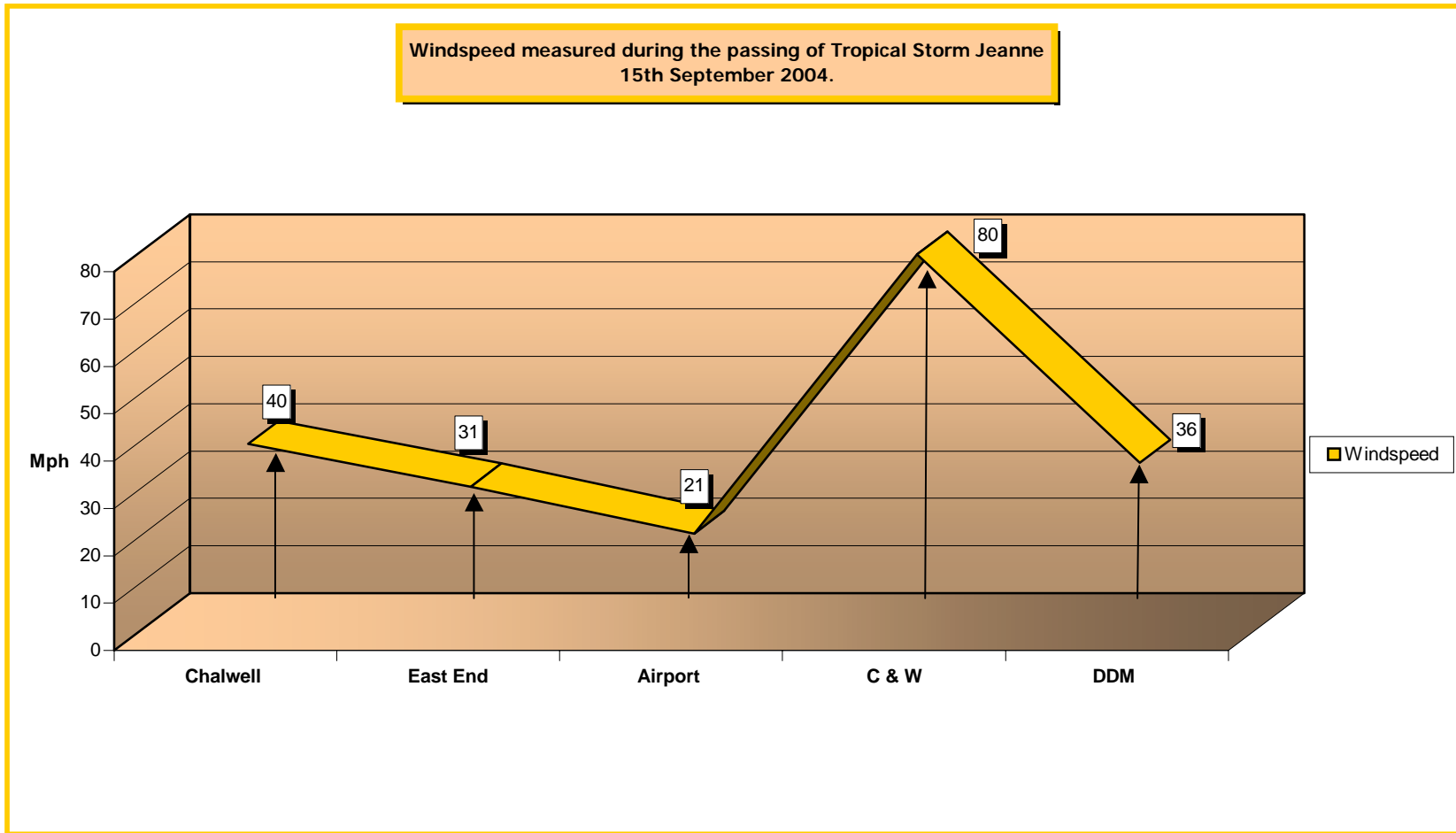
#### **DAMAGE INCURRED DUE TO JEANNE**

- One house flooded in Huntum's Ghut area (Ms. R. Dawson)
- Community Center on Anegada was flooded

#### **AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT**

The areas for improvement remains the same as those outlined in the Hurricane Frances's report.

# Appendix 1



Appendix 2

