



# Tropical Cyclone Briefing

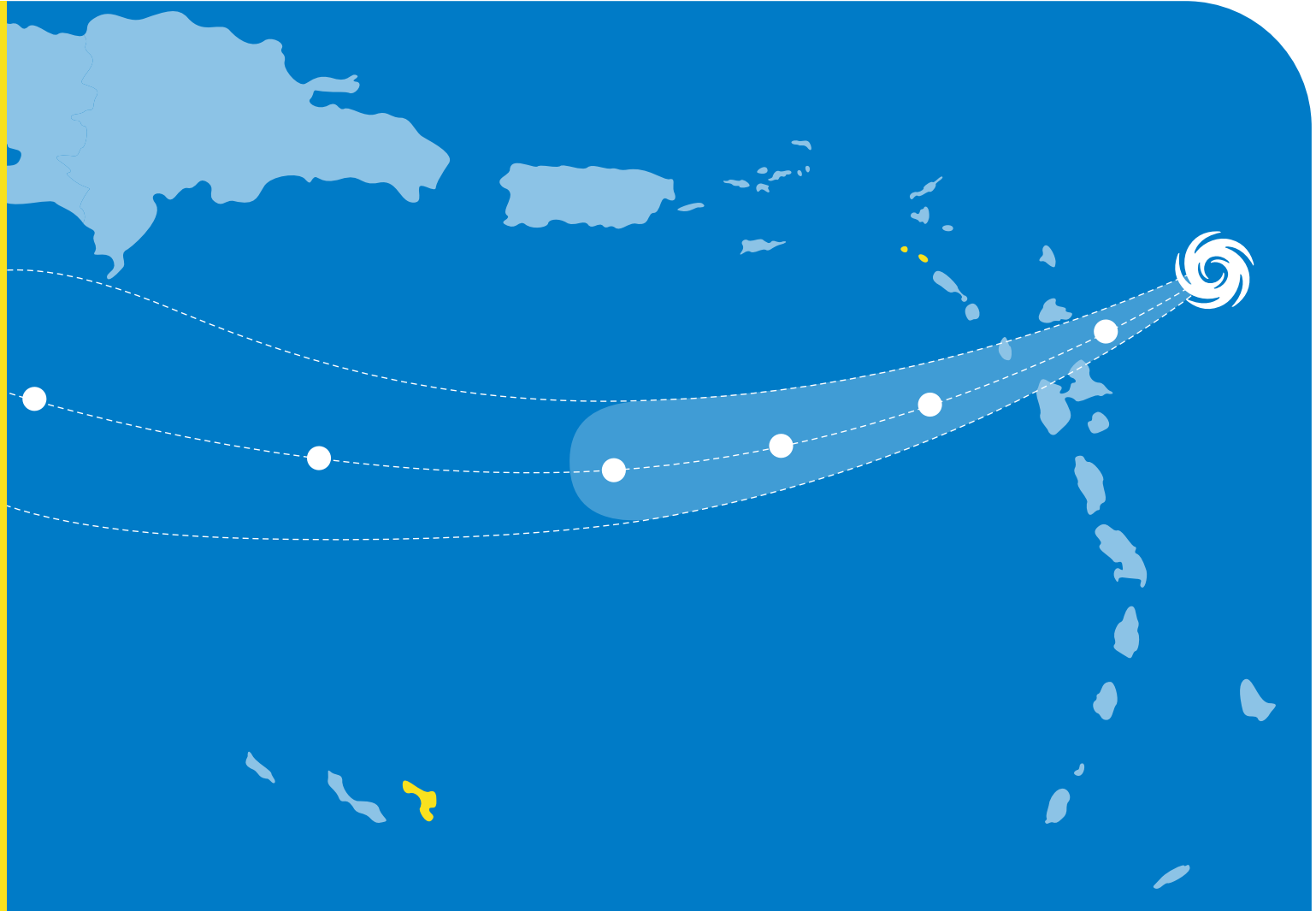
Crisis Management Coordination Centre

## Ensuring a shared understanding of the situation and swift coordination

The Tropical Cyclone Briefing is an informational crisis management meeting that is held whenever a tropical cyclone threatens to affect the Caribbean part of the Netherlands: the islands of Bonaire, St Eustatius and/or Saba. This online meeting is organised by the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI) and the Crisis Management Coordination Centre (DCC) of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management.



March 2026



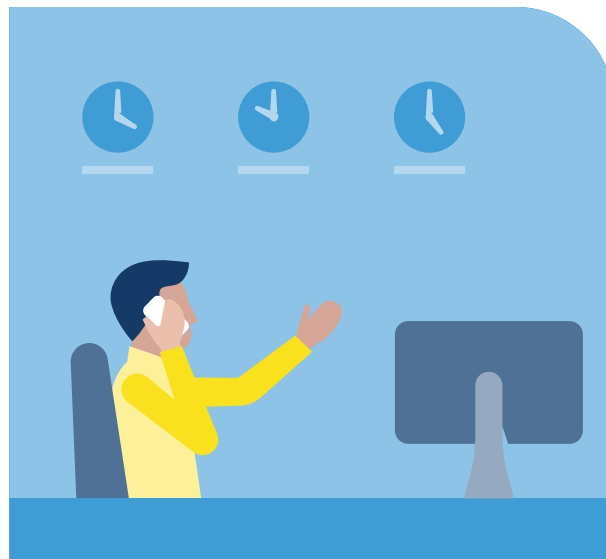
## Why a Tropical Cyclone Briefing?

The Atlantic hurricane season is between 1 June and 30 November. During the months of August, September and October, in particular, tropical storms and hurricanes pass through the Caribbean part of the Netherlands. Hurricanes can reach wind speeds of more than 250km/hour and cause major damage. KNMI is responsible for providing information about the hurricane threat to the islands and the government's partners. The Tropical Cyclone Briefing ensures that there is a common understanding of the situation, that coordination can take place swiftly and that all parties can take the necessary precautions.



## When is the briefing held?

If there is a 10% chance that a hurricane will develop in 96 hours, KNMI will inform the DCC of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, prior to setting the alert level at Watch (see inset). The DCC contacts all relevant parties to decide whether a briefing is needed. Any of the islands can also request a briefing, even when the likelihood of a hurricane is less than 10%. For instance, if they have serious concerns or want to consult on an issue. KNMI and the DCC decide whether a briefing will take place. If so, they schedule it as quickly as possible, taking account of the time difference.



### Warning levels

KNMI uses a system of emergency alerts to convey the expected impact of a tropical storm or hurricane on the Caribbean islands. These alerts are based on the methodology and data of the US National Hurricane Center.

- No threat
- Information (be alert)
- Watch (prepare yourself)
- Warning (protect yourself)
- Strike (seek cover)
- Advisory (be careful)



## How does the briefing work?

A number of government bodies and organisations always attend the briefing. Other relevant parties may take part as observers (see inset). During the briefing, KNMI provides information about current weather developments. Each participant can then ask questions about the anticipated weather conditions, such as how much precipitation is expected or the level of uncertainty of the forecast. Participants inform each other of any ongoing preparations and together decide whether they need help from central government, and if so what kind of help.



Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute  
Ministry of Infrastructure and  
Water Management

Ministry of Infrastructure and  
Water Management

### Participants

The following parties will be informed by KNMI and the DCC of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management about the hurricane threat, and they will be invited to take part in the briefing.

- National Crisis Centre (NCC)
- KCR2 Centre for Operational Information and Crisis Coordination
- Crisis coordinators, authorities and/or island secretaries of the relevant BES islands
- Crisis coordinator of the Kingdom Representative
- Crisis coordinator of the Representation of the Netherlands in Aruba, Curaçao and St Maarten (VNACS)
- Communication Section, Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management

### Observers

Others may take part as observers.

- Crisis coordinators for Curaçao, Aruba and St Maarten (CAS countries)
- DCC, Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations
- Representative of the Directorate-General for Kingdom Relations
- Defence liaison in the region
- DCC, Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport

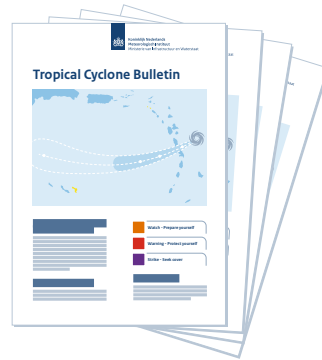


## What happens after the briefing?

After the briefing, the Crisis Management Coordination Centre sends all participants a concise report of what was discussed. The relevant islands and partners each take their own precautionary measures and they are responsible for communication via their own channels. In some cases the situation may call for regional coordination and/or escalation. Guidelines for this are set out in the Handbook on Crisis Management in the Caribbean parts of the Kingdom. If necessary, the Crisis Management Coordination Centre and KNMI organise additional briefings. KNMI issues Tropical Cyclone Bulletins twice daily as a tropical storm approaches, and four times a day once the alert level rises to 'Watch', 'Warning' or 'Strike'.



Handbook on Crisis Management  
for the Caribbean part  
of the Kingdom



## Additional information

You can find more information on this subject at:  
[www.dcc-ienw.nl](http://www.dcc-ienw.nl) (site in Dutch)

For up-to-date weather alerts for the BES islands,  
please consult [www.knmidc.org](http://www.knmidc.org)

If you have any questions about the briefing process,  
please email [dcc@rws.nl](mailto:dcc@rws.nl)