

(10/01/08 DRAFT) Using DMIS for a “Weekly All Hazards Look Ahead” Report

Purpose: In order for DMIS Users to achieve and maintain proficiency, it is universally agreed that users need to practice on a frequent basis during the normal course of business. Frequent use will also ensure that administrative matters, such as COG and Operator Profiles, will be attended to and maintained. By finding a meaningful use for DMIS during non-emergency periods, for periodic reporting of routine situational awareness information, these goals can be achieved.

Background: Federal and state agencies with missions to support disaster response maintain awareness of potential hazards on a routine basis, and may have formal processes for doing so. Below are a few examples of existing reports.

1. An example of a daily situation report prepared by FEMA is the **National Situation Update**, which may be accessed from: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/index.shtm>

This summary report provides status with respect to:

- Significant National Weather
- Specific Events (e.g. Dolly, LA Oil Spill, CA Wildfires)
- Tropical Weather Outlook
- Earthquake Activity
- Preliminary Damage Assessments
- Wildfire Update
- Disaster Declaration Activity

2. Similarly, the State of Florida posts a **State Watch Office Daily Situation Report**, which may be accessed from: <http://www.floridadisaster.org/DEMcom.asp>

Elements include:

- Statewide Weather
- Tropical Weather
- Open Source News/Unclassified Intelligence Synopsis

3. As a final example, NOAA maintains a Website called **NOAAWatch** to provide hazard outlooks at: <http://www.noaawatch.gov/>

Elements include:

- Specific Events
- Weather Outlook Summary
- Weather Warnings/Radar
- River and Lake Levels
- Drought Outlook
- UV and Heat Indices

Concept: Local emergency managers also maintain general awareness of potential hazards, most notably weather conditions, in coordination with NWS WFOs. Generally speaking, their processes for doing so are usually less formal. By establishing routine reporting of hazard conditions on a weekly basis, distributing such reports internally, and/or posting reports on publicly accessible city or county websites, a number of benefits may be potentially realized:

1. The public and local response partners are alerted to hazardous conditions that may be expected to develop, and will therefore be better prepared to take necessary measures.
2. Distribution of a weekly briefing report to the jurisdiction's PIO may assist in anticipating and responding to inquiries from the media or the public.

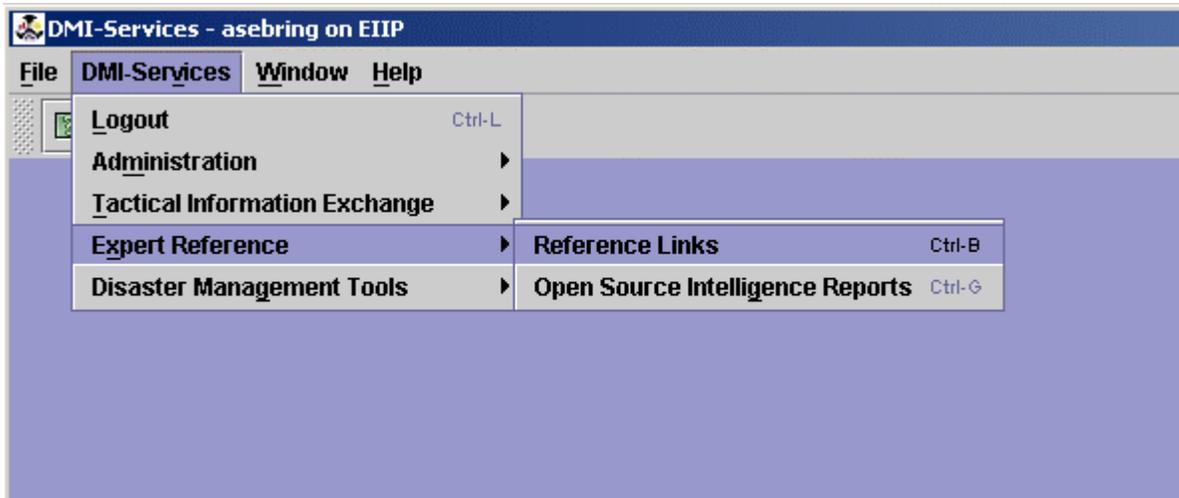
3. Distribution of a weekly briefing report to the jurisdiction's management and elected officials provides visibility for the emergency management program, and may serve as a reminder of its value.
4. Preparation of a report with contribution from multiple emergency support function organizations or agencies, may enhance coordination between them.
5. Using DMIS Tools to prepare the report may also encourage pre-populating response-related data, (e.g., medical facilities, shelter locations, etc.)

Hazards vary by geographical region; however, many potential hazards are common across the country. The proposed report outline provided below can be tailored by the local jurisdiction to reflect their specific concerns.

Maximize Usefulness: In order to sustain local interest in maintaining a weekly report, it should be useful to the jurisdiction above and beyond the opportunity to practice DMIS skills. The following are suggestions as to how to maximize usefulness:

1. Include outlooks for hazards of specific concern to the community.
2. Include an executive summary that highlights any specific areas of concern.
3. Include external local sources of weekly input as Operators in the COG, such as local NWS WFO, local or regional USGS, environmental or agriculture offices, or local utility offices.
4. Encourage all COG members to review the weekly reports, and encourage them to update with relevant status information.
5. Include a section on upcoming related activities such as meetings, training opportunities, project deadlines, etc.

DMIS Tools Expert Reference Links: To the extent possible, local sources should be reviewed in compiling a weekly report; however, it may also be useful to provide links to national sources. In many cases, the national level sources will permit the user to drill down to local information. DMIS Tools provides a mechanism to link to hazards information via the Expert Reference/Reference Links feature:



Selecting Reference Links opens a Web page, currently providing a limited number of links to, Preparedness, Response/Recovery, and Training resources. As part of this proposal, this Webpage has been redrafted to add a "Hazards Outlook Resources" section, with links to national sources of hazards

information. The draft webpage may be viewed online at <http://www.emforum.org/DMIS/DMIS-SIG/Tools/ReferenceLinks.htm> and a copy is attached hereto. It is recommended that the draft page, or an essentially similar one, replace the current Reference Links page on the new DMIS Website server, and the DMIS Tools program be modified to link to the new page. This will have the additional benefit of reinforcing the “All Hazards” usefulness of DMIS Tools. If implemented, the links will need to be checked periodically to ensure that they remain valid URLs.

Suggested Outline: The following table includes some suggested contents cross-referenced to the national information sources, relevant DMIS Tools section, and functional information source:

Suggested Outline for Content of a Weekly Hazards Look Ahead Report (tailor to local hazards)

Section	Description	National Sources (use to supplement state or local sources)	DMIS	ESF #
Weekly Hazard Summary	Executive summary level	http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/index.shtm (Summarize and highlight significant issues locally.)	TIE Incident	5-EMA
Hazardous Weather	Forecasts related to severe storms, tornadoes, winter weather, etc.	http://www.spc.noaa.gov/products/outlook/ http://www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/wwd/winter_wx.shtml	Journal entry, attachment, TIE Weather Forecast, USGS WMS, Map	5-EMA/NWS
Fire Hazard	Forecasts related to fire weather conditions, current fire hazard indices	http://www.spc.noaa.gov/products/exper/fire_wx/ http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/predictive/outlooks/outlooks.htm	Journal entry, attachment, USGS WMS, Map	5- EMA/NWS, 4- FD
Extreme Heat Hazard	Forecasts related to extreme heat events	http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/threats/t_threats.gif http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/610day/610temp.new.gif http://www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/heat_index_MAX.shtml	Journal entry, attachment	5-EMA/NWS
Tropical Weather	Forecasts related to tropical weather	http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/gtwo_atl.shtml http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/gtwo_epac.shtml	Journal entry, attachment, USGS WMS, Iowa Mesonet WMS (satellite), Map	5-EMA/NWS
Flood Hazard	Forecasts related to precipitation, flooding, stream levels	http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/threats/p_threats.gif http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/610day/610prcp.new.gif http://www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/qpf/qpf2.shtml http://www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/nationalfloodoutlook/index.html http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/rt	Journal entry, attachment, Iowa Mesonet WMS (radar, precipitation), Map	5-EMA/NWS/USGS
Drought Hazard	Drought monitoring when applicable, water shortages	http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/season_drought.gif	Journal entry, attachment	5- EMA/NWS/USGS, USDA &/or EXT service
Landslide Hazard	Debris flow potential	http://landslides.usgs.gov/monitoring/ (See also Fire and Flood Hazards)	Journal entry, attachment, USGS WMS, Map	5-EMA/NWS/USGS
Geological Hazard	Earthquake, volcano activity, tsunami	http://earthquake.usgs.gov/ http://volcanoes.usgs.gov/ http://www.prh.noaa.gov/ptwc/	Journal entry, attachment, USGS WMS, Map	5-EMA/NWS/USGS

Transportation Issues	Road closures, hazardous roadways, evacuation considerations	http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/Trafficinfo/	Journal entry, attachment, TIE Infrastructure, Map	1-Trans, 3-PW
HazMat Issues	Known shipments of hazardous materials, chemical facility status, radiological issues, oil spill		Journal entry, attachment, TIE Agent Information, Map of "what if" ALOHA models	4-FD
Utility Issues	Planned outages, stresses on grid, water supply issues	See extreme heat and drought hazards above.	Journal entry, attachment, TIE Infrastructure, Map	12-Utilities & 3-PW
Health & Medical Issues	Known issues, such as annual flu season, detection of West Nile Virus, product recalls, etc.	http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Fsis_recalls/Public_Health_Alerts/index.asp http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Fsis_Recalls/Open_Federal_Cases/index.asp http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivity.htm http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/Mapsactivity/surv&control08Maps.htm	Journal entry, attachment, TIE Medical, TIE Casualties	8-PH, EMS, &/or area hospitals
Mass Gatherings	Major planned events, related security and EMS issues		Journal entry, attachment, Map	13-PD & 8- EMS
Terrorism	Specific sector or regional alerts	http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?theme=29	Journal entry, attachment	13-PD
Scheduled Activities	Upcoming activities such as related meetings, public outreach events, training classes, grant deadlines, etc.		TIE Additional Info	5-EMA

EMA=Emergency Management Agency
EMS=Emergency Medical Services
EXT=Agricultural Cooperative Extension Service
FD=Fire Department
NWS=National Weather Service
PD=Police Department
PH=Public Health
PW=Public Works
USDA=U.S. Department of Agriculture
USGS=U.S. Geological Survey

DMIS Tools Expert Reference Links

Hazards Outlook Resources

[Weather](#) | [Fire](#) | [Heat](#) | [Tropical](#) | [Flood](#) | [Drought](#) | [Geological](#) | [Transportation](#) | [Health/Medical](#) | [Terrorism](#)

[Preparedness Resources](#)

[Response/Recovery Resources](#)

[Independent Study Resources](#)

Hazards Outlook Resources

FEMA National
Situation Update

National Situation Updates are compiled daily for use in emergency management planning and operational activities. Updates include information and graphics gathered from a variety of sources.

<http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/index.shtm>

Fire Hazard [TOP](#)

NWS Storm Prediction Center Day 3-8
Fire Weather Forecast

http://www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/wwd/winter_wx.shtml

http://www.spc.noaa.gov/products/exper/fire_wx/

National Interagency Coordination
Center Outlooks

<http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/predictive/outlooks/outlooks.htm>

http://www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/heat_index_MAX.shtml

Tropical Weather TOP	NWS Tropical Prediction Center, Atlantic	http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/gtwo_atl.shtml
	NWS Tropical Prediction Center, Pacific	http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/gtwo_epac.shtml
		http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/rt
Drought Hazard TOP	US Drought Monitor	http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html
	NWS US Seasonal Drought Outlook	http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/season_drought.gif
		http://www.prh.noaa.gov/ptwc/
Transportation Issues TOP	FHWA National Traffic and Road Closure Information	http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/Trafficinfo/
		http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivity.htm

Terrorism [TOP](#)

DHS Homeland Security Advisory System

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/Mapsactivity/surv&control08Maps.htm>

<http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?theme=29>

Preparedness Resources [TOP](#)

<http://www.iab.gov/Download/IAB%202005%20SEL.pdf>

<http://www.mipt.org/Lessons-Learned.asp>

<https://www.llis.gov>

<http://www1.rkb.mipt.org/>

http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/nims_compliance.shtm

* Restricted; user name and password-protected account required

Response/Recovery Resources [TOP](#)

North American Emergency Response Guidebook (Orange Book)

Links on DOT site to download the ERG, ERG search tools, and ERG-related topics

<http://hazmat.dot.gov/pubs/erg/gydebook.htm>

http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/editorial/editorial_0566.xml

Incident Command System
(ICS) Report Forms

Links to downloadable ICS forms

<http://www.firescope.org/ics-forms.htm>

Independent Study Resources [TOP](#)

<http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/IS/is700.asp>

Tactical Information Exchange Detailed Report

Incident Information

Incident No. WK080905

Version No: 0

Incident Name: Weekly All Hazards Look Ahead Report

Incident Type: Weekly Report

Incident Category: Planning

Archived: No

Incident Description: Weekly All Hazards Look Ahead for Week Ending September 5, 2008

Tactical Information Exchange Detailed Report

Incident Information

General Information

Date of Incident: 08/29/2008 04:57 PM

Incident Phase: Mitigation

Time: 04:57 PM

Incident/Notification Level: Advisory

Time Zone: EST

Incident Status: Unknown

Actual/Estimated Time: Estimated

Incident Severity: Unknown

General Comments:

(From FEMA 8/29 National Situation Update) Tropical Storm Gustav is expected to become a hurricane and enter the Gulf of Mexico this weekend, affecting the U.S. Gulf Coast by Monday night or Tuesday. Texas State Operations Center (SOC) is activated at Level 1 (Emergency Operations) The Governor of Texas requested a pre-landfall emergency declaration as a result of Tropical Storm Gustav beginning on August 27 and continuing. The Initial Operating Facility (IOF) is operational in Austin, TX. FEMA State Liaisons will deploy to the Texas SOC on Friday. Texas is preparing for an impact of a major hurricane as well as preparing to receive up to 50,000 evacuees from Louisiana. Texas is planning for H-0, which is Arrival of Tropical Storm Winds, to occur on Monday, September 1, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. CDT. The State has activated its Alamo Regional Command to provide logistic support and staging areas. Potential hospital and nursing home evacuations may begin late Friday. NHC 3 Day Cone map and Advisory 19A attached.

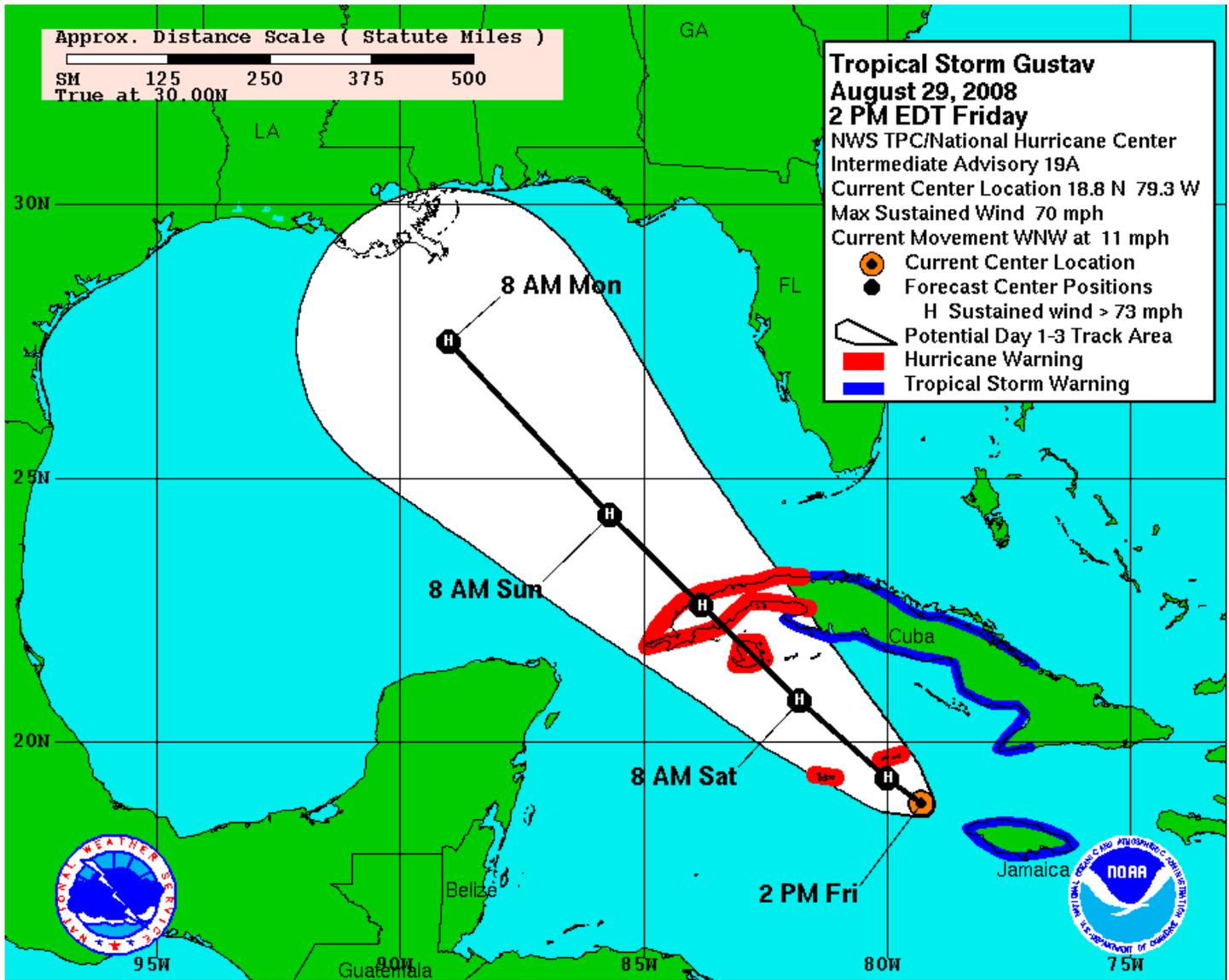
Tactical Information Exchange Detailed Report

Incident No: WK080905

Incident Name: Weekly All Hazards Look Ahead Report

Journal

Login	Date/Time	Category	Comments
asebring	08/29/2008 05:21 PM	Tropical	Hurricane Gustav expected to make landfall at north central Gulf, possibly upper Texas Coast. It is not expected to impact our area, but close monitoring is required due to uncertainty in the forecast.
asebring	08/29/2008 05:23 PM	Severe Weather	Tornadoes associated with Gustav are a distinct possibility Monday or Tuesday, depending on where landfall occurs..
asebring	08/29/2008 05:53 PM	Fire Weather	If Gustav stays northern Gulf Coast, South Texas would experience warm and dry weather Monday and Tuesday, with possibly a weak west or northwest wind temporarily developing. Elevated fire danger is possible Wednesday.
asebring	08/29/2008 05:57 PM	Heat Hazard	Normal seasonal temperatures expected.
asebring	08/29/2008 06:25 PM	Transportation	No significant issues. TxDot monitoring Gustav. Electronic signs in Corpus Christi are urging motorists to maintain full tanks.
asebring	08/29/2008 06:36 PM	Drought	Combined reservoir levels are at 86.6% of capacity.



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 WINT32 KNHC 291800
 TCPAT2
 BULLETIN
 TROPICAL STORM GUSTAV INTERMEDIATE ADVISORY NUMBER 19A
 NWS TPC/NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER MIAMI FL AL072008
 200 PM EDT FRI AUG 29 2008

...GUSTAV ALMOST A HURRICANE...

A HURRICANE WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT FOR THE CAYMAN ISLANDS...AND FOR THE WESTERN CUBAN PROVINCES OF ISLA DE JUVENTUD...PINAR DEL RIO...LA HABANA...AND CIUDAD DE LA HABANA. A HURRICANE WARNING

MEANS THAT HURRICANE CONDITIONS ARE EXPECTED WITHIN THE WARNING AREA WITHIN THE NEXT 24 HOURS. PREPARATIONS TO PROTECT LIFE AND PROPERTY SHOULD BE RUSHED TO COMPLETION.

A TROPICAL STORM WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT FOR JAMAICA...AND FOR THE CENTRAL CUBAN PROVINCES OF MATANZAS...CIENFUEGOS...VILLA CLARA...SANCTI SPIRITUS...CIEGO DE AVILA...CAMAGUEY...AND GRANMA. A TROPICAL STORM WARNING MEANS THAT TROPICAL STORM CONDITIONS ARE EXPECTED WITHIN THE WARNING AREA WITHIN THE NEXT 24 HOURS.

FOR STORM INFORMATION SPECIFIC TO YOUR AREA...PLEASE MONITOR PRODUCTS ISSUED BY YOUR LOCAL WEATHER OFFICE.

AT 200 PM EDT...1800Z...THE CENTER OF TROPICAL STORM GUSTAV WAS LOCATED NEAR LATITUDE 18.8 NORTH...LONGITUDE 79.3 WEST OR ABOUT 125 MILES...200 KM...EAST-SOUTHEAST OF GRAND CAYMAN AND ABOUT 425 MILES ...685 KM...EAST-SOUTHEAST OF THE WESTERN TIP OF CUBA.

GUSTAV IS MOVING TOWARD THE WEST-NORTHWEST NEAR 11 MPH...19 KM/HR. A NORTHWESTWARD MOTION IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN TODAY AND TO CONTINUE ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY. ON THIS TRACK...THE CENTER OF GUSTAV WILL PASS NEAR OR OVER THE CAYMAN ISLANDS LATER TODAY...OVER THE WESTERN PORTIONS OF CUBA ON SATURDAY...AND INTO THE SOUTHERN GULF OF MEXICO ON SUNDAY.

DATA FROM AN AIR FORCE RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT INDICATE THAT MAXIMUM SUSTAINED WINDS ARE NEAR 70 MPH...110 KM/HR...WITH HIGHER GUSTS. STRENGTHENING IS LIKELY DURING THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS...AND GUSTAV IS EXPECTED TO BECOME A HURRICANE AT ANY TIME TODAY. GUSTAV COULD BECOME A MAJOR HURRICANE BEFORE REACHING WESTERN CUBA.

TROPICAL STORM FORCE WINDS EXTEND OUTWARD UP TO 140 MILES...220 KM FROM THE CENTER.

THE MINIMUM CENTRAL PRESSURE JUST REPORTED BY THE AIR FORCE RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT WAS 984 MB...29.06 INCHES.

COASTAL STORM SURGE FLOODING OF 2 TO 5 FEET ABOVE NORMAL TIDE LEVELS IS POSSIBLE IN THE CAYMAN ISLANDS...WITH 8 TO 13 FEET POSSIBLE NEAR WHERE THE CENTER OF GUSTAV CROSSES WESTERN CUBA...INCLUDING ISLA DE JUVENTUD.

GUSTAV IS EXPECTED TO PRODUCE TOTAL RAINFALL ACCUMULATIONS OF 6 TO 12 INCHES ACROSS JAMAICA...THE CAYMAN ISLANDS...AND WESTERN CUBA...WITH ISOLATED MAXIMUM AMOUNTS OF UP TO 25 INCHES POSSIBLE. THESE RAINS WILL LIKELY PRODUCE LIFE-THREATENING FLASH FLOODS AND MUD SLIDES. RAINFALL ACCUMULATIONS OF 2 TO 4 INCHES ARE POSSIBLE OVER SOUTHERN CUBA.

REPEATING THE 200 PM EDT POSITION...18.8 N...79.3 W. MOVEMENT TOWARD...WEST-NORTHWEST NEAR 11 MPH. MAXIMUM SUSTAINED WINDS...70 MPH. MINIMUM CENTRAL PRESSURE...984 MB.