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Meteorological Department St. Maarten

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Climate Data

September 2017

Hurricane Irma approached St. Maarten very early on Wednesday September 6th 2017. At 11pm September 5th Irma was located at Latitude 17.4 N... Longitude 61.1 W or about 138 miles southeast of St. Maarten. Maximum sustained winds were 185 mph295 KM/H and was moving toward WNW or...285 degrees at 15 mph...24 KM/H. Minimum Central Pressure was 916 mb ...27.05 inches.

Storm force gusts were recorded at Princess Juliana near midnight (37 kts...43mph).

Wind gusts continued to increase to 45kts/52 mph about 1:00 am while sustained winds remained under 30 kts....35 mph. with rain.

The SUTRON AWS went down at 2:35 am. The VIASALA system was being used. At this time sustained winds had reached storm force (35 kts...40 mph) with gusts of 49 kts...56 mph with moderate rain. A few minutes after 4:00 am sustained winds increased to 49 kts...56 mph while gusts were about 70 kts...81 mph. At 5 am The center of extremely dangerous hurricane Irma was only 35 miles ESE of St. Maarten and things began going downhill at the Met. Service. Irma was packing winds of 185 mph and was moving near 16mph. A direct hit was expected.

At this time Forecasters/ Observers were standing in pools of water and equipment began to shut down the building was compromised therefore staff was in crisis mood.

The eye arrived about 7:40 am. The second half of the hurricane began about 45 minutes later and everything was over about 10:15 am.

No data was available until October 2nd 2017 when sub-normal observations resumed.

Sheryl E-LebBlanc
Meteorologist