



TSR Update on Intense Hurricane Dennis

London, 8 July 2005 - Tropical Storm Risk (TSR), the award-winning* consortium of experts on insurance, risk management and seasonal climate forecasting led by UCL's Benfield Hazard Research Centre, today predicted that hurricane Dennis will strike Cuba as a Cat 4 hurricane at around 18:00GMT on Friday, 8 July, with peak 1-min sustained wind speeds of 135mph and that it is 55% probable that hurricane strength winds will affect Havana.

Landfall on the US is then expected near Pensacola in Florida at 00:00 GMT on Monday, 11 July as a Cat 3 hurricane. The probability of US hurricane landfall is currently 25% but this is steadily rising. Dennis is currently located 150 miles northeast of Grand Cayman.

The attached image from the TSR Tropical Storm Tracker shows the past, current and forecast track and intensity for Dennis as of 09:00 GMT on July 8.

Professor Mark Saunders, the TSR Lead Scientist and Head of Seasonal Forecasting & Meteorological Hazards at the Benfield Hazard Research Centre commented: "Dennis is the first Caribbean major hurricane on record to occur in July (and only the 7th major July hurricane to occur anywhere in the Atlantic since 1900). It is a highly dangerous storm with the potential to cause severe damage and disruption. Inhabitants of Cuba, Florida and Alabama are urged to monitor its progress carefully".

For the latest information on tropical cyclone Dennis visit the TSR Tropical Storm Tracker at www.tropicalstormrisk.com

Professor Saunders is available today to provide you with the latest update on the hurricane tonight until 19:00 GMT on +44 (0) 1483 204187, or out of office hours on +44 (0)775 9667198. He is also available for comment on Saturday.

-ENDS-

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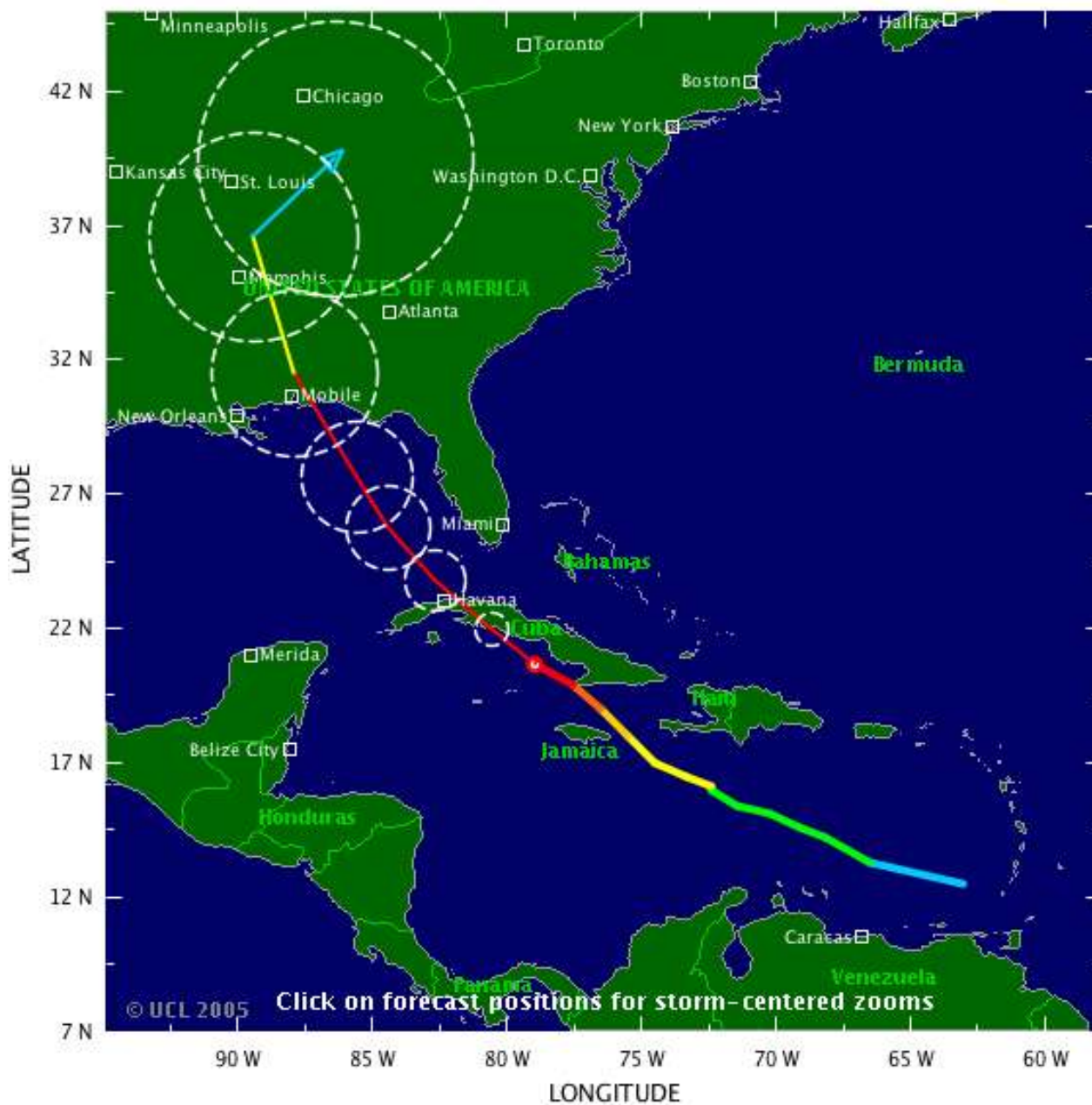
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Notes to Editors:

About Tropical Storm Risk (TSR):

Founded in 2000, Tropical Storm Risk (TSR) offers a leading resource for forecasting the risk from tropical storms worldwide. The venture provides innovative forecast products to benefit risk awareness and decision making in (re)insurance, other business sectors, government and society. The TSR consortium is co-sponsored by Benfield, the leading independent reinsurance intermediary, Royal & Sun Alliance, the global insurance group, and Crawford & Company, a global claims management solutions company. The TSR scientific grouping brings together climate physicists, meteorologists and statisticians at University College London and the Met Office. www.tropicalstormrisk.com

In 2004 Tropical Storm Risk won the prestigious British Insurance Award for London Market Innovation of the Year and demonstrated the business relevance of seasonal hurricane forecasts for the first time. TSR has recently introduced tropical storm alert feeds to Reuters AlertNet (www.alertnet.org), the humanitarian news portal, and to the United Nations World Food Programme.



— Past Track

→ Forecast Track

- - - Mean Forecast Error