

ALERTS: DETAIL

- UPDATE 2: International aid arriving in Haiti following Hurricane Matthew. Widespread infrastructure damage, overland transport disruptions ongoing.**

Locations affected by this alert: **Haiti**

This alert began 10/14/16 17:42 UTC and is scheduled to expire 10/31/16 23:59 UTC.

- **Event:** Hurricane Matthew aftermath
- **Location:** Haiti ([map](#))
- **Landfall (Date):** Near Les Anglais, Tiburon Peninsula (early Oct. 4)
- **Impact:** Protracted transport and utility disruptions, health concerns

Updated Information

Relief organizations are working to provide assistance to Haiti following the landfall of Hurricane Matthew on Oct. 4. Widespread infrastructure damage occurred, particularly in the southwestern part of the country. As of Oct. 14, reports from local officials indicate the death toll has surpassed 1,000 people; however, the death toll released by the federal government stands at 546. Many of the fatalities occurred along remote seaside villages along the country's Tiburon Peninsula. Nearly 130 people are missing, and more than 400 people were injured following the storm. Estimates indicate that more than 175,000 Haitians remain in temporary shelters.

Transportation

While crews have made progress in reaching remote areas, overland transport disruptions are causing delays in the distribution of aid throughout southwestern Haiti. Overland access to some severely affected areas in Grand'Anse, Nippes, and Sud departments remains cut off due to numerous bridge and road washouts. Response efforts continue to be hampered by the collapse of La Digue Bridge near Petit Goave; the bridge serves as a vital connection between the Tiburon Peninsula and Port-au-Prince. Vehicles that had attempted to cross the washout following the initial flooding were reportedly impeded by reduced traction and muddy conditions.

In addition to La Digue Bridge outage, bridges along the coast in Sud Department were also washed out, including near the towns of Port Salud, Alquin, and Cotes-de-Fer. Both Toussaint Louverture (PAP) and Hugo Chavez (CAP) international airports resumed operations on Oct. 6, but humanitarian flights could still be prioritized over regular commercial flights.

Damage Assessments

Emergency responders are still assessing the damage on the Tiburon Peninsula, where the Category 4 storm made landfall early Oct. 4. Reliable data on the number of damaged houses and the amount of waste and debris remaining to be cleared has yet to materialize in the hardest hit areas. Estimates indicate that nearly 2 million people will need assistance; of those, 750,000 will be in urgent need of humanitarian aid through at least December.

Aerial surveys of the southwestern region reveal catastrophic devastation, with thousands of structures destroyed and countless others damaged by heavy rainfall, strong winds, flash flooding, and mudslides. Major damage was reported in Grand'Anse, Nippes, Ouest, and Sud departments; Les Cayes and surrounding villages were particularly affected. Early estimates indicate that approximately 500 houses were destroyed, with more than 25,000 structures severely damaged by wind or floodwaters.

Telecommunications

Though the hurricane resulted in severe damage to the telecommunication network in southwestern Haiti, crews have made progress in restoring some services. As of Oct. 14, the cities of Jacmel and Aquin, as well as the downtown area of Les Cayes, have reportedly had communications infrastructure completely restored. Phone service has been made partially available in municipalities in Grand'Anse Department, including in Jeremie. Very limited service remains available in Nippes Department. Expect protracted power and communication outages as crews attempt to repair the communications infrastructure in the hardest-hit remote areas of southwestern Haiti. Hospitals, ports, government, and UN facilities will be prioritized when restoration efforts commence.

International Aid

Several organizations have pledged various forms of aid. United Nations (UN) convoys and non-governmental organizations

(NGOs) have been able to start bringing food, water, and supplies to remote areas on the Tiburon Peninsula; however, with efforts focused on larger towns in southwestern Haiti, many people in outlying communities are still without aid. The World Food Programme (WFP) previously stated that emergency food that can feed approximately 300,000 people for up to one month has been prepositioned throughout Haiti; the stockpiles are reportedly located in strategic areas that can swiftly reach remote locations. As of Oct. 13, two additional WFP cargo shipments arrived in the country; the organization has distributed rations to more than 30,000 people in Sud and Grand'Anse departments.

Advice

Seek updated local information on road conditions before driving; some roads could be closed for days. Plan accordingly for protracted commercial, transport, and logistics disruptions in Haiti. Charge battery-powered devices if electricity is available; restrict the use of cellular phones to emergencies only. Power down mobile devices when not in use. Observe strict food and water precautions; outbreaks of cholera and other waterborne diseases are possible. To the extent possible, avoid contact with floodwaters.

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1. Related Advice: [Information on how to identify and minimize the threat of landslides.](#)
 2. Related Advice: [What to do before, during and after a flood.](#)
 3. Related Advice: [Advice for water contamination issues caused by industrial accidents, natural disasters, or other environmental events.](#)
 4. Related Advice: [Post-flood Health Safety and Advice.](#)
 5. Related Advice: [Cholera](#)
 6. Related Advice: [Water Treatment Methods.](#)
 7. Related Advice: [Insect Precautions.](#)
 8. Related Advice: [Chikungunya Fever](#)
 9. Related Advice: [Buildings damaged by storms present many health risks. Consider these before entry.](#)