

ALERT

AmericasRelief Team
December 12, 2007

TROPICAL STORM OLGA Alert No. 1

AmericasRelief Team is monitoring the following event

TROPICAL STORM OLGA BACKGROUND

Tropical storm kills 10 in Caribbean

SANTO DOMINGO (AFP) — Tropical Storm Olga, a rare December cyclone, left at least 10 people dead in the Caribbean as pounding rains triggered major floods and landslides, authorities said Wednesday.

In the Dominican Republic, rescuers found numerous people clinging to trees or perched on their rooftops as floodwaters rose, according to the governor of Santiago province, Jose Izquierdo.

The northern city of Santiago, the country's second largest, was the worst hit as waters gushing from a dam further swelled an already overflowing river.

"Officially there are seven people dead in this city and 24,500 people displaced by evacuations across the country, because of rivers bursting their banks and landslides," said Juan Manuel Mendez, who heads the Emergency Operations Center.

In addition, dozens of communities were cut off from the rest of the country, he said.

An estimated 5,000 homes were affected, many of them completely destroyed, officials said, as the storm started fizzling out on Wednesday evening.

In Haiti, which shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic, Tropical Storm Olga killed at least two people, destroyed homes and uprooted trees, authorities said.

In Puerto Rico, one man was killed Wednesday when his car was buried under a landslide near San Juan, police said.

The system weakened as it traveled away from the island and was downgraded to a tropical depression on Wednesday afternoon, with forecasters saying it could fizzle out altogether during the night.

But the National Hurricane Center in Miami warned that the remnants of the system could continue dumping rain in Hispaniola, where the risk of life-threatening floods and mudslides remained high.

Olga's rampage came almost two weeks after the Atlantic hurricane season officially ended. It is rare for tropical storms to form after the November 30 end of the six-month season.

The Dominican Republic had already been hit hard by Tropical Storm Noel, which slammed the country in late October, killing at least 85 people.

Olga was the 15th named storm to form in the Atlantic this year. Six of the storms became hurricanes, including two that hit land with rare fury, reaching the topmost intensity five with maximum sustained winds of more than 249 kilometers (155 miles) per hour.

In August, Hurricane Dean killed at least 29 people in a rampage through the Caribbean and Mexico. The following month, Hurricane Felix killed about 150 people and wrought a trail of devastation along Nicaragua's impoverished Caribbean coast.



This image obtained from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), shows Tropical Storm Olga



AmericasRelief Team's Emergency Center Report

The AmericasRelief Team's Emergency Center has not been activated to begin coordinating the shipping of relief aid to victims of the event. However, we anticipate that air relief flights, ocean relief space and co-loading opportunities will develop. We will notify our colleagues, friends and members as this emergency develops.

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Visit www.americasrelief.org and click on "in-kind donations", or simply link here to access our "Donate In-Kind" form:

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To participate, simply send us a completed pre-approval form with your request for donated cargo space. Once approval is granted we will send you shipping instructions.

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POTENTIAL CONSIGNEE

Please contact us if you know of an NGO on location who is willing to act as a consignee for donated items.

Contact us at the main office at 305-884-0441 or by e-mail at info@americasrelief.org.

AVAILABILITY OF DONATED ITEMS

Qualified NGOs are requested to contact us to check on the availability of donated in-kind products in our databank and waiting for final disposition.

Contact us at the main office at 305-884-0441 or by e-mail at info@americasrelief.org.

CHARTER FLIGHTS

Charter flights for relief operations are available through AmericasRelief Team. Small cargo planes from 10,000 to 40,000 lbs. and larger cargo planes such as DC3, DC8 or DC10 are also available for charter flights to the affected areas.

Contact us at the main office at 305-884-0441 or by e-mail at info@americasrelief.org.

EMERGENCY PRODUCTS OFFERED

We wish to remind Humanitarian NGOs that **AmericasRelief Team** can act as the purchasing manager of your organization. And because we buy from so many sources, our prices are often the most competitive.

We are ready to provide quotation on all types of products used during emergencies and for humanitarian purposes: pharmaceuticals, medical supplies,

potable water (all types), general supplies, dry goods, canned goods, reconstruction building items, generators, and much more!

SEND US A LIST OF THE ITEMS YOU NEED TO PURCHASE

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REGULAR OCEAN SHIPMENT OF YOUR HUMANITARIAN CARGO

Humanitarian NGOs can now maximize their donations by providing more charitable items, while saving funds in the transportation of goods to the hurricane battered areas.

We are authorized to offer humanitarian NGOs with weekly sailings to over 80 destinations throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. We have guaranteed space with all carriers at most destinations. Our contracts include the handling of less than container load (LCL), full container load (FCL), and Air cargo.

Contact us for Free Estimates

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AmericasRelief Team

AmericasRelief Team is a Florida private sector collaboration of corporations and non-profit organizations created to help our Latin America and Caribbean friends in times of crisis and disasters.

AmericasRelief Team reacts to immediate crisis, provides ongoing logistics assistance, and conducts plans for future events in the region which will require effective coordination of humanitarian relief.

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AmericasHumanitarian Logistics Relief Team

Getting disaster relief in effective ways to our Caribbean Basin friends