

Hurricane Dean



Hurricane Dean was the most powerful tropical cyclone of the 2007 Atlantic hurricane season and inflicted severe damage on parts of Mexico, the Antilles and Belize. Once the hurricane had dissipated, it had caused over US\$1.5 billion worth of damage and left at least 45 people dead.

red24 assisted a client and his wife who were holidaying in Mexico while Hurricane Dean was approaching

Soon after the announcement that Hurricane Dean had formed, a client and his wife contacted red24 in fear for their safety. They were on holiday in Villahermosa, Mexico near what was expected to be Hurricane Dean's path and they did not know what to do.

Tracking the hurricane

Our Crisis Response Management (CRM) centre had been tracking Hurricane Dean for some time and had already issued a number of alerts to clients in the affected regions. Security specialists immediately carried out research to get as much detail on the expected impact on Villahermosa.



Hurricane Dean has been upgraded to a Category 5 storm and is expected to make landfall near the Mexico-Belize border later today. For advice, call red24.

Contingency and evacuation planning

The CRM team met and a contingency plan was compiled together with a rolling risk assessment to cater for a possible pre-emptive evacuation plan for both the client and his wife. Utilising one of red24's resident Spanish speakers, we were able to obtain local information about the likely impact on transport systems.

Good outcome

In light of all information, including timely updates from meteorologists, the CRM team assessed that the risk to Villahermosa was low. The strength of Hurricane Dean was anticipated to produce only a tropical storm in the area. Therefore the client and his wife were advised to remain where they were. In order to ensure their safety, we contacted the couple every few hours and advised them on what actions to take to minimise their risks during the storm.

Recent red24 natural disaster alerts:

Italy: *At least 16 have been killed in a 6.3 magnitude earthquake in the town of L'Aquila. Many buildings damaged. For advice call red24.*

Australia: *Wildfires in the south eastern parts of the country have left at least 14 people dead. Travellers are advised to avoid the affected areas and to follow the directives of the local authorities. For advice call red24.*

India: *A tornado has struck the eastern state of Orissa, causing numerous casualties and damage to infrastructure. Travellers should exercise caution and follow directives from local authorities. For advice call red24.*

Number of natural disaster alerts issued in recent months:

- 5 – Earthquakes
- 34 – Floods
- 3 – Tropical storms
- 1 – Tornadoes
- 2 – Volcanic eruptions
- 4 – Wildfires