

Statement #4

HURRICANE IRMA AND THE ISLANDS OF THE BAHAMAS 3:00 PM EDT, Friday, Sept. 8, 2017

NASSAU, Bahamas – Thursday, September 7, 2017: Hurricane conditions are spreading westward over portion of the Central Bahamas as a hurricane warning continues for the entire Bahamas. A hurricane warning remains in effect for the entire Bahamas as Hurricane Irma is expected to impact the country with tropical storm and hurricane force winds, significant rainfall and strong waves over the next 36 hours.

Hurricane conditions are presently spreading over south Long Island and over Ragged Island, while tropical storm force winds are now occurring over the Turks and Caicos Islands, Inagua, Mayaguana, Rum Cay and San Salvador. Tropical storm conditions will begin to spread into Eleuthera, Andros and New Providence this afternoon and tonight.

VISITORS

There are no visitors on Inagua, Acklins, Crooked Island, Mayaguana, Long Cay, Samana Cay and Ragged Island.

There are a total of 2,184 visitors throughout The Islands of The Bahamas. There are 181 visitors on the Family Islands, 3 on Grand Bahama and approximately 2,000 in Nassau/Paradise Island.

The breakdown is as follows:

- **ABACO – 1**
- **BERRY ISLANDS – 22**
- **ANDROS – 1**
 - Boater moved to a shelter in North Andros
- **ELEUTHERA – 96**
 - International students and teachers at the Island School
- **EXUMA – 61**
- **LONG ISLAND - 0**
- **BIMINI – 0**
 - All visitors were able to leave the island on Wednesday and Thursday
- **GRAND BAHAMA – 3**
- **HARBOUR ISLAND – 0**
- **SAN SALVADOR - 0**
- **NASSAU/PI – approximately 2,000**

HOTELS

All hotels and resorts throughout The Islands of The Bahamas have activated their hurricane programs and are taking all necessary precautions to protect visitors and residents where necessary.

AIRPORTS/AIRLINES

The following airports closed on September 7:

- **INAGUA**
- **RAGGED ISLAND**
- **ACKLINS**
- **CROOKED ISLAND**
- **MAYAGUNA**
- **LONG ISLAND**
- **RUM CAY**
- **EXUMA & THE CAYS**
- **SAN SALVADOR**
- **CAT ISLAND**
- **ELEUTHERA**

The following airports will close on Friday, September 8:

- **ANDROS, CONGO TOWN & MANGROVE CAY:** Closing at 11:00 a.m. on September 8
- **ANDROS, FRESH CREEK AND SAN ANDROS:** Closing at 4:00 p.m. on September 8
- **THE ABACOS:** Closing at Sunset on September 8
- **GRAND BAHAMA:** Closing at 12:00 p.m. on September 8
- **BERRY ISLANDS:** Closing at Sunset on September 8
- **BIMINI:** Closing at Sunset on September 8

Airport operations will resume once the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) gives the “All Clear” and the airports have been assessed and cleared for opening.

CRUISE

All cruise ships have been rerouted away from ports of The Bahamas to other destinations.

Ferry services will suspend service to Grand Bahama Island as the port will close on Friday, September 8 at noon.

The Islands Of The Bahamas will be releasing updates on the tracking of Hurricane Irma on Bahamas.com/storms. The number for the Tourism Emergency Coordinating Committee’s Command Center at the British Colonial Hilton in Nassau is **1 (242) 302 - TBD**.

###