

2007 Hurricane Season Summary – Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Service

The 2007 hurricane season has been a mixed season across the Caribbean. For most of the Eastern Caribbean islands including, Antigua and Barbuda, the season has been mostly quiet but for Hispaniola, Cuba and other parts of the Western Caribbean, hurricane activity has caused devastation and loss of life. The year generated (14) storms of which five (5) developed into hurricanes.

Once again, Antigua and Barbuda and the Leeward and British Virgin islands were spared of intense storm activity although two systems Hurricane Dean and a system that developed into Tropical Storm Noel provided gusty winds and substantial rainfall to the Leeward islands. Another system, Tropical Storm Ingrid, provided some interest for the Leeward Islands before dissipating on the 18th September.

Hurricane Dean developed from a tropical wave on the 13th August and traveled northwestward, strengthening and becoming a hurricane on the 16th August. The center of Hurricane Dean passed between St Lucia and, just over, Martinique with sustained winds of about 100 miles per hour. Maximum sustained winds of 38 miles per hour were recorded at V.C Bird Airport on the 17th at 1400 UTC, with estimates of up to 50 miles per hour reported on the Southwest of Antigua. There were reports of a few down power lines (*Figure 1*) and other light damages. Montserrat 28 miles southwest of Antigua, reported a maximum wind speed of 46 miles per hour. A rainfall amount of 14.6 millimetres was recorded at V.C Bird International with the passage of the system. Waves estimates of 12 to 14 feet were reported on the southeast and south of the island but no storm surge damages were reported. No casualties were reported in Antigua and Barbuda, the Leeward Islands or the British Virgin Islands but 40 deaths occurred mostly in Mexico and Haiti

A number of bulletins were issued by the Antigua Meteorological Service during the passage of Dean including a tropical storm warning for the Leeward and British Virgin islands.

Hurricane Noel developed as a result of an upper-level low that developed then deepened just east of Antigua and Barbuda on October 21st leading to the formation of a surface low east-northeast of Antigua. The surface low then moved slowly westward to west-southwestward, passing over Antigua and Barbuda on October 25th, gradually became better organized, and strengthened to become tropical depression number 16 (TD #16), approximately 200 miles south of Port au Prince, Haiti on October 27th. Conditions across the Leeward Islands during this period were characterized by cloudy skies, scattered to numerous showers, rain and occasional thunderstorms. Showers were often moderate to locally heavy resulting in some flooding across the islands. A total of 5.0 inches (127mm) of rainfall was recorded at V.C Bird International Airport with twice as much recorded on the Southern half of the island. TD #16 went on to become Hurricane Noel, the fifth and most deadly hurricane for the 2007 hurricane season.

Watches Coordination between Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Service and the Leeward and British Virgin islands went fairly smoothly. There was one noted complaint which had to do more with an emergency manager's own misunderstanding of the responsibility and chain of command for the issuance of watches and warnings for the Leeward and British Virgin islands.

**ANTIGUA METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA
FOR THE PERIOD 01/01/2007 AT 13:00 TO 01/11/2007 AT 12:00
WEATHER SUMMARY**

WX: PARTLY CLOUDY

WINDS: E'S AT 11.5 KNOTS

MAX 10-MIN WIND: 33 KNOTS DATE: 17/08/2007 AT 14:00

BARO PRESS: 1015.4 MILLIBARS NORMAL

TOTAL RAINFALL: 772.9 MILLIMETERS 30.4 INCHES **MAX 24-HOUR** 64.4 MM DATE: 25/10/2007

MAX 6-HR RAINFALL: 41.9 MILLIMETRES DATE: 01/10/2007 AT 24:00

RAINFALL STATUS : BELOW NORMAL

AVG MAX TEMP: 30.1 DEGREES CELSIUS **MAX:** 32.6 DEGREES CELSIUS DATE: 30/05/2007 AT 18:00

AVG MIN TEMP: 24.4 DEGREES CELSIUS **MIN:** 19.9 DEGREES CELSIUS DATE: 04/04/2007 AT 12:00

AVG TEMP: 27.0 DEGREES CELSIUS **WARMEST DAY:** 29.0 DATE: 16/08/2007 **COOLEST DAY:** 23.7 DATE : 26/01/2007

AVG REL HUM: 74.3 % **MOST HUMID-DAY:** 91.5 % DATE : 26/10/2007 **LEAST HUMID-DAY:** 60.4 % DATE : 1/04/2007

Graph 1: Comparison of Rainfall Measured at V.C. Bird Int'l Airport Up To October 2007

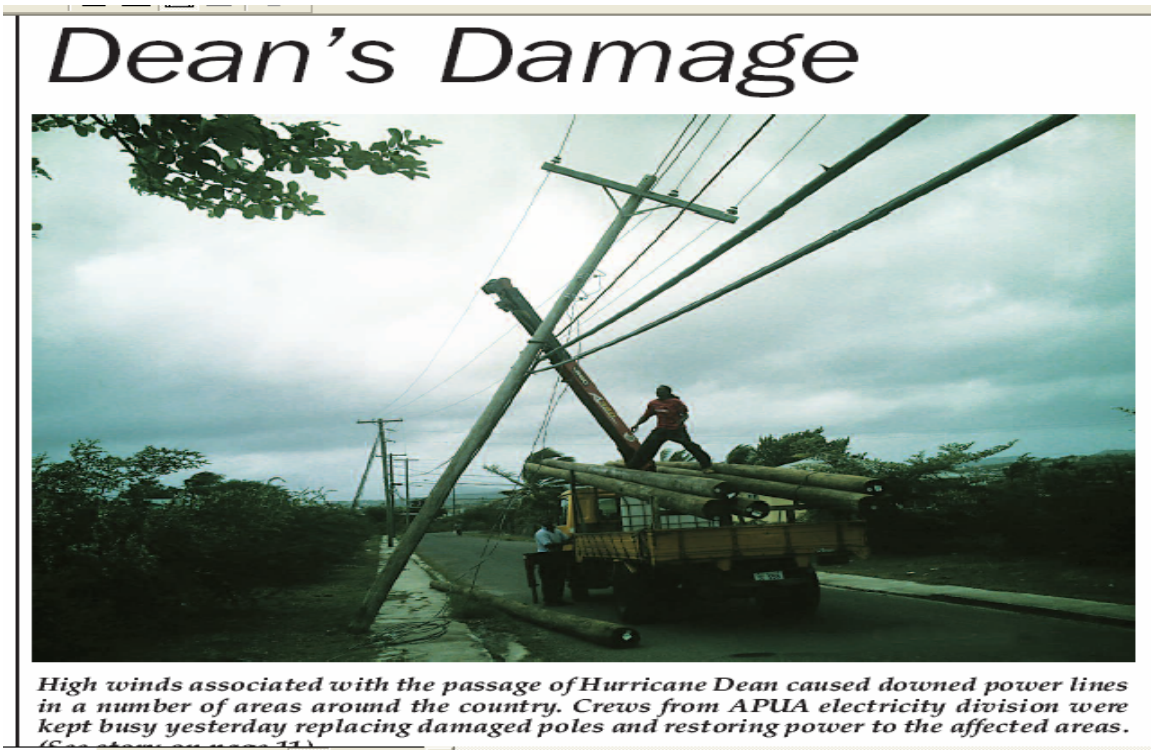
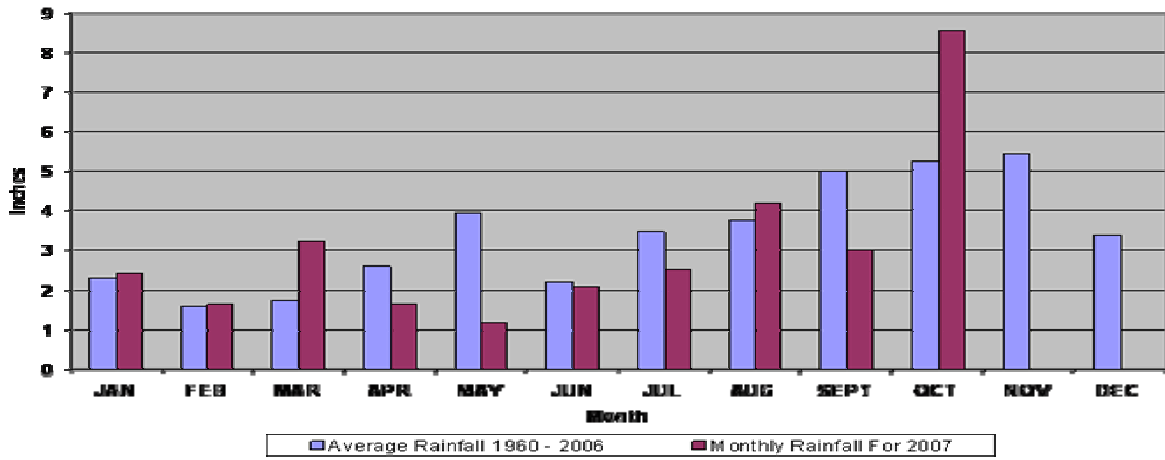


Figure 1 Antigua Daily Observer newspaper, August 18, 2007



Figure 2 Photo taken approx 2 miles West of V.C Bird Airport