

Tropical Cyclone Igor (AL112010)

Event Briefing

*Caribbean Risk Managers Ltd
Facility Supervisor*

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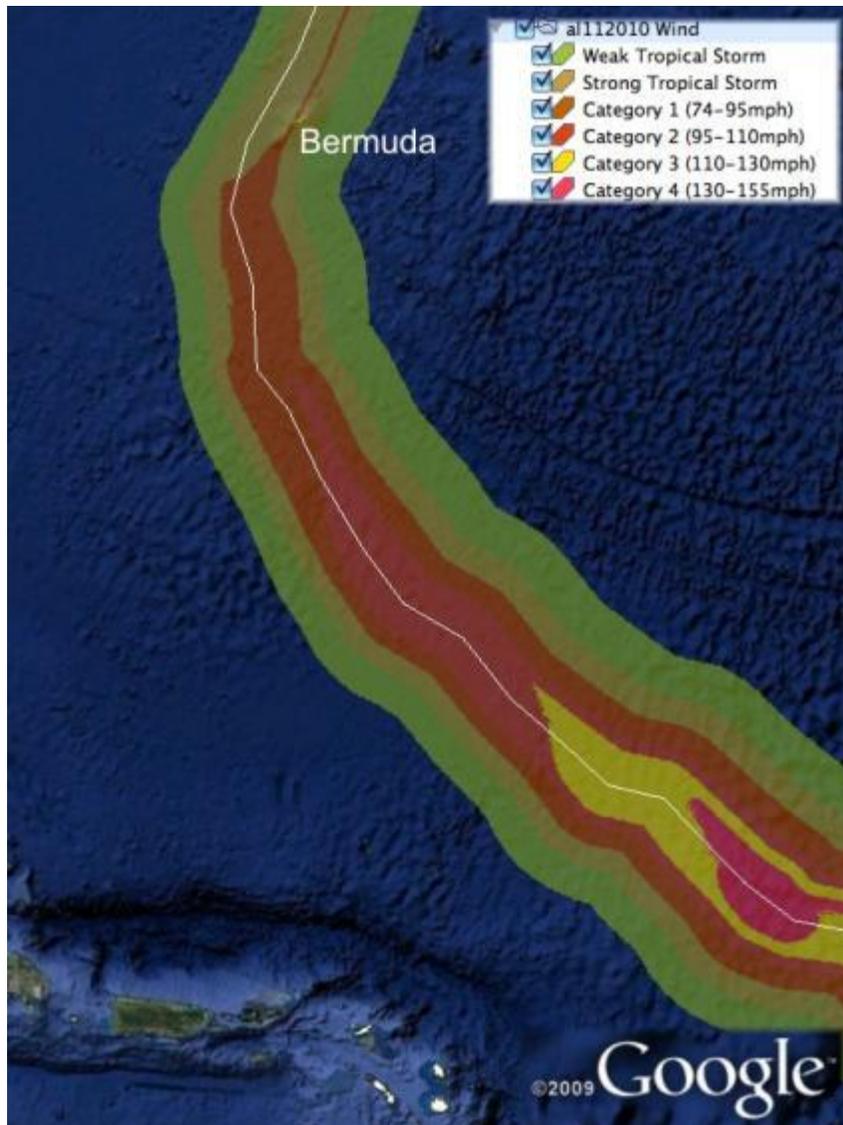
Facility Supervisor: Caribbean Risk Managers Ltd
Email: ccrif@ccrif.org; Main Tel (Barbados): +1 (246) 426-1525
Tel (Jamaica): +1 (876) 920-4182; Tel (USA): +1 (202) 465-4301



1 INTRODUCTION

Tropical Cyclone Igor began as a classic Cape Verde-type system, emerging off the coast of West Africa on 6 September as a large area of low pressure. The system quickly organised into a Tropical Depression on 8 September, strengthening to a Tropical Storm on 10 September and becoming a Hurricane the following day. Igor peaked as a high Category 4 Hurricane on 15 September with associated maximum wind speeds of 155 mph and a minimum pressure of 925 mbar.

As shown in the wind footprint graphic below, Igor passed well to the northeast of the northern part of the eastern Caribbean, though it did produce high waves and some high wind and rain squalls from Barbados northwards. Igor then headed directly for Bermuda but gradually decreased in intensity, so that it passed about 40 miles west of Bermuda as a Category 1 Hurricane.



2 CCRIF MODEL OUTPUTS

The wind footprint above is one of the outputs from the CCRIF Second-Generation Hazard and Risk Model. As can be seen, Igor achieved the minimal requirements of a defined event under the CCRIF Policy by having winds of greater than 39mph only in one member state, Bermuda.

For Bermuda, modelled wind speed is right at the Tropical Storm/Hurricane force transition (74 mph). It should be noted that the wind footprint map is colour-coded to show the category of wind speed for ease of display, but the actual model calculation uses the precise wind speed (and other hazard characteristics) for each 900-m grid cell to calculate the losses in that cell.

The modelled wind speed is generally consistent with surface wind speed estimates from NOAA-NHC (from their H*WIND algorithm, which rationalises all actual wind speed measurements collected on the ground and from flights and satellites) and from actual wind speed measurements on the ground (data from the Automated Weather Observation System at L F Wade International Airport). The peak H*WIND 1-minute sustained wind speed estimate for Bermuda was around 67 knots (77 mph) at the western tip of the island (closest to the storm centre) while the AWOS 2-minute sustained wind speed at the airport (in the far east of the island, furthest from the storm centre) peaked at 69 mph.

CCRIF's Facility Supervisor is in touch with authorities in Bermuda in order to gather as much additional hazard and impact data as possible for use in refining the hazard and loss model.

As expected for the level of modelled wind speed, the CCRIF loss model generated only a small government loss in Bermuda, which was below that country's trigger level and therefore no payout is due.