

American Citizens Services
U.S. Interests Section-Havana

Warden Message 2008-08

This message expires on Saturday, November 8, 2008

Date: 7 November 2008

Subject: Hurricane Paloma

This Warden Message is issued to alert American citizens residing in or traveling to Cuba that:

- A travel alert has been issued by the Department of State urging U.S. citizens to consider carefully the risks of travel to the areas that may be affected by Hurricane Paloma in the Cayman Islands, Jamaica and Cuba. U.S. citizens located in areas likely to be affected by Hurricane Paloma who do not have access to adequate and safe shelters should consider departing while commercial flights are available.
- The government of Cuba has issued a hurricane watch for the provinces of Sancti Spiritus, Ciego de Avila, Camaguey, Las Tunas and Granma. A hurricane watch means that hurricane conditions are possible with the watch area...generally within 36 hours. Persons in these areas should continue to monitor their local media for information on possible evacuations and other safety measures.
- U.S. National Weather Service has announced that as of 1 pm Friday (Nov 7) the center of Tropical Storm Paloma was located 60 miles or 100 km south-southwest of Grand Cayman Island and is moving toward the north-northwest at about 6 mph (10 Km/h). The hurricane is expected to turn gradually to the northeast late on Friday night (Nov 7) and Saturday (Nov 8) and may pose a threat for the central and eastern provinces of Cuba for Sunday (Nov 9) and Monday (Nov 10) next week.
- Paloma's maximum sustained winds are near 90 mph (150 Km/hr) with higher gusts. Paloma is a category one hurricane and strengthening is forecast. Paloma is expected to become a category two hurricane later Friday (Nov 7) and reach category three hurricane strength intensity by Saturday (Nov 8). The U.S. Interests Section in Havana recommends that U.S. citizens in Cuba monitor the progress of Paloma, as the storm has the potential to produce heavy rain and wind on the island.
- For up-to-date information on the storm's track, please monitor local television and radio news channels as well as the National Hurricane Center's website <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>. The

Cuban Meteorological Institute provides Cuban specific weather information at <http://www.insmet.cu>.

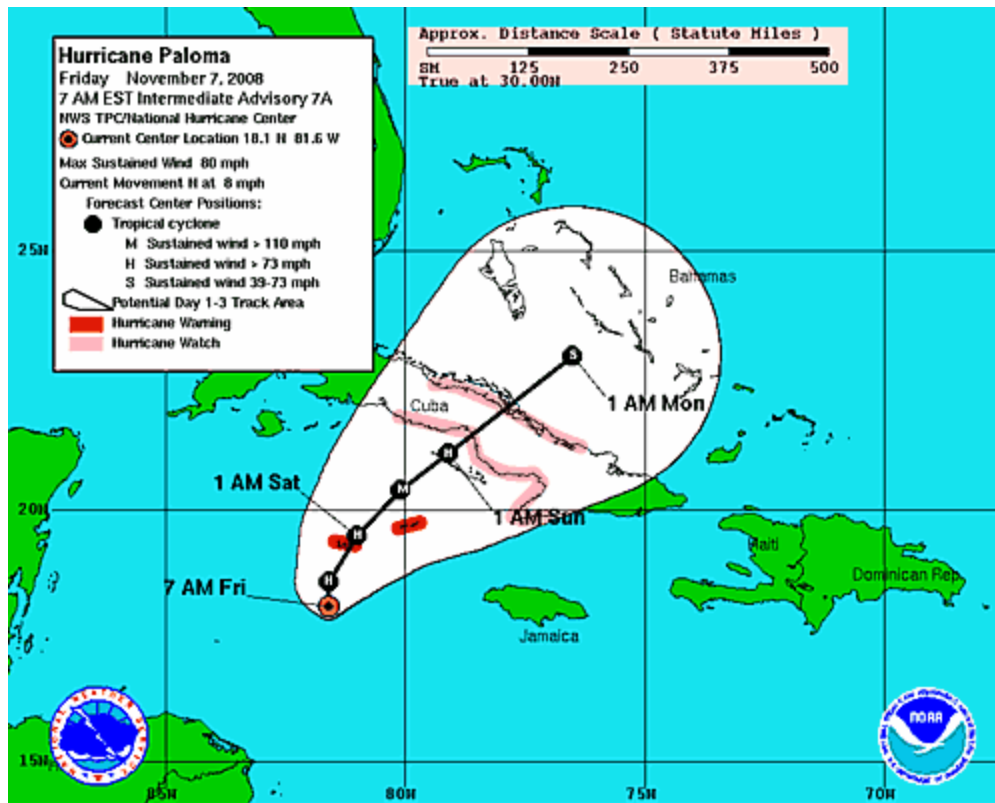
- The Interests Section recommends that all United States citizens in Cuba register with the Section's American Citizens Services Unit. Travelers can register their visit in person or on-line by visiting the Interests Section's website at <http://havana.usinterestsection.gov/>. The Interests Section is located in Havana at Calzada between L and M Streets, Vedado; telephone (537) 833-3551 through 833-3559. Hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. In case of an after hours emergency the duty officer can be reached at (53) 5 280-5791.
- The Interests Section will continue to monitor Tropical Storm/Hurricane Paloma's track, and will issue updated messages. U.S. citizens are urged to locate shelter, monitor media reports, and follow all official instructions. U.S. citizens should carry their travel documents at all times (e.g. U.S. passport, birth certificate, picture ID's, etc.) or secure them in safe, waterproof locations. We also suggest that American citizens contact friends and family in the United States with updates about their whereabouts.

Additional information on hurricanes and storm preparedness may be found in the "Hurricane Season-Know Before You Go" pamphlet at:

http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/hurricane_season/hurricane_season_2915.html, and on the "Natural Disasters" page of the Bureau of Consular Affairs' website at: http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/emergencies/emergencies_1207.html. Updated information on travel in Cuba may be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States and Canada, or from overseas, 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 am to 8:00 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

Please continue to monitor the Embassy's website for updated information on this and other issues at, <http://havana.usinterestsection.gov>. For further information please consult the Country Specific Information Sheet for Cuba, available via the Internet at <http://travel.state.gov>.

For any emergencies involving American citizens, please contact the American Citizens Services (ACS) Unit of the Interests Section, Consular Section.



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