

‘Life-Threatening Damage’: Hurricane Melissa Makes Landfall in Cuba After Battering Jamaica

Hurricane Melissa made landfall in eastern Cuba early Wednesday as a Category 3 storm after pummeling Jamaica as a Category 5. Widespread damage in Jamaica has been reported as Melissa slammed ashore near the town of New Hope, destroying homes and businesses.

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In Jamaica, the storm hit with winds of 185 mph, causing extensive damage and leaving over half a million people without power. Evan Thompson, Principal Director at Meteorological Service Jamaica, had warned ahead of the storm, “It will cause catastrophic damage, life-threatening damage. There is very little that can stop a category five hurricane.”



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Flooding from Melissa killed at least 40 people in Haiti, as at least 25 of them died after La Digue river burst its banks and flooded nearby homes. Dozens of homes collapsed, and people were still trapped under rubble as of Wednesday morning.

Powerful winds and fallen trees mark the trail of destruction and life-threatening flooding across the island. Roads are unpassable as storm surge up to 13 feet pours in.

The parish of St. Elizabeth is reportedly underwater, and over

half a million residents are without power.

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Four main hospitals suffered damage, with one losing power, forcing the evacuation of 75 patients. The prime minister of Jamaica declared the entire island a disaster area.

Shantelle Nova was all set for her dream wedding in Jamaica, but the storm flooded the venue and trashed their plans.

“Windows are broken, a lot of water is coming in, so we’re just basically pushing towels and stuff at the doors,” Nova said. “And the level of noise is ridiculous. Trees have really bended over and flew away, and some of our roof is completely off.”

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In Cuba, severe flooding inundated streets in Santiago de Cuba when the storm brought heavy rains and strong winds before making landfall.

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