

Effects of Hurricane Felix on the ABC Islands

During the afternoon of Friday Augustus 31, the sixth tropical depression of the 2007 hurricane season formed. The center of the tropical depression was located at 5:00 PM near 11.8N 58.6W or about 380 km Northeast of Trinidad with maximum sustained winds of 30 knots. As the tropical depression was predicted to pass at a close distance to the ABC Islands as a tropical storm by early Sunday morning, September 2, a Tropical Storm Watch was issued that afternoon. The tropical depression strengthened during the night and became Tropical Storm Felix on Saturday morning September 1. Since the forecast track would bring the center of Tropical Storm Felix close to the ABC Islands, a Tropical Storm Warning and a Small Craft Warning were issued that morning.

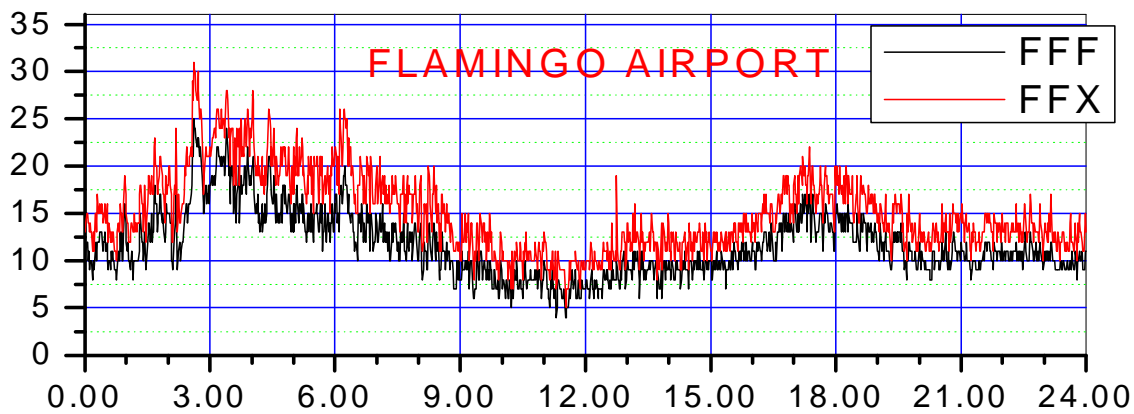
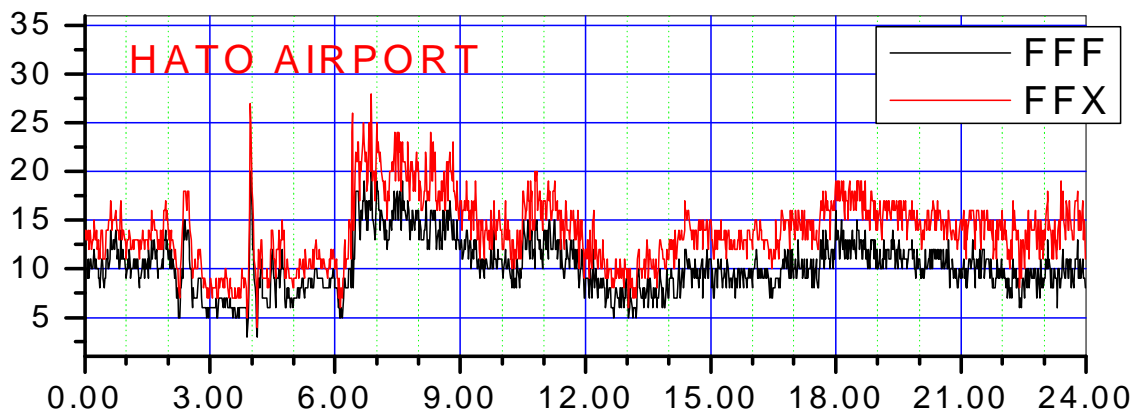
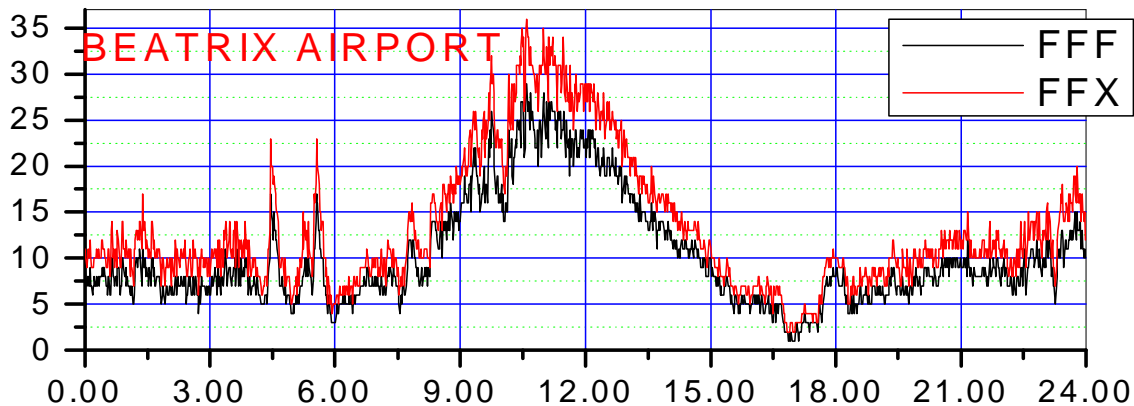
While the system continued its westerly path, it became clear that further strengthening to hurricane category 1 was expected in the evening of September 1. With this scenario, the governments of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba issued a Hurricane Watch later that evening. At 3:30 AM on September 2, dropsonde data received from a hurricane hunter aircraft indicated that the maximum winds in Felix had increased to 87 knots, making Felix a category 2 Hurricane, while it was just north of Bonaire.

In the early morning of Sunday September 2, Hurricane Felix passed at close distance to the north of the ABC Islands. Although the ABC Islands stayed south of the area with tropical storm force winds, the islands experienced strong winds with gusts up to storm force. In addition the islands experienced rough sea conditions and locally heavy rainfall.

	Bonaire	Curaçao	Aruba
Max Mean Wind Speed (kts)*	25.0	20.0	29.0
Max Wind Gust (kts)*	31.0	28.0	36.0
Time	02:36	06:52	10:36
Distance of the center (km)	75	90	80
Time	04:14 AM	06:45 AM	10:15 AM
24h rains (mm) at airport	22.4	54.4	33.2

* over one-minute

2 SEPTEMBER 2008



TIME (HOURS)