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Territory Spared as Tropical Storm Fred Forms After Moving Past USVI

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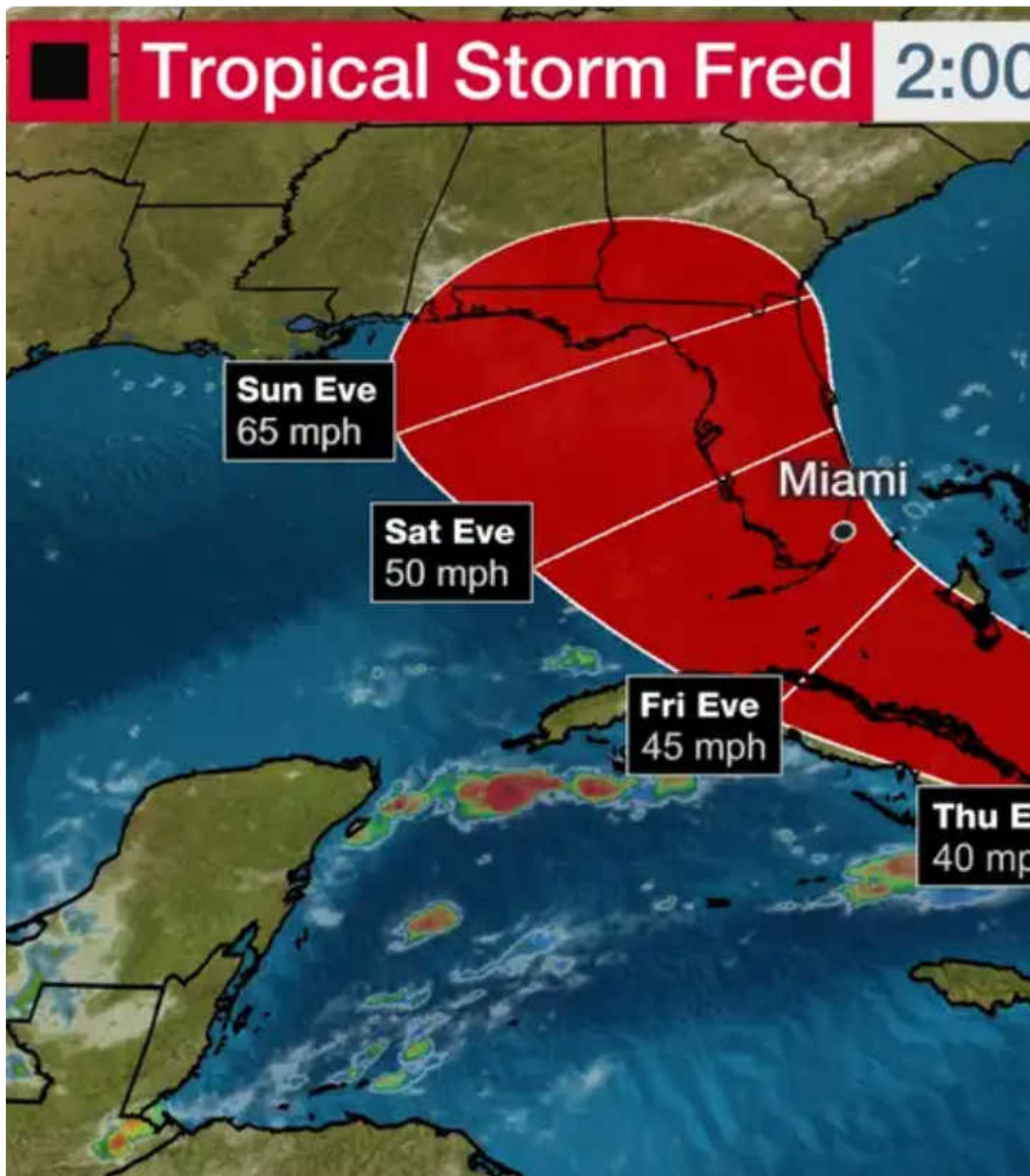
Crews responded on Tuesday, Aug. 10 to a fallen Flamboyant tree in Estate Wintberg that impacted power lines and other electrical equipment. By. THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER AND POWER AUTHORITY

What was hours ago possible cyclone 6 has formed into Tropical Storm Fred and at 2:00 a.m. Wednesday was moving just to the south of Puerto Rico, according to the National Hurricane Center.

The U.S. Virgin Islands experienced rain throughout Tuesday and some wind. In St. Thomas, a fallen Flamboyant tree impacted power lines and other electrical equipment, leading to an electrical service interruption that affected approximately 124 customers in Estate Wintberg on a

portion of Feeder 7B.

WAPA personnel, crews from Public Works and other response agencies responded, and WAPA estimated power would be restored at about 7:00 p.m. Tuesday.



Tropical Storm Fred had been given a 90 percent chance to form in the 48-hour window as it approached the USVI, but it wavered and only formed as it left the territory.

According to N.H.C.'s 2:00 a.m. forecast, the center of Tropical Storm Fred was located near latitude 17.6 North, longitude 67.6 West. Fred is moving toward the west near 17 mph (28 km/h), and a general west-northwestward motion is expected to begin later today and continue for the next few days. On the forecast track, the center of Fred is expected to be near or over Hispaniola later today, and move near the Turks and Caicos Islands and the southeastern Bahamas on Thursday.

Maximum sustained winds are near 40 mph (65 km/h) with higher gusts. Some strengthening is possible before the center nears the coast of the Dominican Republic later this morning. Some weakening is likely thereafter while the system interacts with Hispaniola. Tropical-storm-force winds extend outward up to 45 miles (75 km) from the center.

The estimated minimum central pressure is 1009 mb (29.80 inches).