

weather watch Hurricane Dean

Ferocious Hurricane Dean hammers Jamaica

KINGSTON — Hurricane Dean pummeled Jamaica yesterday with gusting winds and torrential rains that blew the roofs off homes, caused landslides and flooded roads.

The island avoided a direct hit when Dean's eye passed just to the south last night, but its outer

bands still generated winds of up to 145 mph.

Tourists who could not get away before the island closed its airports late Saturday holed up in resorts with hurricane-proof walls.

Dean, which had already killed eight people on its march across

the Caribbean, triggered evacuation calls from the Cayman Islands to Texas, and forced NASA to cut short Space Shuttle Endeavour's mission by one day in case Mission Control in Houston is affected. The craft will return to Earth tomorrow.

The National Hurricane Cen-

ter in Miami said Dean was projected to reach the most dangerous classification, a Category 5 storm, with sustained winds of 160 mph before plowing into Mexico's Yucatan peninsula tomorrow.

The Mexican mainland or Texas could be hit later. AP

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