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## Several Dead in Puerto Rico and Total Loss of Power As Hurricane Maria Moves On

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The Puerto Rican Governor Ricardo Rossello asked U.S. President Donald Trump to declare the island a "disaster" area, making it eligible for increased recovery funding.

After devastating Dominica and Guadeloupe and battering St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Hurricane Maria struck Puerto Rico as a Category 4 storm.

The island's capital, San Juan, was battered with sustained winds of 220 kilometers per hour beginning at 6 a.m. local time, according to the U.S. based National Hurricane Center, NHC.

Puerto Rico's Governor Ricardo Rossello told CNN that the energy grid took such a severe blow that restoring power to everyone may take months.

Rossello also said the system was "a little bit old, mishandled and weak."

The extent of the damage is still being assessed. Carlos Mercader, a spokesman for Rossello said it was "total devastation."

A Category 4 hurricane hasn't hit Puerto Rico since 1932.

Nine people are known to have been killed in Dominica, where Hurricane Maria first made landfall.

Two people died in the French territory of Guadeloupe.