

23ft WAVES AS IVAN BLOWS IN

WAVES two storeys high flooded homes and washed away roads as Hurricane Ivan hit Jamaica last night.

A public emergency was declared after half a million people were told to flee their homes for their own safety.

The tempest — bigger than the terror storm Hurricane Gilbert that hit Jamaica in 1988 and killed dozens — pounded the island's eastern shore with 23ft waves.

The death toll earlier rose to 33 when the storm left a trail of destruction in neighbouring Grenada, left. Thousands of buildings and boats were destroyed on the Caribbean island.

Grenada's Police Chief Fitzroy Bédauve said efforts to determine a true death toll were hindered by blocked roads, landslides and downed phone lines.

He said the toll included drowned sailors, people trapped in collapsed homes and a few elderly people who died of shock.

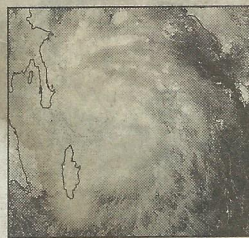
Last night it was feared many more would perish as the hurricane slammed

into Jamaica's capital Kingston — home to a million people.

Prime Minister PJ Patterson urged people to get to shelters. As the super storm hit he said: "Residents living near coastal areas must evacuate before its too late."

Florida was also put on alert. The storm is expected there on Monday — which would make it the third hurricane to hit the state in a month.

The National Hurricane Centre said Ivan could hit the Keys as a Category 4 hurricane — with winds up to 155mph.



Alert... Ivan heads for Jamaica (marked)