



# Belize NEMO Hurricane Preparedness Bulletin

## FLAG SIGNALS DURING A HURRICANE

### Preliminary



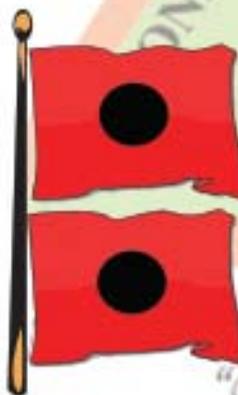
First Phase  
May threaten  
within 72 hrs.

### Red I - Watch

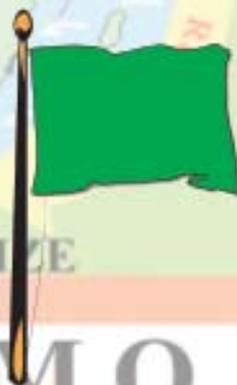


Second Phase  
May threaten  
within 36 hrs.

### Red II - Warning



Third Phase  
Likely to strike  
within 24 hrs.



Fourth Phase  
Hurricane has  
passed

# NEMO

*"Preserving Life and Property"*

# HOW TO PREPARE FOR HIGH WINDS!

- \* **Install hurricane shutters or purchase 1/2 inch outdoor plywood board for each window of your home. Install anchors for the plywood and pre-drilled holes in the plywood so that you can put it up quickly.**
- \* **Remove diseased and damaged limbs from trees, pruning them so that wind can pass through easily and they don't become deadly missiles.**

## HURRICANE SAFETY RULES

1. Stay tuned to radio and television stations for regular bulletins.
  2. Rely **ONLY** on official bulletins- **DO NOT** check these over the telephone.
  3. As long as your house is inland and well built with strong foundations and a good roof, stay at home.
  4. Install storm shutters or board windows securely. Protect outward door.
  5. Stock up on food which has a long shelf life.
  6. Check that oil and butane stoves are in working order; maintain an ample supply of kerosene for three days.
  7. Sterilize baths, all containers and cooking utensils to store water. If in doubt, drink boiled or treated water only.
  8. Keep flashlights, candles and storm lanterns handy along with batteries and matches.
  9. Store all garden implements and garden furniture indoors.
  10. Lighten foliage of fruit trees near buildings. If very strong winds are likely, remove all coconuts, which can become flying missiles.
  11. If you are evacuating, leave early so that you are not stranded by flooded roads, fallen trees, downed power lines and traffic jams. Make sure you have enough fuel in your vehicle and follow routes and highways.
  12. There is normally a lull after the 'eye' of the storm has passed, stay in a safe place, except to make emergency repairs. The wind may return suddenly with even greater strength.
  13. Since 90 percent of hurricane casualties occur from drowning, you must evacuate islands and beaches and other vulnerable locations as early as possible.
  14. Those seeking shelter should shut off water, gas and electricity before leaving home.
  15. Secure your boat well before the storm arrives, or move it to a designated safe area early. **DO NOT STAY ON THE BOAT OR YOU MAY DROWN.**
  16. Inform your relatives of your whereabouts or your intended destination.
- \* Pets are *not allowed*

### ANCHORAGE/MOORING WITHIN BELIZE:

Swallow Caye Ships Bogue  
Robinson Point  
Jones Lagoon  
Haulover Creek  
Port Honduras  
Big Creek  
North Lagoon  
Central Lagoon, Turneffe Island  
Placencia Point  
Placencia Lagoon  
Fabers Lagoon

### GENERAL PRECAUTIONS FOR BOAT OWNERS

The key to protecting your boat from hurricane or any severe threatening weather are planning preparation and timely action.

Arrange for a friend to carry out your plans if you are out of town during the hurricane season.

**DO NOT** remain on your boat during severe weather.

# PREPARE FOR FLOOD WATERS

- \* Listen to your local radio or TV stations for up-to-date storm information.
- \* After basic local safety, your most serious concern is going to be flooding. If the hurricane has brought serious tidal surges with it, it's possible that you will be experiencing rising water in the area after the storm has passed.
- \* You don't want to wait until the floodwaters are on your doorsteps to take action.
- \* Heavy rainfall, even for short periods may be quickly followed by flash floods in hilly areas.
- \* Stay away from natural streambeds, valleys and other drainage channels during and after rainstorms. Water runs off the higher elevations very rapidly, causing the natural drainage system to overflow with rushing floodwaters and their deadly cargo of rocks, mud, smashed trees and other debris.
- \* Stay out of flooded areas. The water may still be rising and the current is usually swift. Never try to cross a flowing stream on foot if the water is above your knees.



# ARE YOU READY FOR A HURRICANE

## Here's what you can do to prepare for a Hurricane

Know what a hurricane WATCH and WARNING mean:—

**WATCH:** Hurricane conditions are possible in the specified area of the WATCH, usually within 36 hours.

- \* Keep informed of the storm's progress.

**WARNING:** Hurricane conditions are expected in the specified area of the WARNING, usually within 24 hours.

- \* Stay tuned to your local radio and television stations for official hurricane advisories and safety information.

## DO NOT LISTEN TO RUMOURS.

- \* Stay at home if your

# ARE YOU READY FOR A HURRICANE

- \* Remove as many fish pots as you can from the sea and store them on the land as far away from the sea as possible. Use plenty of strong rope to tie and secure the fish pots on the land
- \* As much as possible reduce or do not carry out to sea any new fish pots during hurricane season, especially between the months of September and October.
- \* Remove all seine nets and other fishing gear from the sea. Store them securely on the land, as far away from the sea as possible.

# SHELTER BY-laws as stipulated by SI No. 81 of 2000

## **GENERAL:**

All persons seeking shelter are to abide by the respective By-Laws as stipulated in **SI 81 OF 2000**. These laws are cited below in their respective perception.

## **REGISTRATION:**

- Any person seeking admission to a shelter shall provide the information as requested to include the below listed:
  - Identity
  - Age
  - Usual address
  - Any infirmity, disability or illness requiring special care, medication or treatment.

## **OVERCROWDING OF SHELTER:**

- Once a shelter has reached its capacity of inhabitants any other persons desiring to enter may be refused.

## **PETS AND ANIMALS:**

- No person shall bring any pet or other animal into the shelter.

## **WEAPONS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS:**

- No person shall bring any weapon or hazardous material or any other article likely to cause injury into the shelter.

## **QUANTITY OF LUGGAGE:**

- Luggage or other property shall not be brought into the shelter exceeding 20 kg. per person in weight.

## **POLICY FOR PROPERTY DAMAGE:**

- The Government of Belize, its shelter managers, shelter officers or any other Government employees or agent shall not be liable for accidental or negligent loss or damage to luggage or property brought into the shelter by a person seeking shelter.

## **SEARCH OF LUGGAGE AND PROPERTY:**

- Any person seeking admission to the shelter may be subject to a search of any luggage or other property in their possession by authorized personnel.

## **SPACE ALLOCATION:**

- Any person using a shelter shall maintain the space allocated to him/her by the respective shelter manager.

## **MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS:**

- No musical equipment or other noisy equipment shall be used within a shelter.

## **CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC DRINKS:**

- No alcoholic drinks shall be consumed in the shelter or during the time of sheltering.

## **FIRE PREVENTION:**

- Persons in shelter must adhere to the shelter manager's instructions in order to prevent injury and damage from fire.
- Smoking is not permitted in the shelter

## **DECENCY:**

- No person in the shelter shall engage in obscene or indecent speech or behavior of any kind.

## **CLEANLINESS AND TIDINESS:**

- Persons admitted to the shelter shall comply with the minimum standards of cleanliness and tidiness to be observed by a person.
- Persons admitted to the shelter shall clean the areas within the shelter allocated to them.

## **BREACHES OF PEACE:**

- No person shall commit a breach of the peace in or within a distance of fifty yards from the shelter.
- No person shall in or within a distance of fifty yards from the shelter harass any other person lawfully using the shelter.

## **EXPULSION AND SUSPENSION:**

The shelter manager may suspend or expel from the shelter any person who commits a serious breach of or persistently breaches any of these By-Laws.

## Carry a Disaster Kit to your shelter that includes the following items

- \* A supply of water (one gallon per person per day). Store water in sealed, unbreakable containers. Identify the storage date and replace every six months.
- \* A change of clothing, rain wear and sturdy shoes.
- \* Blankets or sleeping bags.
- \* A first-aid kit and essential medication.
- \* Canned food, bread, soda biscuit and can opener.
- \* A battery-powered radio, flashlight, and plenty of extra batteries.
- \* Special items for infants, elderly or disabled family members.
- \* Sanitary supplies i.e., toilet paper, feminine supplies and soap.
- \* Personal identification documents such as passports, birth certificates, residency cards etc.
- \* **Those going to a shelter must be prepared feed themselves for up to 48 hours before the Hurricane.**



## PROTECT YOUR PET

Pet owners are responsible for disaster planning for their pets. If you plan to evacuate, plan for your pet as well. Take your Pet Survival Kit if you go to friends, relatives or a hotel. Shelters cannot accept pets. So if you plan to go to a public shelter, make the required provisions for your pets.

After the storm has passed, be careful in allowing your pet outdoors. Familiar scents and landmarks may be altered and your pet could easily be confused and become lost. Downed power lines, animals and insects brought in with high water, could present real dangers to your pet. Take care not to allow your pet to consume food or water found outdoors that may have become contaminated.

### PET SURVIVAL KIT

- \* Proper ID collar and rabies tag
- \* Carrier or cage
- \* Leash
- \* Food Supply
- \* Water/food bowl
- \* Medication, if necessary

## What to do after a hurricane is over

- \* Remain at home or in the shelter until informed that it is safe to leave.
- \* Keep tuned to the radio for instructions.
- \* Beware of loose wires and report them immediately to the Police or Fire Departments or the Belize Electricity Limited.
- \* Stay out of disaster areas, damaged buildings and flooded areas.
- \* Take extra fire precautions.
- \* Report broken sewers and mains to the Belize Water Services Ltd.
- \* Check refrigerated food for spoilage.
- \* Drive carefully - roads may have been substantially weakened.
- \* Listen to radio information about:
  - where to go for medical care in your area.
  - where to go for emergency aid for shelter, food and clothing.
  - ways to help yourself and others to recover from the emergency.



## Recreational Sea-faring vessels

Live-aboard passenger vessels are often manned with non-Belizean seafarers and their passengers are generally non-Belizeans who are often not familiar with hurricanes on this coast. There is sometimes an inevitable temptation to engage in recreational activities while a storm threatens.

At the same time that a Hurricane Watch is declared by NEMO for any part of the coast of Belize, all live-aboard passenger carrying recreational craft operating in Belizean waters and registered and/ or licensed to operate in Belize, with the exception of craft being utilized in the evacuation of the cays and, other coastal areas, are instructed to cease recreational activities and return to a port in order to disembark their passengers and nonessential crew.

## Family Checklist-Please (✓) to confirm your Items for the Hurricane Season

Flashlight	<input type="checkbox"/>
Batteries	<input type="checkbox"/>
Radio	<input type="checkbox"/>
Canned Foods, Soda biscuit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blankets	<input type="checkbox"/>
First Aid Kit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sanitary Napkins	<input type="checkbox"/>
Baby Formula	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prescription Medication	<input type="checkbox"/>
Identification Card (Passport, Voters ID, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Board Games	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cash	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eye Glasses	<input type="checkbox"/>
Baby Pampers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Toiletries (Toilet paper, soaps, disinfectants, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disposable Utensils (cups, plates, forks, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>

### CENTRAL BUILDING AUTHORITY (CBA)

*Mandated to "control building operations in the interest of public health and safety".*

- Are you building that dream house? Repairing an existing structure?
- Whatever you are building, increase your chances of surviving the Hurricane Season by ensuring that your **drawings** have been approved, and that you are in possession of an **occupancy certificate** from the CBA.
- Ensure you build your home, sub-divide land and develop new communities considering the effects of Hurricane, Flood, Fire and Earthquake and the appropriate Zoning requirements. A message from the Lands Utilization Authority (LUA)



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 Belize City, Belize, Central America  
 Ph: 223-2616, Fax: 223-4738  
 Email: centralbuildingauthority@cbabz.com  
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