

PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATIONS GOVERNING PARTICIPATION IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT

His Excellency the Governor General, in accordance with Section 106 (3) of the Constitution, has, on the advice of the Minister responsible for the Public Service, signed into Law the Public Service Regulations 2001. These Revised Regulations are introduced five (5) years after the Public Service Regulations 1997 came into effect.

The Following Paragraphs Provides Guidance for Public Officers with Regards to Disaster Management

The information forms a part of the Belize Constitution and has been cited from the Public Service Regulations 2001, Part 8-Paragraphs 146-147;

Disaster Management.

146. (1) Chief Executive Officers shall ensure that an adequate emergency plan, including simulations and training, is developed, circulated and undertaken throughout Ministries and Departments under their control. The emergency plan should be in a standard format, as determined by the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO). Such an emergency plan should cover the following threats and hazards:-

- (a) hurricanes;
- (b) floods;
- (c) bomb threats;
- (d) earthquakes;
- (e) fires; and
- (f) civil disorders.

(2) The plan should include the following measures:-

- (a) activating the emergency plan during and outside of normal working hours;
- (b) ensuring security of equipment, records and classified documents prior to, during and following the emergency event;

- (c) ensuring continuity of Government activity prior to, during and following the emergency event;
- (d) ensuring continuity of communications with district staff during and following the emergency event; and
- (e) ensuring emergency attendance to injured employees.

(3) As a precaution against hurricanes, Chief Executive Officers and Heads of Departments should ensure that all public buildings under their charge are:-

- (a) made hurricane resistant; and
- (b) secured on the announcement of hurricane warning.

147. (1) Heads of Department shall ensure that all members of Staff are conversant with the disaster plan, procedures for their Departments and their assigned responsibilities.

(2) An officer shall be designated as the Disaster Coordinator for each Ministry. He shall not be below the level of Administrative Officer 3 or equivalent.

(3) The Disaster Coordinator for the Ministry shall be responsible, to the Chief Executive Officer for that Ministry, for developing and implementing the disaster plan for the Ministry.

(4) Participation in Disaster Preparedness Management is mandatory for all public officers. Failure to participate can lead to disciplinary action.

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