



## **DISASTER REDUCTION MEASURES 2017**

### **BEFORE an event**

1. Avoid building near the coast, rivers, or swamps! If you do, make sure your home is at least 8 feet off the ground due to flooding, storm surge and sea level rise. During construction involve professional engineers and certified builders to disaster proof your home. Transfer your risk by insuring your home and valuables. Review your insurance policy.
2. Strengthen your roof with hurricane straps. Protect windows (with plywood or shutters). Purchase material as early as possible to avoid rush. Inspect shutters at least every three (3) months.
3. Review your family emergency plan. Visit [nemo.org.bz](http://nemo.org.bz) for an emergency family plan guide. Discuss hurricane preparedness with your family. Make plans for your pets. Pets are not allowed in shelters.
4. Keep at the ready emergency supplies such as first aid kit, basic tools, lanterns, batteries, flashlights, and non perishable foods.
5. Secure at least 3 days supply of food and water for each family member. Plan for one (1) gallon of drinking water per person per day.
6. Keep an extra supply of medication during the hurricane season.
7. Safeguard land documents, identification cards, passports, birth certificates in waterproof containers and via electronic means.
8. Farmers must have a plan to move their animals to higher ground and stockpile at least a week's supply of feed, hay and water for their animals.
9. If you live on the cayes and along the coast be familiar with the evacuation routes and be prepared to evacuate early when an alert is issued.
10. If a member of your household is bed-ridden, seek medical advice prior to a storm's approach. Notify authorities ahead of time if you have persons in your

neighbourhood who may require special assistance to evacuate due to a medical condition. Leave early. Know your shelters and use them if your home is not safe. Visit [nemo.org.bz](http://nemo.org.bz) for a complete list of shelters.

11. Trim trees, clear drains and secure outdoor items, which can be moved by high

12. Save emergency contact numbers for NEMO, the police, fire, and hospital in your cell phone.

13. Prepare your car in case of evacuation. Fill your tank and check your tires.

### **DURING -The response**

14. When an alert is issued by the authorities, be ready to put your family plan into action. Listen to your radio or television for official weather reports. Do NOT listen to rumours.

In the event of a hurricane:

a. The ALERT is the **first phase** and is signalled by one red flag. This means that the hurricane may threaten within 72 hours.

b. A hurricane WATCH is the **second phase** and is signalled by one red flag with black dot in the centre. This means that the hurricane may threaten within 48-36 hours.

c. A hurricane WARNING is the **third phase** and is signalled by two red flags with black dot flying above each other. At this phase, the storm is likely to strike within 24 hours.

d. The ALL CLEAR is the **fourth phase** and is signalled by a green flag. This means that the hurricane is no longer over Belize.

15. During storm, conserve cell phone battery without turning it off by reducing screen brightness and closing unnecessary apps. Keep your phone charged. In case of a power outage, have an extra battery, car charger or device charging accessory handy.

16. Before evacuating, disconnect all electrical appliances and equipment. The power surge after restoration might affect appliances.

17. It is important that family members take action early to protect family members with diverse abilities. Contact your local authorities to find shelters that are accessible to your needs.

18. Turn your refrigerator to the coldest setting in the event power outage.

19. During the storm, stay secured indoors away from windows. Use flashlights, Do NOT use candles.

20. During the storm, have cash on hand in case power goes out and ATMs don't work.

21. Remain indoor when the eye of the storm is over your area. It may seem like the storm is over but winds may change direction and quickly return to hurricane force.

22. During the hurricane season, fisher folks are strongly advised to stay informed via radio, listen to the weather bulletin before venturing out to sea. Move your boat to safe harbour early.

23. When NEMO issues the Alert farmers, as soon as possible, are advised to harvest, store, consumed or sell their crop.

24. Fill sinks, bathtub and large containers with water as an extra supply for washing and flushing.

**AFTER an event**

25. DO NOT go outside until an all clear is issued by authorities.

26. Stay out of flood waters and disaster areas as the water might be contaminated or electrically charged.

27. After a hurricane, drink boiled or treated water when in doubt of the water quality.

28. Keep non-emergency calls to a minimum to free up network capacity for those in need and for emergency first responders.