



National Emergency Management Organization

“Preserving Life and Property”

ADVISORY NO. 8

FLOOD SITUATION AFFECTING CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN BELIZE

SUNDAY 15th NOVEMBER 2015 as at 12:00 m.d.

The National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) hereby informs the general public that as the water recedes in one area of the affected districts the communities lower down are at risk to flooding.

In the Toledo District, the **Southern Highway is now open** to all vehicular traffic. People in the shelters and affected communities are being visited and assisted by shelter, relief and health personnel.

People in the Belize River valley and along the old northern highway are asked to remain vigilant and to start making plans for the flood waters as the Belize River is now rising. Farmers, especially on the old northern highway, with livestock must pay particular attention and start to move their animals to higher grounds before it is too late.

Road conditions: The southern highway is open to all vehicular traffic. Road access through Blue Creek is open, Jordan bridge is passable only with high vehicles. In Bomba the water on the road is rising. Other impassable roads are those leading into Gracie Rock, Spanish lookout via Baking Pot Ferry and Iguana Creek Bridge. The access route through Bullet Tree Falls village via the Bullet Tree Bridge is passable. The Roaring Creek Bridge is also passable. ATM and Barton Creek caves are closed. The wooden bridge across the Macal is closed. People using the Hammock bridge in Calla Creek needs to closely monitor the Mopan River. La Clarrisa Falls road is only accessible to high vehicles. The Succothz ferry is closed. The Cow Pen diversion road built by the MOW is accessible. Digging of drains must be done only after consultation with the utility companies.

People at risk to flooding are advised to take the necessary precaution to protect life and property, move to higher grounds with family or friends or to a community shelter. **Do not:** cross flooded areas; **Do not:** touch power lines, electrical wires and electrical equipment in areas that are flooded; and **Do not:** turn on lights or appliances until an electrician has checked the circuit. Report downed power lines to the authorities. Turn off electricity and gas at the main switch and valve. Upon entering your home be alert for gas leaks. **Do not:** use matches or an open flame unless you know that the gas is off. Be very careful of wild animals and snakes as the water recedes. Water must be boiled for at least one minute and cooled before drinking if you are not using bottled water. Or use 8 drops of chlorax or bleach to one gallon of water stir it well before use.

Drivers are asked to continue driving with due care and attention and to watch out for debris on the road. Bus operators are asked to ensure their bus drivers refrain from driving through flooded areas. The public is asked to please abide by these advisories.

NEMO Emergency Coordinators for central and southern Belize can be reached as follows: in the **Belize District**, Mr. Calbert Budd at 602 8632 and Mr. Kevin Pollard at 621 2275; in **Belmopan**, Ms. Clare Moody at 630 9791; in **Cayo**, Mr. Al Westby at 630 3224; in **Stann Creek**, Mr. Victor Castillo at 630 9780; and in **Toledo**, Mr. Kenton Parham at 630 9787. 936 is the NEMO Hotline.

NEMO continues to respond to flooding in central and southern Belize and to assist people in need.

:-End of Release:-