



# National Emergency Management Organization

*“Preserving Life and Property”*

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## **ADVISORY # 2**

### **POTENTIAL TROPICAL CYCLONE - 99L APPROACHING BELIZE**

**MONDAY, 31ST AUGUST, 2020 as at 5:00 PM**

The National Meteorological Services of Belize and the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) advises that a Tropical Wave with an accompanying Broad Area of Low Pressure over the Central Caribbean Sea which was located west of latitude **15N, longitude 72W** just south of Hispanola ( Dom-Rep/Haiti). This system has changed little in organization and continues to move to the west at around 15 to 20mph. The models used at the MET Service do not show significant development of this system before it reaches our coast, the National Hurricane Center still gives this system a high chance of becoming a tropical depression in the next couple of days. Regardless of development, this system will likely bring heavy rainfall across the country starting late on Wednesday night and continuing on Thursday. The NMS will continue to monitor this system and update you accordingly.

All persons in high-risk coastal areas are reminded **IF** the need arises for you to evacuate and you are (1) not COVID positive, (2) not in quarantine, (3) not awaiting a test result or (4) being contact traced, and (5) not showing symptoms, move early! You must wear a mask. Know which shelter you will go to, take along your essential necessities required for you to survive. People on arrival at the shelter showing symptoms will be contained in a separate section of the shelter building. Hand washing /sanitizing must be done before entering a shelter.

Shelter Wardens and Managers will allocate shelter space. Social distance must be adhered to and shelters must be sanitized on a regular basis. Garbage must be properly disposed of. Proper cleaning and disinfection must be done on a regular basis. The elderly and persons with underlying health conditions must not occupy the same space with normal persons. Shelter Managers must monitor and correct hygiene and cough /sneeze etiquette. The Ministry of Health (MoH) staff will conduct daily monitoring of shelters to detect people who are sick and showing signs of COVID19. The Shelter Management Team (Public Officers/ Volunteers) **MUST** use PPE.

**Preparedness tips before a storm arrival:** (1) Avoid being near the coast, or swamp, if you live on the cayes and along the coast be familiar with the evacuation routes. Know which shelter you will go to. (2) protect windows with plywood or shutters, (3) review your family emergency plan, consider all COVID 19 measures, (4) if you can afford to, keep handy, emergency supplies such as first aid kit, basic tools, lanterns, batteries, flashlights, and non-perishable foods and water. Plan for one (1) gallon of drinking water per person per day. Prepare your car in case of an evacuation. Fill your tank, and service check your vehicle. (6) Keep an extra supply of medication. If a member of your household is bed-ridden, seek medical advice. Notify authorities ahead of time if you have persons in your neighborhood that may require special assistance to evacuate due to a medical condition.

(7) Secure your important documents and identification in waterproof containers, and electronically. Save the emergency contact numbers for NEMO, the police, fire, and medical facility in your cell phone. (8) Pets are not allowed in shelters, make plans for your pets, continue to trim trees, clear drains, and secure outdoor items. Farmers make plans to move your animals to higher ground and stockpile feed when required. We are asking people not to panic, stay calm, prepare, and move without alarm, scare mongering does more harm than good considering some people's medical condition. **DO NOT LISTEN TO RUMOURS**; stay tuned for an official release from NEMO and the National Met Service for further developments. The public is advised to stay alert. Please adhere to the official release from the National Met Service and NEMO. NEMO will keep the general public updated.

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**ATTACHMENT**

## NEMO'S IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

The NEMO Emergency Hotline is 936. NEMO's Emergency Coordinators can be reached as follows:

1. **Corozal**, Mr. Ronnie Hernandez at 614 7140;
2. **Orange Walk**, Mr. Aragon at 615 2264; or Mr. Leiva at 614 7177;
3. **Belize District Rural**, Mr. Alphius Gillett at 614 4735; Mr. Pollard at 614 3244;
4. **San Pedro**, Ms. Vanessa Parham at 614 5865;
5. **Belize City**, Mr. Al Westby at 614 8604 or Mr. Kwame Scott at 615 7644;
6. **Belmopan**, Ms. Clare Moody at 614 5705; or Mr. Eiley at 624 2365;
7. **Cayo**, Mr. Al Westby at 6148604 or Mr. Johnny Ramclam at 614 5891;
8. **Stann Creek -Coastal-** Dangriga including Mullins River to Independence), Mr. Kevin Flores at 604 3632;
9. **Stann Creek -Interior-** Hummingbird and Southern highway communities, Mr. David Cruz at 614 8514; and for
10. **Toledo**, Mr. Kenton Parham at 614 2158 or Mr. Dennis Williams at 614 2393