



## National Emergency Management Organization

*“Preserving Life and Property”*

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### **ADVISORY # 2 (Updated Version)**

#### **HURRICANE ETA TO MAKE LANDFALL ON NICARAGUA**

**MONDAY, 02 NOVEMBER, 2020, 1:00 pm**

The National Meteorological Services of Belize and NEMO hereby inform the general public to closely monitor Hurricane Eta which is now a category 3 hurricane. Eta was centered near latitude 14.7N, longitude 82.0W or about 85 miles east of Cabo Gracias a Dios on the Honduras/Nicaragua border. The hurricane is moving to the west at 9 mph with maximum sustained winds of 120 mph with a minimum central pressure of 957 millibars. Eta is forecasted to slow down and to start moving to the west-southwest this afternoon and is expected to make landfall along the north-eastern coast of Nicaragua on Tuesday.

Rapid weakening is expected once Eta makes impact with mountainous terrain over Nicaragua and Honduras. This is likely to cause Eta to turn westward and then west-northwestward. There is a lot of uncertainty regarding the motion of the system after 72 hours. There is a possibility that the remnants of Eta will track into the Gulf of Honduras on Friday where it could regain some strength. Tropical cyclone watches or warnings are not required for Belize since landfall will be well south of Belize over Nicaragua. The main threat to Belize is heavy rainfall, starting later today and tonight. Rainfall totals of 10-20 inches or higher is anticipated especially over southern Belize which is likely to cause flooding and landslides. Gusty winds are expected which are likely to produce large swells and damaging waves along the coast.

A FLOOD WATCH is in effect for the Cayo, Belize, Stann Creek and Toledo districts. Southern Belize must brace for and be prepared to respond to severe flooding. People living along rivers and creeks **BE WARNED!** If where you are is not safe be prepared to move to higher grounds move away from streams and riverside. **DONT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE.** People living in flood-prone areas are reminded to place food and valuable items out of the reach of floodwaters. If your home is likely to flood, turn off the main power supply. Do not remain in areas where latrines are overflowing due to the floodwaters. Do not play or drive in floodwaters.

Farmers are reminded to secure their crops and assets. Do not cross flooded creeks and rivers. **SIX INCHES OF FLOOD WATERS CAN SWEEP YOU OFF YOUR FEET. DO NOT DRIVE THROUGH FLOOD WATERS, IT CAN BE VERY DANGEROUS.** Motorists are asked to drive with extreme caution when driving the highways and secondary roads. Drivers are reminded to put on their hazard light when driving through rain. A small craft warning is in effect. Small craft operators are advised to seek safe harbor.

**ATTACHMENTS-** COVID 19 Protocols and Preparedness Tips for a tropical cyclone. The NEMO Emergency hotline is 936. NEMO's Emergency Coordinators can be reached as follows:

**Corozal**, Mr. Ronnie Hernandez at 614 7140;  
**Orange Walk**, Mr. Aragon at 615 2264; or Mr. Leiva at 614-7177  
**Belize District**, Mr. Alphius Gillett at 614-4735;  
**San Pedro**, Ms. Vanessa Parham at 614 5865;  
**Belize City**, Mr. Al Westby at 614 8604 or Mr. Pollard at 6143244;  
**Belmopan**, Ms. Clare Moody at 614 5705; or Mr. Eiley at 624 2365  
**Cayo**, Mr. Al Westby at 6148604 or Mr. Johnny Ramclam at 614 5891;  
**Stann Creek -Coastal-** Dangriga including Mullins River to Independence),  
Mr. Kevin Flores at 604 3632  
**Stann Creek -Interior-** Hummingbird and Southern highway communities, Mr. David Cruz at 614 8514; and for  
**Toledo**, Mr. Kenton Parham at 614 2158 or Mr. Dennis Williams at 614 2393

NEMO staff countrywide is on full alert and will keep the general public and the public service updated on further developments. The public is advised take action if you are at risk to flood.

..Ends...

### **COVID 19 SHELTER PROTOCOLS:**

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. The elderly and persons with underlying health conditions must not occupy the same space with normal persons. Note, people 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 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. Shelter Managers must monitor and correct hygiene and cough /sneeze etiquette. The Ministry of Health (MoH) 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 CYCLONE ARRIVAL:**

(1) Avoid being near the coast if your home is not safe if you live on the cayes and along the coast be familiar with the evacuation routes. Know which shelter you will need to go to. Make early preparations.

(2) Protect windows with plywood or shutters,

(3) Review your family emergency plan, consider all COVID 19 measures,

(4) If you can afford to purchase non-perishable foods and water. Store additional water.

(5) 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 neighbourhood require special assistance to evacuate due to a medical condition.

(6) Secure your important documents and identification. Save the emergency contact numbers for NEMO, the police, fire, and medical facility in your cell phone. Keep your phone charged.

(7) 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.