



# National Emergency Management Organization

*"Preserving Life and Property"*

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## **ADVISORY # 4**

### **FLOOD WARNING FOR CENTRAL BELIZE**

**WEDNESDAY, 04 NOVEMBER, 2020, 11:00 AM**

Tropical Storm Eta which is now inland over Nicaragua is weakening. Eta is expected to continue weakening as it interacts with the mountainous terrain of Nicaragua and Honduras and it should become a tropical depression by tonight. The remnants of Eta are then forecast to emerge off the coast of Belize on Friday and then move north-eastward into the northwest Caribbean Sea where it is forecast to re-strengthen into a tropical storm late on Friday while it continues to move away from Belize. The major threat from this system to Belize continues to be heavy rainfall and flooding. Some locations across the country have already received over two inches of rainfall and additional rainfall is expected. Rainfall totals of 15-25 inches with locally higher amounts are possible. Winds over the open sea are already strong and gusty and this will continue to produce large swells and damaging waves along coastal areas of the country.

A FLOOD WARNING IS IN EFFECT for Cayo, Belize, Stann Creek and Toledo districts. The Mopan, Macal and Belize rivers are rising fast. Communities along the Macal, Mopan and Belize River are hereby being notified that you must be on high alert and take action to save life and property. All are advised if you live along rivers and streams you need to start relocating to higher grounds, if you can shelter in your home, place food and valuable items out of the reach of floodwaters. Farmers are reminded to secure their assets. **DONT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE.** 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, play or drive in floodwaters and 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.

**ATTACHMENTS-** NEMO's Emergency Coordinators Contact Information, COVID 19 Protocols and Preparedness Tips.

NEMO staff countrywide is on full alert. The following NEMO committees: (1) Human Resource, (2) Relief and Supplies, (3) Transport, (4) Housing and Shelter, (5) Works and Access, and (6) Search and Rescue are on standby to respond as needed. The public, government ministries, businesses, schools, institutions in a flood risk area are advised to take action. **WE ARE UPGRADING OUR ALERT LEVELS** from a flood WATCH (flooding is likely to occur) to a flood WARNING (flooding is occurring). Be prepared, get ready!

..Ends...

NEMO'S EMERGENCY COORDINATORS CONTACT INFORMATION: Emergency Coordinators can be reached as follows: The NEMO Emergency Hotline is 936.

**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

### **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.