



National Emergency Management Organization
“Preserving Life and Property”

ADVISORY #5

FLOOD WARNING FOR CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN BELIZE

TUESDAY, 17TH NOVEMBER, 2020 as at 4:30 PM

The National Meteorological Services of Belize and NEMO hereby inform the general public that Tropical Storm Iota is now over Nicaragua Honduras and was moving to the west at 12mph with maximum sustained winds of 75mph and minimum central pressure of 980 millibar (mb).

Iota is forecast to continue moving on a westward track today and tonight. The system will continue to weaken while it moves over the mountainous terrain of Central America and is expected to be downgraded to a tropical depression tonight and a remnant low on Wednesday. IOTA is forecasted to move more south of Belize than Eta. However flooding due to heavy rainfall is a major concern as the system is expected to dump as much as 10 inches of rainfall on Belize especially over southern Belize. Rainfall activity is expected to peak on Wednesday. This will result in flooding along with the possible landslides especially over the mountainous areas of the country. Additionally, winds will continue to be gusty at least through to Thursday. This will cause very rough sea conditions which are a threat to mariners.

A FLOOD WARNING IS IN EFFECT for Cayo, Belize, Stann Creek and Toledo districts. People living along rivers and creeks are hereby strongly advised to take the necessary action to save life and property. Relocate to higher grounds if you live along rivers and streams. DO NOT STAY IN YOUR HOME tonight if you know it is likely to flood during the course of the night. MOVE TO SAFETY, SAVE YOUR FAMILY, LIFE COMES FIRST! If you can shelter in your home, place food and valuable items out of the reach of floodwaters. Farmers are reminded to secure their animals. DONT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE. If your home is likely to flood, turn off the main power supply. Beware of the movement of wild animals and snakes in your area due to flood waters.

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 APERSON OFF THEIR 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. ALL MAJOR HIGHWAYS ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE OPEN. A small craft warning is in effect. Mariners are advised to remain in safe harbour.

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

...Ends...

NEMO's Emergency Coordinators Contact Information

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:

1. 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!
2. 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.
3. 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.