



National Emergency Management Organization

“Preserving Life and Property”

ADVISORY # 7

FLOOD WARNING FOR BELIZE

THURSDAY, 05 NOVEMBER, 2020, 5:00PM

The National Meteorological Services of Belize and NEMO hereby inform the general public that the remnants of what was once Hurricane Eta continues to drench Central America. The disorganized center of tropical depression Eta is over Honduras and moving northwest at 9 mph. The depression is forecasted to re enter the Caribbean Sea and potentially strengthen into a Tropical Storm, then move toward Cuba tomorrow. **Tonight it is projected to turn to the north and move east of Belize** and is likely to continue affecting southern, eastern and central region of the country bringing more torrential rain. This will increase the chances for more flooding in Toledo, Stann Creek including Dangriga, Sarawee, Hope Creek, Mullins River, Gales point, Mahogany Heights, Freetown Sibun, Belize City, Ladyville, and northern Belize. The system is expected to move away from coastal Belize between late Friday evening and Saturday morning when less rainfall amounts are expected but by that time major flooding could occurring in many areas of the country.

All major lines of communication (highways) remain open. Roads that are flooded and or impassable are the Bullet Tree and Santa Familia roads (Spanish Lookout is accessible via Valley of Peace road), Calla Creek road, Santa Rosa road to Calla Creek, More Tomorrow M&S road, Sittee River bypass to Hopkins, and the Coastal Road from Hope Creek to Gales Point junction. All crossings in the Cayo district are flooded or at risk to flood except the main crossings, Hawksworth and the Santa Elena bypass (new) bridge.

A FLOOD WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT for Cayo, Belize, Stann Creek and Toledo districts. Most rivers in the country are rising. People along streams and rivers that are flooding or starting to flood are advised to move to higher grounds to save life. **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. Ensure you have an emergency kit, secure your documents and valuables. Farmers are reminded to secure their assets. **DON'T 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. A small craft warning is still in effect, don't venture out to sea.

Water contamination is a major threat to health. The public is advised by BWS to store water and that water in flooded areas must be treated before drinking. **DO NOT DRINK DISCOLOURED WATER OR WATER WITH A SMELL.** As advised by public health one (1) tablespoon of bleach can purify 5 gallons of water but allow it to settle for thirty minutes before using. **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 traversing the highways and secondary roads. Drivers are reminded to put on their seat belt and hazard light when driving through rain and to report dangerous areas.

ATTACHMENTS- *(please read out in English and Spanish)*

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

..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:

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.

