



National Emergency Management Organization

“Preserving Life and Property”

ADVISORY # 8

FLOOD WARNING FOR BELIZE

FRIDAY, 06 NOVEMBER, 2020, 7:30 AM

The National Meteorological Services of Belize and NEMO hereby inform the general public that major flooding is affecting most of the country due to TD Eta. 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 floods will continue to affect most districts as the run off from the high ground will continue. The weather is expected to improve within the next 24 hours as the Depression heads Northeastward away from Belize. All are advised to shelter in place.

The George Price Highway as reported earlier is closed for people trying to reach Belmopan from Cayo and Benque. Bullet Tree, Benque, Arenal, Santa Familia, Spanish Lookout, Valle of Peace Roaring Creek, Dangriga, Hopkins, Sarawee, Hope Creek, Mullins River, Freetown Sibun areas and sections of Belize City and numerous communities in the Belize District are experiencing severe flooding. Roads that are flooded and or impassable are the Bullet Tree and Santa Familia roads (Spanish Lookout is now NOT 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, Hawkesworth and the Santa Elena bypass (new) bridge. If the public don't need to be on the George Price, Hummingbird and Southern Highway and other roadways stay away so we reduce inconvenience, the chance of you being trapped, injured or worse.

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