



National Emergency Management Organization

“Preserving Life and Property”

ADVISORY # 9

FLOOD WARNING FOR BELIZE

FRIDAY, 06 NOVEMBER, 2020, 6:30 PM

The National Meteorological Services of Belize and NEMO hereby inform the general public that major flooding continues as flood waters continue to rise. TD Eta is moving away from coastal Belize. The weather is starting to improve as the depression heads Northeastward away from Belize.

All highways are open. The George Price Highway between Roaring Creek to Black Man Eddy is under flood conditions and is not passable to small vehicles. If the public don't need to be on the George Price, Highway and other roadways stay away to reduce inconvenience, the chance of you being trapped, injured or worse. 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.

86 persons are currently occupying 11 shelters in Cayo, Belize and Stann Creek districts. Over 150 persons have been rescued and an extremely flooded river night rescue continues in Calla Creek tonight.

A FLOOD WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT for Cayo and Belize districts. The Macal and Mopan rivers in the Cayo District have risen more than 29 feet inundating every village from Arenal to Roaring Creek. It is possible that as much as thirty thousand people may have been affected. Hardest hit communities are Arenal, Benque, Calla Creek, Bullet Tree Falls, Santa Familia, Blackman Eddy, and the downstream villages including Roaring Creek. 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. Most low-lying villages in rural Belize are starting to experience severe flood conditions.

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...

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.