



National Emergency Management Organization

“Preserving Life and Property”

ADVISORY NO. 4

FLOODING IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN BELIZE

As at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, 11th October 2022

The Department of Hydrology and National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) hereby inform the general public that flooding continues in the Cayo and Belize districts with a lesser extent in the south. Flooding has so far affected some 30 communities in central and southern Belize. Approximately 3,000 families have been directly or indirectly impacted, dozens of homes, vehicles, equipment, farms and crops damaged. 4 rescue operations saved 15 families; and 11 shelters were opened. Today in the Cayo District, 6 Shelters remain opened with 104 shelterees. 5 bridges were closed and slightly damaged, 2 ferries (Xunantunich and Baking Pot) were closed, 10 road networks flooded out, 11 rivers and 4 creeks reached flood stage, and 1 water system for BWS was impacted in San Ignacio. NEMO Relief and Supplies Committee provided 60 families with food packs today in Cayo. NEMO drone conducted aerial assessments in the flood zone.

The Macal River is receding, the Mopan River rose four inches in the last five hours due to flooding in Guatemala, the Sibun River is flooded, and the Rio Hondo is rising slowly. The Crooked Tree causeway, Double Run and Isabella Bank areas are showing significant rise in water level. Roads that are closed are the Coastal road, Bullet Tree-Santa Familia road, Bullet Tree-Calla Creek road, the Cristo Rey pump road, and the Hopkins-Sittee road.

The National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC) convened its operational meeting this morning to review plans for anticipated flooding in the Belize Rural communities. The damage assessment flyover for western Belize will take place tomorrow with representatives from the national damage assessment committee, the Press Office, the ministries of Agriculture, Infrastructure Development and Housing. The Belize Rural Emergency Committee will be meeting tomorrow morning.

If you live near to a river, creek, and in a low-lying area take the necessary actions to save your life. Check on the elderly and people with disability. If you need to seek shelter move early, do not wait until it's too late. Move before nightfall. Before leaving home secure your documents and your pet. **Farmers in the Belize River Valley and Crooked Tree areas move livestock and crops to a safe place. Move early!** If your home is likely to flood, before leaving secure your home, unplug appliances; turn off electricity, gas, and main water valve.

Avoid walking, playing and driving through flood waters. Six inches of running water can knock you down and one foot of water can sweep your vehicle away. Stomach illness due to contaminated water is increasing in the Cayo District. Wash hands thoroughly before touching food and handling water. In flooded areas boil or purify water before drinking it. As much as possible use bottled water for drinking, and to prepare and cook food. Store 1 gallon per day for each person in your home for drinking and cooking.

The public is advised to stay away from downed power lines. Downed power lines are dangerous. Never touch them. For safety's sake, always assume that a fallen power line is live, and follow these guidelines: avoid touching the downed line with your hand or an object, such as a stick, broom, or pole. Avoid touching anything, such as a car, object or equipment, or anyone who is in contact with a fallen power line. Keep children and pets away from fallen electric lines. Avoid driving over a fallen power line.

NEMO's emergency hotline is **936**. Stay alert, be prepared.

:-End of Release:-

NEMO CENTRAL DISTRICT COORDINATORS

CONTACT INFORMATION

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4	Mr. Lionel Smith	Belize Rural North Coordinator	614-4735/604-6532	205-9058
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