



National Emergency Management Organization

“Preserving Life and Property”

ADVISORY NO. 9

FLOOD SITUATION AFFECTING CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN BELIZE

SUNDAY 15th NOVEMBER 2015 as at 5:30 p.m.

The National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) hereby informs the general public that water running off the mountain pine ridge, the high ground in Cayo and the Mopan and Macal Rivers is affecting and will affect communities in the Cayo and Belize Districts.

Areas of concern are Arenal; Calla Creek; La Clarissa; Siete Millas; Barton Creek; Central Farm; Buena Vista; Providencien; Ramonal; Paslow Falls, Bullet Tree Falls; Santa Familia, Branch Mouth, villages along the George Price Highway, Roaring Creek, More Tomorrow; and in the Belize District, St. Paul’s Bank; Willows Bank, Double Head Cabbage; Bermudian Landing; Isabela Bank; Flowers Bank; May Pen; Burrel Boom; Lord’s Bank; and Ladyville in the coming week. People living in La Democracia; coastal highway community; Gales Point; Mullins River; Gracie Rock, Hattieville; Freetown Sibun, and Butcher Burns are advised to take action to avoid being affected by flood waters. The Belize National Coast Guard will be assisting with coastal visits to assist people in the Belize and Stann Creek Districts as required.

People in the Cayo District, the Belize River valley and along the old northern highway are being strongly encouraged to move higher ground, protect your life, go to a community shelter or seek shelter with family or friends. Get out of areas likely to flood. Do not cross flood waters especially at night. Farmers with livestock take the necessary actions before it is too late. Flood waters are coming down the Belize River which will seriously affect the Belize River Valley.

In Belmopan the NEMO Emergency Committee will be opening Shelters for those persons who wish to seek shelter. In Belmopan the Civic Centre is being opened and for the villages along the George Price Highway from Camalote to Blackman Eddy the community centres recently refurbished by the European Union will be opened. A BDF patrol in a truck from Camp Belizario will patrol to Belmopan including the surrounding Belmopan communities to assist people in need.

In the Toledo District, the **Southern Highway is open** to all vehicular traffic. People in the shelters and affected communities are being visited and assisted.

Road conditions: In Bomba the road is impassable to small vehicles. Other impassable roads are those leading into Gracie Rock, Spanish lookout via Baking Pot Ferry and Iguana Creek Bridge. The access route through Bullet Tree Falls village via the Bullet Tree Bridge is passable. The Roaring Creek Bridge is still open. ATM and Barton Creek caves are closed. The wooden bridge across the Macal River is closed. People using the Hammock bridge in Calla Creek needs to closely monitor the Mopan River. La Clarrisa Falls road is only accessible

to high vehicles. The Succothz ferry is closed. Digging of drains must be done only after consultation with the utility companies.

People at risk to flooding are advised to take the necessary precaution to protect life and property. **Do not**: cross flooded areas; **Do not**: touch power lines, electrical wires and electrical equipment in areas that are flooded; and **Do not**: turn on lights or appliances until an electrician has checked the circuit. Turn off electricity and gas at the main switch and valve.

Upon entering your home be alert for gas leaks. **Do not**: use matches or an open flame unless you know that the gas is off. Lookout for snakes and wild animals. Water must be boiled for at least one minute and cooled before drinking if you are not using bottled water or use 8 drops of Clorox or bleach to one gallon of water stir it well before use.

Again, drivers are asked to continue drive with due care and attention and to watch out for debris on the highways and by-ways. Bus drivers are informed not to drive through flooded areas. The public is asked to take these advisories seriously.

NEMO Emergency Coordinators for central and southern Belize are as follows: the **Belize District**, Mr. Calbert Budd at 602 8632 and Mr. Kevin Pollard at 621 2275; **Belmopan**, Ms. Clare Moody at 630 9791; **Cayo**, Mr. Al Westby at 630 3224; **Stann Creek**, Mr. Victor Castillo at 630 9780; and in **Toledo**, Mr. Kenton Parham at 630 9787. 936 is the NEMO Hotline.

NEMO continues to respond to flooding in central and southern Belize.

(PLEASE REPEAT THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT)

:-End of Release:-