



National Emergency Management Organization

"Preserving Life and Property"

ADVISORY # 4

TROPICAL STORM NANA APPROACHING BELIZE EXPECTED TO BECOME A HURRICANE BEFORE LANDFALL NEMO DECLARES A HURRICANE WATCH FOR BELIZE

TUESDAY, 1ST SEPTEMBER, 2020 as at 4:30 PM

The National Meteorological Services of Belize and the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) advise that Tropical Storm Nana was located near latitude 16.8N, longitude 79.3W or about 590 miles east of Belize City. Nana was moving to the west at 18mph with maximum sustained winds of 50mph. Nana is forecast to continue moving west and to make landfall on Thursday as a category one hurricane. Residents across the country should be prepared for category 1 hurricane force winds between 74 and 95 mph. This system could also produce rainfall of up to 4-6 inches across the country which could lead to flash flooding and possible landslides. The NMS of Belize will continue to monitor the system and update the NEMO and the general public accordingly. The public must monitor the progress of this system but do not panic!

NEMO hereby declares a HURRICANE WATCH for Belize (**one red flag with a black centre**), Belize City, and the Cayes are under a Tropical Storm WARNING. The Warning is declared as the system path puts those areas under direct threat. Associated heavy rains can cause flooding, washout roads, bridges, culverts, winds can damage homes, trees branches, power lines and poles, loose items can be blown about and storm surge can cause flooding, drowning and beach vessels not securely moored. The next declaration is expected to be a Hurricane Warning (**two red flag with a black centre flown one above the other**) which means it is imminent that the Hurricane will make landfall on Belize within 24 hours.

The WARNING means the public must put their family emergency plan into action and to be prepared to seek safe shelter, (2) school management is notified that NEMO will need to access schools as shelters, (3) boat owners must secure their vessels, (4) a price freeze is in effect (5) public and private essential agencies and utility companies must release their employees when they need to seek shelter for their safety, (6) road infrastructure works need to be prioritized to maintain the lines of communication and (7) media houses and telephone service providers are advised to be prepared to secure your communication infrastructure. **COVID 19 SHELTER PROTOCOLS** are attached.

All Emergency Operations Centre (Command Centres) countrywide is under partial activation. A joint NEMO Headquarters, national committees' liaison officers and NEMO district coordinators virtual meeting was held. The meeting dealt with PPEs for public officers, human resource requirements, transportation for national committees, COVID 19 concerns and public health requirements in shelters, possible evacuation, shelter plan, mile 38 situation on the George Price Highway which is being addressed, acquisition of small equipment, sharing of certain standard information, the national needs list, BDF deployment in support to NEMO. **Preparedness tips before a storm arrival: SEE/READ ATTACHMENT.**

Government ministries are at this time is in transition where only essential staff engaged in the ministry emergency plan and those who will work NEMO duties should return to work tomorrow or as directed by their CEO in accordance with their ministry emergency plan.

We are asking people not to panic, stay calm, don't listen to rumours. Stay tuned for and adhere to the official release from NEMO and the National Met Service and stay alert. Prepare, and move without alarm, scare mongering does more harm than good considering some people's medical condition. NEMO will keep the general public updated. Do not panic Belize we have faced tropical cyclones many times before, the bigger threat is COVID 19 we must wear our masks, social distance and clean our hands and all surfaces on a regular basis.

...Ends....

ATTACHMENT

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.

PREPAREDNESS TIPS BEFORE A STORM 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.
- (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.
- (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 neighborhood 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.
- (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.

NEMO'S IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

The NEMO Emergency Hotline is 936. NEMO's Emergency Coordinators can be reached as follows:

1. **Corozal**, Mr. Ronnie Hernandez at 614 7140;
2. **Orange Walk**, Mr. Aragon at 615 2264; or Mr. Leiva at 614 7177;
3. **Belize District Rural**, Mr. Alphius Gillett at 614 4735; Mr. Pollard at 6143244;
4. **San Pedro**, Ms. Vanessa Parham at 614 5865;
5. **Belize City**, Mr. Al Westby at 614 8604 or Mr. Kwame Scott at 615 7644;
6. **Belmopan**, Ms. Clare Moody at 614 5705; or Mr. Eiley at 624 2365;
7. **Cayo**, Mr. Al Westby at 6148604 or Mr. Johnny Ramclam at 614 5891;
8. **Stann Creek -Coastal-** Dangriga including Mullins River to Independence), Mr. Kevin Flores at 604 3632;
9. **Stann Creek -Interior-** Hummingbird and Southern highway communities, Mr. David Cruz at 614 8514; and for
10. **Toledo**, Mr. Kenton Parham at 614 2158 or Mr. Dennis Williams at 614 2393