



National Emergency Management Organization

“Preserving Life and Property”

ADVISORY # 3

CATEGORY 4 HURRICANE DELTA

TUESDAY, 06 OCTOBER, 2020 as at 10:30 AM

The National Meteorological Services of Belize and the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) hereby informs the general public that Hurricane Delta is now a major hurricane. The center of Hurricane Delta was located near latitude 18.2N, longitude 82.6W or about 320 miles east-southeast of Cozumel, Mexico. Delta was moving to the west-northwest **at 16 mph** with maximum sustained winds of 115 mph and minimum central pressure 955mb. Delta is forecast to continue moving in a **west-north-westward** to **north-westward** direction during the next couple of days. On this track the system should make landfall on the north-eastern Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico just south of Cancun early on Wednesday morning as a major hurricane. The forecast has been relatively consistent and most of the models agree on this track.

The impacts from Delta on Belize are still expected to be minimal as the system tracks north of the country. A slight increase in rain, showers and thunderstorms are expected over the northern districts later today and tonight. Winds are expected to be relatively strong and gusty and the National Meteorological Service of Belize will upgrade the current small craft caution to a warning at midday today. A small craft warning means that operators of small crafts should remain in safe harbour until after the warning has been lifted. Although rainfall is not expected to be very heavy, there is the chance that moderate rainfall amounts could result in localized flooding in the north over areas that are prone to flooding.

This major Hurricane is still in our zone of concern and due to its unpredictable nature we must remain alert. **This advisory is issued as a precaution due to the proximity and direction of movement of Hurricane Delta.** The public is advised to continue closely monitor Hurricane Delta even though the models are saying it is not assessed as being a direct threat to Belize, out of an abundance of caution, despite the current track, the public is advised to be prepared to take swift actions that will save life.

All must be prepared, just in case, to quickly put your Hurricane plan in place. Be reminded we are, historically, in the worst month of the Hurricane Season. NEMO City and District Emergency Committees will convene their second emergency meeting this afternoon. Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) countrywide will be on a 24 hours watch to closely monitor Hurricane Delta and to plan for the worse as we continue to hope for the best. We must maintain our guard and our vigilance.

ATTACHMENTS- COVID 19 Protocols and Preparedness Tips before a Cyclone Arrival.

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

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

It is a must that all COVID 19 protocols are adhered to whether the country is under tropical cyclone threat or not. Adhere to the official release from the National Met Service and NEMO. NEMO will keep the general public updated on any further developments. The public is advised to stay alert and be prepared to quickly take actions that will save life.

..Ends...

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 CYCLONE 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 neighbourhood 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.