



National Emergency Management Organization

“Preserving Life and Property”

ADVISORY # 3

HURRICANE ETA MAKING LANDFALL ON NICARAGUA

TUESDAY, 03 NOVEMBER, 2020, 4:30 pm

The National Meteorological Service and NEMO continue to closely monitor Category 4 Hurricane Eta which was centered near latitude 13.8N, longitude 83.5W or about 15 miles south-southwest of Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua. Eta is moving to the west at 5 mph with maximum sustained winds of 140 mph and minimum central pressure of 940 mb. Eta is making landfall on the northeast coast of Nicaragua. Significant weakening is expected after landfall. The system is expected to move to the west and then to the west-northwest over the mountainous terrain of Nicaragua and Honduras after that the track forecast remains uncertain. Several models show the remnants of Eta moving as far west as the Guatemala/Honduras border before turning northward to north-eastward across Belize and into the north-western Caribbean Sea. There is a possibility that the remnants of Eta could develop into a tropical storm over the weekend as it heads generally **north-eastward away from Belize** or it could move over Belize before moving out to sea.

The major threat from Eta continues to be heavy rainfall and flooding. Rainfall totals of 10-20 inches with locally higher amounts are anticipated. Winds are becoming gusty which could produce large swells along the coast. Belize is outside the Hurricane and Tropical storm wind field however the outer cayes are currently experiencing an increase in wind and wave action. When the system weakens to a depression as it interacts with the mountains in Nicaragua and Honduras the winds should die down and sea swells are expected to decrease. Waves as much as 5 feet above normal rough weather swells and tide levels is anticipated along the coast. A small craft warning remains in effect. The Coast Guard is standing by for any emergency situation. Fisheries personnel in the outer cayes were directed by their management to shelter in place.

Rainfall is expected for the next five to seven days which can cause dangerous floods in Belize. A FLOOD WATCH is in effect for the entire country with particular concerns for Cayo, Belize, Stann Creek and Toledo districts. People along rivers and streams need to start relocating to higher grounds, if you can shelter in your home place food and valuable items out of the reach of floodwaters. Farmers are reminded to secure their assets. **DONT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE.** If your home is likely to flood, turn off the main power supply.

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 driving the highways and secondary roads. Drivers are reminded to put on their hazard light when driving through rain.

ATTACHMENTS- NEMO's Emergency Coordinators Contact Information. COVID 19 Protocols and Preparedness Tips.

NEMO staff countrywide is on full alert. The following committees of NEMO's: (1) Human Resource, (2) Relief and Supplies, (3)Transport, (4) Housing and Shelter, (5) Works and Access, and (6) Search and Rescue are on standby to respond as needed. The public, government ministries, businesses, schools, institutions in a flood risk area are advised to take action. Going from a flood WATCH (flooding is likely to occur) to a flood WARNING (flooding is occurring) can happen rather quickly, be prepared, get ready! ..Ends...

NEMO'S EMERGENCY COORDINATORS CONTACT INFORMATION: Emergency Coordinators can be reached as follows: The NEMO Emergency Hotline is 936.

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.

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. Make early preparations.

(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. Store additional 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. Keep your phone charged.

(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.