



National Emergency Management Organization *“Preserving Life and Property”*

ADVISORY #6

FLOOD WARNING FOR CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN BELIZE

WEDNESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER, 2020 as at 12:30PM

The National Meteorological Services of Belize and NEMO hereby inform the general public that Iota dissipated into a remnant low over El Salvador this morning. The remnant low was near Latitude 13.8N, Longitude 89.5W over the south-western region of El Salvador. Maximum sustained winds were near 30mph and the system was moving to the west at 12mph. Rainfall continues to be the main threat from this system. Observed rainfall totals this morning across Belize ranged from between 1 to 6 inches. Additional rainfall is expected tomorrow with the highest amounts over central and southern areas of the country. This could lead to flooding and possible landslides over the mountainous terrain. Winds continue to be gusty which will result in rough sea conditions and therefore a small craft warning remains in effect.

All major highways across the country are passable except for Iguana Creek Bridge and Low-lying bridge in Cayo which are closed. Rivers are rising slowly in the following areas; White Ridge Area, Hope Creek, Sittee River, Fresh Water Creek, Cabbage Hay Creek (Santa Rosa) in the Stann Creek District. Water continues to rise in Santa Ana, Big Falls, Blue Creek, and Crique Sarco in the Toledo District. The Mopan River at Calla Creek, Macal at Cristo Rey, Belize River, Mount Pleasant Creek, J&W Creek, Maya Mopan Creek are also rising in the Cayo District. In the Belize District, the water levels are rising in Belize River, Crooked Tree Lagoon, Mexico Creek, and Big Falls Creek. The Rio Hondo and New Rivers in the north are rising slowly.

NEMO and the national Met Service will keep the general public updated on any further developments. The public is advised to stay alert. Please adhere to the official release from the National Met Service and NEMO.

ATTACHMENTS- FLOOD TIPS, NEMO'S EMERGENCY COORDINATORS CONTACT INFORMATION, AND COVID 19 PROTOCOLS.

...Ends...

FLOOD TIPS

1. Do not venture into rivers and creeks when there is heavy rainfall or there are long periods of rain because those water ways are likely to flood.
2. AS SOON AS YOU HEAR of a Flash flood , tell your neighbour and move away from the water source and MOVE to higher ground or to the upstairs of the nearest solid concrete (cement) building OR climb to the highest point! If where you are is Safe, stay there!
3. Relocate to higher grounds if you live along rivers and streams. DO NOT STAY IN YOUR HOME tonight if you know it is likely to flood during the course of the night. MOVE TO SAFETY, SAVE YOUR FAMILY, LIFE COMES FIRST!
4. If you are caught in your home by rising waters, move to the second floor or onto theroof if necessary. Take warm clothing, a flashlight and a portable radio with you. Then, wait for help. Do not try to swim to safety.
5. If you can shelter in your home, place food and valuable items out of the reach of floodwaters. Farmers are reminded to secure their animals. DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE. If your home is likely to flood, turn off the main power supply. Beware of the movement of wild animals and snakes in your area due to flood waters.
6. **DO NOT:** remain in areas where latrines are overflowing due to the floodwaters, play or drive in floodwaters and cross flooded creeks and rivers.
7. SIX INCHES OF FLOOD WATERS CAN SWEEP A PERSON OFF THEIR FEET. DO NOT DRIVE THROUGH FLOOD WATERS, IT CAN BE VERY DANGEROUS. Do not cross flooded rivers and creeks unless to save a life at risk of drowning. River crossing at night is not recommended but if it must be done include a flotation device and light must be used.
8. When a Flood Warning is issued; DO NOT drive in areas likely to flood, you could get trapped in the low ground when the flood waters arrive .More people drown in their cars than in any other location during flooding conditions. If your car stalls in a flooded area, abandon it as soon as possible. Floodwaters can rise rapidly and sweep a car (and its occupants) away.
9. Motorists are asked to drive with extreme caution when driving the highways and secondary roads. When it is raining drivers are reminded to put on their hazard light when driving on the roads and highways.
10. If time permits, turn off all utilities at the main switch and close the main gas valve. Do not touch electrical equipment unless it is in a dry area and you are wearing rubber gloves and rubber-soled boots or shoes.
11. Every source of electricity can be dangerous during and after flooding. After the flood, check for structural damage before entering the building. Do not touch power lines and electrical wires. The #2 cause of flood-related deaths is electrocution. Electrical current can travel through water. Report downed power lines to BEL. Do not turn on any lights or appliances until an electrician has checked the system for short circuits.
12. Be alert for gas leaks. Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Do not use matches or an open flame unless you know that the gas has been turned off and you have ventilated the area. Report gas leaks to the appropriate utility provider.
13. Flood prevention efforts depend on your cooperation and assistance. If your property is next to a drain please do your part and keep the banks clear of brush and debris.

NEMO's Emergency Coordinators Contact Information

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:

1. 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!
 2. 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.
 3. 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.
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