



National Emergency Management Organization

“Preserving Life and Property”

ADVISORY NO. 5

FLOODING IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN BELIZE

As at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday 12th October 2022

NEMO conducted a damage assessment flyover today in the Cayo District. Belize River is reaching top-gallon flood levels. More flood waters were seen in the upper reaches of the Belize River flowing downstream at a faster rate than normal, creating ox-bows in some areas.

The expected flood impact compared to previous events indicates that the impact possibly will not be as severe as the Eta and Iota floods in 2020, which occurred 13 days apart due to greater amounts of rainfall. The water levels are not expected to be the same but are expected to significantly affect communities along the Sibun and Belize rivers and quite possibly include the outer limits of Belize City. Residents living along the Sibun and Belize rivers and in Belize City are advised to take the necessary precautions as required. Crooked Tree lagoon is expected to rise significantly tonight or tomorrow as flood waters continue to flow into the lagoon.

Flooding continues in the Cayo District. Eight shelters remain open with 136 shelterees. The Macal and Mopan rivers are receding. The Bullet Tree-Santa Familia road is open. The Coastal and Bullet Tree-Calla Creek roads remain closed. Assessments and relief operations continue in the Cayo District.

If you live near a river, creek or in a low-lying area, take the necessary actions to save your life. Avoid walking, playing and driving through flood waters. If your home is likely to flood, before leaving secure your home, unplug appliances, turn off electricity, gas and main water valve, and secure your documents and pets. Check on the elderly and people with disability. If you need to seek shelter move early and do not wait until it's too late.

Farmers in the Belize River Valley and Crooked Tree areas are advised to move livestock and crops to a safe place. Move early!

Wash hands thoroughly before touching and handling food and water. In flooded areas, boil or purify water before drinking it. As much as possible use bottled water for drinking and to prepare and cook food. Water can be **treated with bleach (Clorox)** by adding 1 tablespoon of bleach to five gallons of water. Mix the bleach and water completely and leave to stand for 30 minutes before using. Water purification tablets can also be used. Follow the directions on the package. Store 1 gallon of water per day for each person in your home for drinking and cooking. The public is advised to stay away from downed power lines.

The media, all security personnel, and public officers are commended for their combined efforts in keeping the public informed and safe.

NEMO's emergency hotline is **936**. Stay alert, be prepared.