

National Emergency Management Organization

“Preserving Life and Property”

ADVISORY NO. 11 TROPICAL STORM SARA

As at 12:00 PM, SATURDAY, 16TH NOVEMBER, 2024

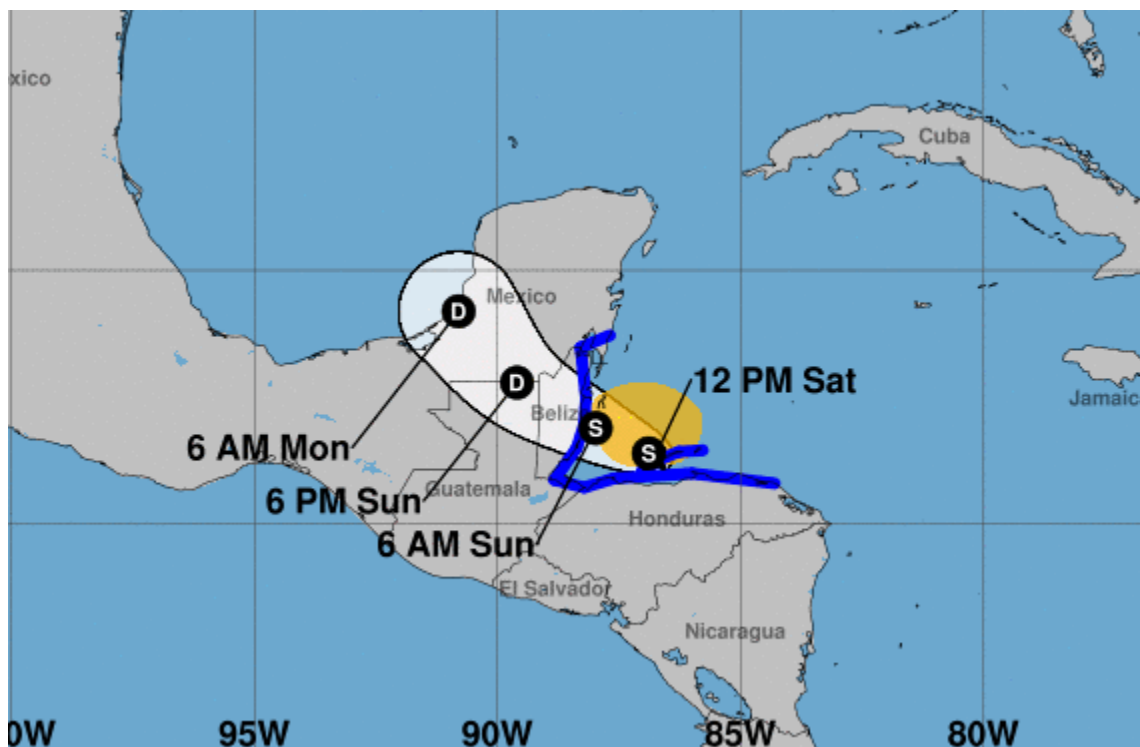
**A TROPICAL STORM WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT FOR THE ENTIRE COAST OF BELIZE,
INCLUDING ALL OF THE CAYES**

Update

At 12 pm local time, Tropical Storm Sara was located near latitude 16.3N, longitude 86.8W, or about 125 miles southeast of Belize City. Sara is moving to the west at 4 mph with maximum sustained winds of 45 mph. A turn towards the west-northwest is expected later, with an increase in forward speed.

On the forecast track, the center of Sara will slowly move away from the coast of Honduras today, approach the coast of Belize tonight, and make landfall on Belize on Sunday. No significant strengthening is expected, but there is a slight chance that Sara could reach the coast of Belize with winds of 50 mph with higher gusts. A tropical storm warning remains in effect for the entire coast of Belize, including all of the Cayes.

The main threat to Belize from Sara continues to be heavy rainfall. Preliminary rainfall data from Middle Caye suggests that over 15 inches of rainfall have fallen since midday on Thursday. Meanwhile, maximum rainfall totals from other stations across the country during this same time period range from around 4 to 8 inches. An additional 3 to 8 inches with locally higher values are possible through to Sunday evening. This rainfall is resulting in flooding in some areas of the country. Strong, gusty winds are producing rough sea conditions. A wind gust of 41 mph was recorded at Mauger Caye this morning. A small craft warning is currently in effect, so mariners operating small vessels are advised to seek or remain in safe harbour and not to venture out to sea. Strong winds may result in some minor damage to weak structures.



The country remains in **Phase 3 - Red Two** of the National Hurricane Plan. Two red flags with a black centre will be flown from signal centres.

The third phase, Red 2, shall be deemed to be in operation following such a declaration by NEMO when a tropical storm or hurricane appears likely to make landfall within 36 hours in a specific area of warning.

Hazards Expected to Affect Belize

Excess Rainfall - 4 to 8 inches with locally higher amounts of over 15 inches have already been recorded, and an additional 3 to 8 inches with locally higher values are possible, which can result in significant and life-threatening flooding.

High Wind – Winds of up to 50 miles per hour with higher gusts are possible within the impact area. This may result in damage to structures, crops, and trees.

Storm Surge – A storm surge of 1 to 2 feet is possible in areas of onshore flow just to the north of where the centre of the system moves inland.

Flood Forecast

Flood Warning remains in effect for the Central and Northern Region - Rio Hondo, Macal, Mopan, and Belize Rivers and their tributaries. The San Roman and San Antonio Roads in the Orange Walk District remain flooded.

Note:

- All interests, especially those in Southern Belize, **MUST** pay close attention and need to implement emergency plans now.
- Persons living in areas under Flood Warning **MUST** remain vigilant and be prepared to implement emergency plans if necessary. Know what to do if your community starts to experience flooding.
- Persons living along waterways are asked to keep monitoring and to exercise caution.
- Avoid walking through or playing in flood water due to danger and potential health issues.
- Be prepared to implement your family emergency plans now. Have your emergency food, water, and medical supplies ready in case you have to shelter in place or move to a shelter. Assist the elderly and people with disabilities, and safeguard your pets.
- Shelters in affected areas will be opened if required. This information will be available from the NEMO District Coordinator in your area.
- Interests in the agriculture sector are asked to monitor closely and are asked to implement their emergency plans today. Interests in the Belize River Valley must be ready to secure assets such as cattle.
- Interests in the tourism sector are asked to keep visitors and guests informed of the status of TS Sara and to implement their emergency plans today.
- Interests in the fisheries sector, water taxis, and mariners are to comply with the Port Authority's recent Notice to Mariners.
- Business owners, especially those in Southern Belize, are asked to implement their business continuity plans and to ensure the safety of their employees by giving them sufficient time to prepare their own families.
- Organizers of public events are strongly advised to postpone these until the ALL CLEAR is given in the interest of public safety.
- All motorists are asked to drive with extreme care due to slippery road conditions and potential local flooding. Avoid driving through floodwaters. Listen to advisories from national authorities for the latest on road conditions.
- Bus operations remain normal, depending on road conditions. The Transport Department continues to monitor bridges, roads, and highways.
- The Philip Goldson International Airport will remain open for operations today, Saturday, November 16, 2024, until 2:15 pm for flight arrivals and 3:15 for flight departures.

- Flights to the Southern parts of the country remain suspended until an all-clear has been issued. Flights to other destinations are expected to continue as scheduled.

Residents are advised to continue monitoring this system very closely and to follow official information coming from national authorities and the Met Service. Countrywide, all NEMO district emergency operations centres remain on alert. **NEMO's hotline is 936.**

NEMO reminds everyone that the arrival of Tropical Storm Sara is imminent, and staying safe should remain a top priority. Ensure your emergency plans are up to date, stock up on essential supplies today, and stay informed about weather updates from reliable sources. Let's work together to keep our community safe and prepared.

:-End of Release

Regional and District Coordinators

No.	Name	Post	Contact Number	Office
1.	Mr. Jose Carballo	REGIONAL COORDINATOR NORTH	614-6913	302-3228
2.	Mr. Ronnie Hernandez	Corozal District Coordinator	614-7140	422-0262
3.	Mr. Juan Leiva	Orange Walk District Coordinator	614-7177	302-3228/2232
4.	Mr. Kevin Pollard	Belize Rural Central Coordinator	614-3244	205-9058
5.	Ms. Crystal Malic	Asst. Belize Rural North Coordinator	614-8382	205-9058
6.	Mr. Dennis Rhaburn	Belize City Coordinator	614-0785	207-0544
7.	Ms. Cassandra Jones	Belize City Coordinator	611-6793	207-0544
8.	Ms. Vanessa Parham	Belize Rural South/ San Pedro Town Coordinator	614-5865	226-4821/4824/4358
9.	Ms. Kristylane Wolfe	Belize Rural South/ Caye Caulker Coordinator	611-6603	
10.	Mr. Santiago Acosta	Belmopan Coordinator	610-8574	822-2054
11.	Mr. Javier Habet	Cayo District Coordinator	614-5891	824-3201
12.	Mr. Charles Leslie	REGIONAL COORDINATOR SOUTH	610-1733	522-0061
13.	Mr. David Cruz	Stann Creek District Coordinator	614-8514	522-0061/0218
14.	Mr. Kenton Parham	Toledo District Coordinator	614-2158	722-0384/2354