



National Emergency Management Organization

“Preserving Life and Property”

ADVISORY NO. 17 TROPICAL STORM SARA

As at 6:00 AM, SUNDAY, 17TH NOVEMBER, 2024

**TROPICAL STORM SARA IS NEARING LANDFALL OVER SOUTHERN BELIZE.
A TROPICAL STORM WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT FOR THE ENTIRE COAST OF BELIZE,
INCLUDING ALL OF THE CAYES.**

Update

At 6 am local time, Tropical Storm Sara was located near latitude 16.7N, longitude 87.9W, or about 60 miles south-southeast of Belize City and about 30 miles east-southeast of Dangriga. Sara is moving to the west-northwest at 5 mph with maximum sustained winds of 40 mph. This general motion is expected until landfall.

On this forecast track, the center of Sara will make landfall over southern Belize later this morning or around midday. No significant strengthening is expected before landfall. 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, and therefore, an excessive rainfall warning is in effect. Preliminary rainfall data show that rainfall amounts of 6 to 12 inches have already been recorded, with localized maximum amounts of almost 18 inches. An additional 2 to 4 inches with locally higher values is possible through to this evening; this rainfall is resulting in flooding in some areas of the country. Strong winds of 20 to 40 mph with higher gusts are producing rough sea conditions. A wind gust of 45 mph was recorded at the National Meteorological Service’s Weather Station at Half Moon Caye at 4:20 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 - 6 to 12 inches with locally higher amounts of almost 18 inches have already been recorded, and an additional 2 to 4 inches with locally higher values are possible, which can result in significant and life-threatening flooding.

High Wind – Winds of up to 40 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

- An urban Flood Alert is in effect for low-lying areas. A flash flood alert is in effect for downstream communities in the Cayo District.
- Flood Warnings are in effect for the Central and Northern region rivers and their tributaries.
- A severe Flood Warning is in effect for the Macal River and its tributaries.
- A Landslide Warning is in effect for areas in the Eastern Slopes of the Maya mountains.

Road Updates

The following is the status of road conditions:

- a. Hummingbird Highway remains open
- b. Thomas Vincent Ramos Highway remains open
- c. Phillip Goldson Highway - minor flooding at Ladyville by Love Lotus Supermarket
- d. George Price Highway remains open
- e. Coastal Plain Highway - assessment underway
- f. Bullet Tree to Santa Familia - not passable by small vehicles
- g. Grace Bank Access Road - not passable by small vehicles
- h. Old Northern Highway near King's College - approximately 3 inches of water

The following is the status of bridges:

- a. Salvador Fernandez Bridge in Bullet Tree is closed due to rapidly rising water
- b. Calla Creek Bridge - Water is 4 ft below the bridge and rising

Note:

- All persons are advised to remain at an abode, place of residence, or shelter until the ALL CLEAR notification is given by the National Emergency Management Organization.
- Businesses in the Stann Creek and Cayo Districts and other parts of the country are to remain closed until the ALL CLEAR is issued.
- Road condition assessments will continue. **All motorists are asked to avoid travelling on any highway in the country, given the high potential for flash floods, low visibility, and the possibility of deteriorated road infrastructure.**
- 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, especially along the Mopan and Belize Rivers, are asked to keep monitoring and exercise caution. **You must consider voluntary evacuation if you believe your home is at risk of flooding.**
- Several shelters in affected areas across the country are open and others will open as needed. Shelter information is available from the NEMO District Coordinator in your area.

- Cattle farmers in flood-prone areas are advised to move their livestock to higher ground as soon as possible.
- 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.
- Interests in the fisheries sector, water taxis, and mariners are to comply with the Port Authority's Notice to Mariners.
- The Transport Department will continue to conduct road assessments and will advise on bus operations throughout the day. Bus operations are dependent on the ALL CLEAR notification.
- The Philip Goldson International Airport will resume operations on Monday, November 18, 2024.
- Avoid walking through or playing in flood water due to danger and potential health issues.
- Continue 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.

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 the public that staying safe should remain a top priority. Stay informed about weather updates from reliable sources. Let's work together to keep ourselves, our families, and our communities 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