

## Chapter X

### DURING AND IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE HURRICANE

1. During and immediately after the hurricane, all agencies will be involved in carrying out, as far as possible, their respective emergency plans. These activities will be geared toward:

- provision of supplies to those in need
- provision of security measures to protect people and property
- rescue and evacuation procedures wherever necessary
- keeping the community calm in the face of a disaster
- provision of emergency communications where normal channels have broken down
- assisting District Emergency Organisations with clearance of roads
- collecting and collating information concerning damage to life and property
- clearing roads

2. A quick and efficient collation of information and statistics is imperative following a disaster. This enables the Emergency Operations Centre to make as accurate an assessment as possible in order to request assistance from external sources, to

coordinate rehabilitation activities and incidentally to gain some insight into the weaknesses of existing disaster plans.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

Chief Technical Officer, Ministry of Transport & Works	—	to assist in rescue work in collaboration with the Fire Department and Barbados Defence Force, etc.
	—	to provide emergency transport services
	—	to excavate as required by Emergency Control Centre
	—	to assist with the distribution of emergency supplies
Chief Fire Officer	—	to clear roads made impassable by the disaster
	—	removal of debris, trees, etc. posing danger to houses or to utility poles and wires
	—	pumping off of flood waters
	—	provision of small boats or other equipment to assist in rescue operations
Barbados Defence Force	—	coordinating work of volunteer private boat owners
	—	assisting with road clearance

	—	supervising volunteer road clearance workers
Transport Board	—	restoration of use of utility
Water Authority		services as soon as possible
Barbados Telephone Company		
Barbados Light & Power Co.		
National Petroleum Corporation		
Permanent Secretary, Housing	—	repairs to houses
National Housing Corporation	—	erection of temporary shelters as required
Director, Statistical Services	—	coordinating the collection of damage statistics and other information to be submitted to the Emergency Control Officer
	—	estimating funds needed for rehabilitation
	—	communicating information to emergency operations teams and to Government Information Service
Chief Information Officer	—	preparing and issuing all press releases
Government Information Service	—	keep Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed

Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs

- coordinating offers of assistance from resident foreign Missions and from other external sources and agencies either bilateral or multilateral and passing such offers of assistance to the Central Emergency Relief Organisation.

Fisheries Officer

- at “all-clear” to require all members of staff to report for duty immediately — whether day or night, and to give instructions regarding the re-launching of the fishing fleet and the salvaging of smitten vessels — all ranks being required to give physical assistance if necessary
- to call on fishing boat owners and crews by radio to return to their normal task of providing the community with fish as soon as conditions safely allow and to inspect their boats with extra care before going to sea
- to debrief all fisheries staff and to see whether any lessons have been learnt from the way in which the emergency was conducted;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– to call on all fishing boat owners and fishermen to report damage as early as possible to the Fisheries Officer</li> </ul>
Airport Manager Technical Director (Aviation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– restore airport to normalcy as soon as possible</li> <li>– keep ECO/CERO informed on ETA's of relief aircraft</li> </ul>
National Conservation Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– assist Health &amp; Welfare Services with transport</li> <li>– assist Ministry of Transport &amp; Works and Barbados Defence Force with road clearance</li> <li>– assign employees who are island constables to aid security forces</li> </ul>
Customs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– expedite deliveries of relief goods consigned to Ministry of Health, Welfare Department, Barbados Red Cross Society or C.E.R.O., in accordance with the conventions of the Customs Cooperation Council (Brussels)</li> </ul>
Amateur Radio Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– members to take positions (assignments as pre-arranged) at the following points:</li> </ul>

- Government House
- Government Headquarters
- Marine House
- Ministry of Transport & Works
- Ministry of Health
- Bridgetown Harbour
- Queen Elizabeth Hospital
- Red Cross Society
- St. Joseph Hospital
- Transport Board Depots –

Haggatts  
 Speightstown  
 Weymouth  
 Mangrove

All Permanent Secretaries/Heads of Departments

–

prepare report of damage done to Government property and submit to Director, Statistical Services

## **Chapter XI**

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

1. The Emergency Telecommunications Centre is located in the Control Room, Police Headquarters, where there is VHF equipment linked to the eighteen Police Stations around the country and the Police Mobile Patrol Units as well as control points for the Amateur Radio Society and a Citizen's Band Base Station.

#### **AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY**

2. The Amateur Radio Society has been requested to assign members to the following points:

(a) Before, during and after a hurricane —

- Police Headquarters
- Airport — Control Tower
- Airport — Meteorological Office
- Caribbean Meteorological Institute

(b) Before and after a hurricane

- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Transport Board Depots —
  - Haggatts
  - Speightstown
  - Weymouth
  - Mangrove

(c) After a hurricane –

- Government House
- Government Headquarters
- Marine House
- Ministry of Transport & Works
- Ministry of Health
- Bridgetown Harbour
- Queen Elizabeth Hospital
- Barbados Red Cross Society
- St. Joseph Hospital

In the event of a hurricane, the Chief Establishments Officer will advise the President or the Secretary of the Amateur Radio Society who will “stand by” on a frequency of 7.185 Mhz (day) or 3.805 Mhz (night) and/or the VHF repeater frequencies of 146.91/146.31 Mhz and advise other amateur radio stations of any directives received. Suitable frequencies in the 14 Mhz band will be used to provide long distance external communication as required.

The following message format will be used –

FROM: (ABC)

TO: (XYZ)

DATE: (82-02-23) Time: (1234 GMT) Message No:(1)

TEXT: (Actual Message Information)

SIGNATURE: (Sender of message)

N.B. Mobile Stations should give their location after the signature

3. The Barbados Defence Force will arrange to establish links with Police Headquarters. In case of a hurricane it is expected



that, where possible, members should take up their position two hours in advance of the estimated time. They will thus provide communication between Police Headquarters and the points listed above just before, during and immediately after onset.

4. Cable & Wireless will provide an emergency voice link between Wildey and Police Headquarters.

### *Citizens' Band*

5. A Citizens' Band Telecommunications System has been set up within the Central Emergency Relief Organisation. It consists of one base station, located in the Control Room at Police Headquarters and at present some portable (walkie-talkie) sets intended to facilitate various types of field work. The sets may also be used in mobile units as magnetic antennae are available.

6. Channel 9 has been reserved for the purpose of emergency traffic and channel 10 for the Defence Force contacts with fishing boats.

7. The call codes to be used for transmission purposes are —

“CERO Base” — Police Headquarters

“CERO 1” “CERO 2”..... “CERO 8” for the portable sets

### *Maintenance*

8. The Police Department will be responsible for the maintenance of C.E.R.O. telecommunications equipment and will make periodic tests to ensure its readiness for an emergency.

### *Allocation of C.B. Sets*

9. The Hospital Director, Queen Elizabeth Hospital will be issued with two sets — one to remain at the hospital and the other for field use of the emergency team. The other sets will be kept at Police Headquarters and will be assigned to the appropriate emergency workers by the Emergency Control Officer according to the nature of the emergency.

### BARBADOS CITIZENS BAND RADIO ASSOCIATION

10. Members of the Barbados C.B. Radio Association will assist in field operations and it has been arranged therefore that, in consultation with the Chairman, C.E.R.O., C.B'ers will be assigned to the various hurricane shelters and first aid stations.

11. When it has been established that a hurricane is likely to have some effect on the Caribbean area, on the issuing of a 'Weather Advisory' by the Meteorological Officer, all C.B'ers in Barbados involved in the hurricane emergency programme will be instructed to tune in their transceivers to channel 9. While on this channel all relevant information will be relayed from the various news media.

12. When a 'Hurricane Watch' or a 'Hurricane Warning' has been issued, C.B'ers will be requested to switch their transceivers to their pre-assigned area frequencies and await further instructions from their area controllers.

13. At a pre-arranged time, mobile units will be requested by their controllers to take up their positions at the various shelters assigned to them.

14. Messages will then be transmitted from the shelters using the 'ten code' where possible, to the area controllers on the assigned frequencies. These will then be relayed on channel twenty-three to the Central Control Station, located at the Ministry of

Transport and Works' monitoring station at Gun Hill in St. George, for transmission on channel 9 to the C.E.R.O. base at Central Police Station.

15. In some cases where the contents of messages may be required to be kept confidential, a special emergency 'ten code' drawn up by the Barbados Citizens Band Radio Association Emergency Committee, and issued only to C.B'ers involved in the exercise, will be used.

16. All messages received from the various shelters will be logged by the area controllers before transmission to the Central Control Station where again there will be logged before being passed to the C.E.R.O. Base.

17. It should be noted that in the event of a hurricane or other disaster affecting Barbados, all the odd number channels from one to twenty-three will be used for the purpose of internal communications. These channels will be assigned to area controllers with the exception of twenty-three which will be used for passing messages to the Central Control Station, nine which will be used for transmission between the Central Control Station and the C.E.R.O. Base and eleven which will continue to be used for calling purposes only as is done at present.

## Chapter XII

### RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DISTRICT EMERGENCY ORGANISATIONS

1. If any programme of disaster preparedness is to be meaningful, then it must involve not only Civil Servants, but individuals within the wider community as well. Community involvement is absolutely vital to any action in time of disaster in the pre-emergency planning period. In this respect, the participation and assistance of Service Clubs such as the Lions, Jaycees, Kiwanis, etc. is considered to be most vital.

2. With the assistance of the Electoral Department, a network of District Emergency Organisations has been established and will be maintained within the framework of C.E.R.O. to cover the whole island as follows:

AREA		HEADQUARTERS	
1.	Constituencies of –		
	City of Bridgetown	–	Roebuck Secondary School
	St. Michael West	–	St. Leonards Girls' School
2.	Constituencies of –		
	St. Michael South Central	–	National Union of Public Workers
	St. Michael South	–	Teachers' Secondary Union
3.	Constituencies of –		
	St. Michael East		
	St. Michael South East	–	Community College

AREA	HEADQUARTERS (E.O.C.)
4. Constituencies of – St. Michael Central St. Michael North East	– District ‘A’ Police Station
5. Constituencies of – St. Michael North St. Michael North West (along with that part of Cave Hill which is in the constituency of St. James South) St. Michael West Central	– Eden Lodge Primary School  – Ellerslie Secondary School
6. Constituency of – Christ Church West	– Hastings Police Station
7. Constituency of – Christ Church West Central	– St. Lawrence Police Station
8. Constituencies of – Christ Church East Central Christ Church East (along with the districts of Charnocks and Spencers)	– Oistins Police Station
9. Parish of St. George (along with districts of Windsor and Hannays)	– District ‘B’ Police Station
10. Parish of St. Philip	– District ‘C’ Police Station
11. Parish of St. John	– Four Roads Fire Station

AREA	HEADQUARTERS (E.O.C.)
12. Parish of St. James	– St. James Secondary School
13. Parish of St. Peter	– District ‘E’ Police Station
14. Parish of St. Lucy	– Crab Hill Police Station
15. Parish of St. Thomas	– District ‘D’ Police Station
16. Parish of St. Andrew	– Belleplaine Police Station
17. Parish of St. Joseph	– District ‘F’ Police Station

### *Structure of the District Emergency Organisations*

3. The District Emergency Organisations have a small Management Committee of persons who are willing and able to accept responsibility. Each Committee should include a Group Leader and a Deputy Group Leader. It will also be necessary to have supporting key personnel responsible for supervision of –

- shelters
- feeding
- clothing
- first aid
- collection of damage statistics
- communications (radio and messengerial)

4. Although group members are assigned specific roles, they should make themselves familiar with all areas of the group’s activities in the operational plan.

5. For further information on structure and functions of the District Emergency Organisations reference should be made to the District Booklet.

### *Selection of Personnel*

#### **Shelter Wardens**

6. Senior Wardens and Emergency Senior Wardens will be chosen by the Chief Education Officer. District Emergency Organisations will be responsible for providing Assistant Wardens in consultation where necessary with the Chief Education Officer. Reference is invited to the Shelter Wardens Booklet.

7. These Wardens should be drawn from the area and could comprise —

- (a) teachers — names, addresses etc. obtainable from the Chief Education Officer
- (b) members of service clubs, e.g. Boy Scouts, Jaycees, Lions, Anglican Young People's Association, etc. who are able and willing
- (c) other community organisations.

8. It is to be noted that the list of emergency shelters will be published in the local newspapers from time to time just before and during the season.

## Chapter XIII

### HURRICANE ADVISORIES AND WARNINGS

1. Statements issued by the Government Meteorological Office at Grantley Adams International Airport concerning the approach of hurricanes and storms may be classified as follows:

- (i) Bulletin — issued when a significant weather system is detected in the area
- (ii) Advisory — issued at regular intervals when a tropical storm or hurricane is first detected in the area
- (iii) Watch — issued when the hurricane continues its advance and hurricane conditions are a real possibility; it does not mean that they are imminent
- (iv) Warning — issued when once it is established that hurricane conditions are expected within 24 hours

N.B. The area used is that part of the Atlantic Ocean which is bounded by latitudes 9° north and 17° north and longitudes 40° west and 60° west.



### *Radio Announcements*

2. Announcements will be made over the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, Radio Barbados and Barbados Rediffusion at frequent intervals.

### OTHER SIGNALS

3. Other signals are of two types –

(i) Visual Warning Stations

By day        –        two flags showing a black square on a red ground, flown one above the other at mast heads

By night     --        two red lights, one above the other, hoisted at mast heads

4. The Commissioner of Police is responsible for the following Visual Warning Stations --

- District 'B' Police Station
- District 'C' Police Station
- District 'D' Police Station
- Hackleton's Cliff, St. John
- District 'E' Police Station
- District 'F' Police Station
- Belleplaine Police Station
- Highgate Signal Station
- Mount Standfast, St. James

5. Other Visual Warning Stations are as follows –

<i>Station</i>		<i>Officer/Person responsible</i>
SINGAL	—	General Manager, Port Authority
Public Buildings	—	Chief Technical Officer, Ministry of Transport and Works
Crane Hotel, St. Philip	—	”
St. John’s Church	—	The Rector
Golden Ridge, St. George	—	Chief Engineer, Water Authority

(ii) Audible Warnings

(a) Bells

Church Bells will be rung rapidly at intervals for a period of fifteen minutes

(b) Sirens

Sirens controlled by the Commissioner of Police will be sounded every quarter hour for an hour in blasts of one minute, three times with an interval of half a minute between blasts at the following Police Stations —

- Central
- Worthing
- District ‘B’
- District ‘E’

### *All Clear Signals*

6. When it is certain that the island is out of danger from the hurricane "All Clear" signals will be given. These signals will be given as follows:

- (a) Visual
  - By day — A green flag with a white diagonal stripe flown at mast heads
  - By night — A green light at mast heads
- (b) Audible
  - Sirens will be sounded continuously for three minutes
  - two rockets or maroons will be fired from the Harbour Police Station and where possible from District Police Stations
  - Police will advise District Emergency Organisations, Rectors and Vicars, and will notify residents of isolated districts
  - Reports will be made over C.B.C., Radio Barbados and Barbados Rediffusion Service Limited

## **Chapter XIV**

### **THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL AND CABINET**

If damage and circumstances warrant such action, the Governor-General will, on the advice of Cabinet, issue a proclamation declaring a State of Emergency in accordance with Section 25 of the Constitution of Barbados.

The Governor-General may also, on the advice of the Prime Minister, issue a proclamation under Section 199 of the Defence Act 1979, directing the Defence Board to call out either one or both classes of the Defence Force Reserve on permanent service to undertake such duties as may be required.

## Chapter XV

### DRAWING UP OF A DISASTER PLAN

1. The preceding chapters outline some of the main responsibilities of various agencies, and these must be provided for in individual plans. Bear in mind that the aims of any disaster plan must be to ensure the following –

- (a) that all personnel are ready to make the earliest possible response to an emergency
- (b) that some system for crowd control must be established as early as possible, so as to avoid unnecessary casualties
- (c) the quick and efficient evacuation of any building or area considered to be in a dangerous situation
- (d) the provision of first aid with a minimum of delay
- (e) that factual information is relayed as early as possible to the Emergency Operations Team.

2. The following points should also be taken into account –

#### *Leadership:*

- Although there will be a main coordinating body – the Emergency Operations Centre – it will be necessary to form your own central point of communication to assist your staff in receiving information, making decisions, etc.

*Public Information:*

- Public information is of major importance in disaster planning. Make sure that members of the public are versed in preparations for coping with disasters *before* a disaster strikes.

*Action Checklists:*

- Provide a list of actions to be taken by individual members of your staff (or individual groups) in a disaster. This list should be clear and concise so that there is no doubt as to what has to be done, and when.

*Maps:*

- Preparation of maps before hand is essential. These maps should show key areas, reporting points, etc. Coloured pins are helpful in showing locations of shelters, centres communications points etc.

*Organisational Charts:*

- Simple organisational charts are useful before and during emergency operations. Do not clutter your charts with copious details. The chart should indicate which members of your staff are responsible for certain actions. Include brief instructions on how to acquire emergency supplies, and emergency purchasing and requisitioning procedures. You should also include names, titles, addresses and telephone numbers of key emergency personnel.

*Identification Cards:*

- Identification cards and/or permits should be issued to key personnel to allow them passage through police lines

*Resources Data:*

- Every major source of local manpower, equipment and supplies should be considered in preparing what could be called a “Resources Data Book”. This information will have to be updated frequently.

3. In drawing up plans, effort should be made to make provision for action in the event of a disaster other than a hurricane or flood. Consideration should also be given to procedures in the event of —

- **Fire**
- **Earthquake**
- **Bombthreat.**