



**10th Report**  
*Online Edition*

**Saint Lucia**  
**National Emergency**  
**Management Organisation**  
**Annual Report for 2009**

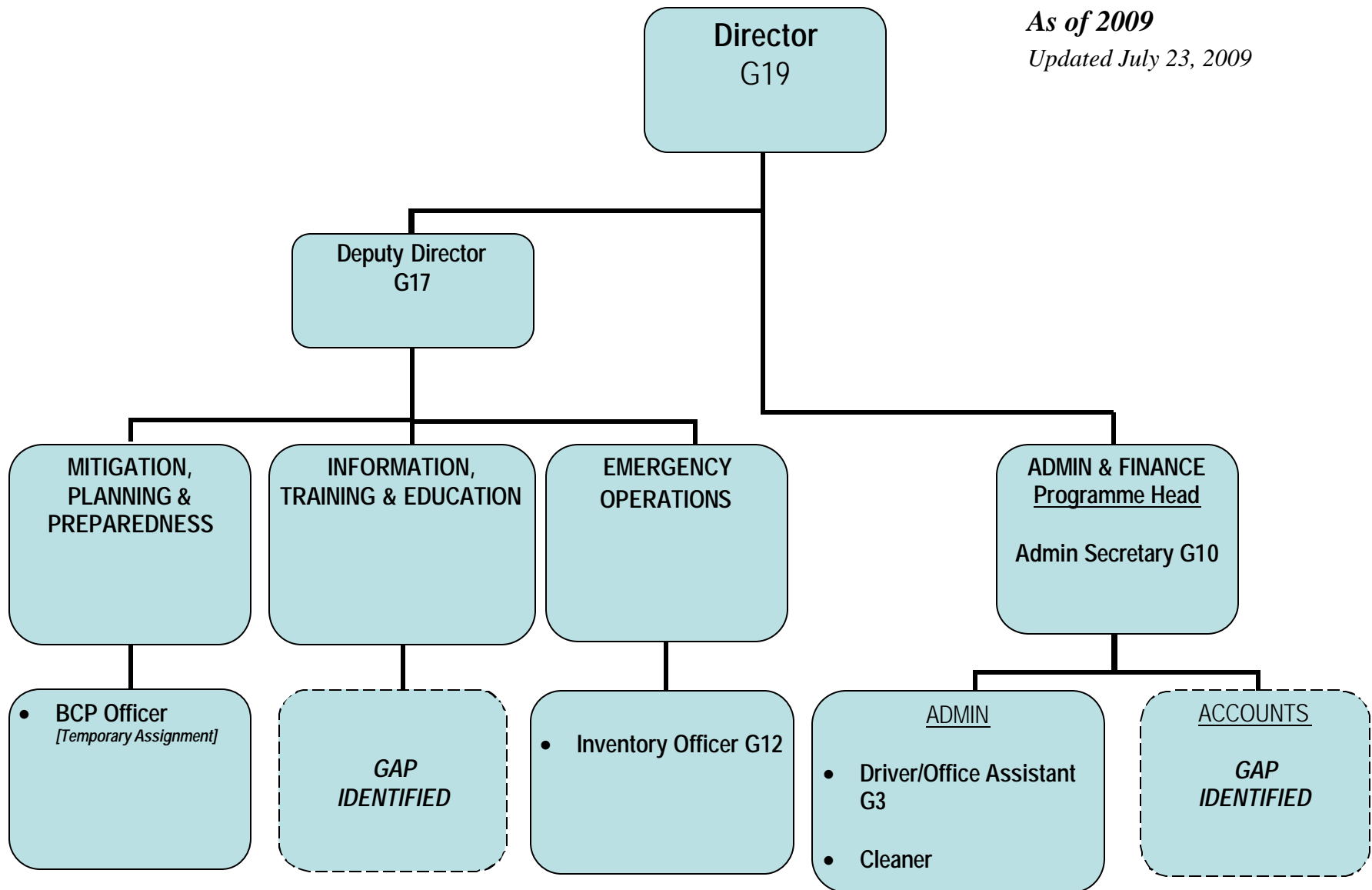
## Table of Contents

*Photo Credit: NEMO Headquarters at Biseé officially opened by Prime Minister Stephen King on December 5, 2009*

1 – DIRECTOR’S REPORT .....	4
INTRODUCTION.....	4
THE ORGANIZATION.....	4
ADMINISTRATION.....	5
PREPAREDNESS.....	6
<i>Infrastructure.....</i>	6
<i>Legislation.....</i>	6
<i>National Emergency Management Plan.....</i>	6
<i>Simulation Exercises.....</i>	8
<i>Training.....</i>	8
<i>Projects.....</i>	8
<i>Special Assignments.....</i>	11
PUBLIC INFORMATION.....	11
RESPONSES.....	12
CONCLUSION.....	13
2 – GOVERNMENT LIAISON OFFICERS.....	14
INTRODUCTION .....	14
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION .....	14
SAINT LUCIA FIRE SERVICE.....	16
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL .....	17
PROBATIONS AND PAROLE SERVICES .....	18
SAINT LUCIA AIR AND SEA PORTS AUTHORITY.....	19
MINISTRY OF TOURISM & CIVIL AVIATION .....	21
3 – NATIONAL COMMITTEES.....	23
INFORMATION AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE .....	23
CONCLUSION.....	25
4 – DISTRICT COMMITTEES.....	26
BABONNEAU DISASTER COMMITTEE .....	26
CANARIES DISASTER COMMITTEE .....	27
DENNERY SOUTH DISASTER COMMITTEE.....	28
GROS ISLET DISASTER COMMITTEE .....	29
LABORIE DISASTER COMMITTEE .....	30
SOUFRIÈRE DISASTER COMMITTEE.....	31
VIEUX FORT SOUTH DISASTER COMMITTEE.....	32
CONCLUSION.....	33
5 – SPECIAL REPORTS.....	34
NATIONAL REPORT SUBMITTED TO INTER-GOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION 2009....	34
6 – APPENDICES.....	43
APPENDIX 1 - NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION OF SAINT LUCIA .....	43
APPENDIX 2 – NEMO REMEMBERS 2009.....	45
APPENDIX 3 - 2010 HURRICANE NAMES.....	47

*NEMO Secretariat Structure  
As of 2009*

*Updated July 23, 2009*



# *1 – Director’s Report*

## **INTRODUCTION**

Congratulations are in order to the entire membership of the National Emergency Management Organisation as this Annual Report is number ten in an unbroken series. Started in 2000 the Committees of NEMO have consistently reported on the efforts to have Saint Lucia prepared to respond to a disaster.

The number 9-9-9 took on a new meaning as the only Hospital in the South St Judes Hospital caught a fire on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Again the population became aware that the hurricane was not the only hazard to be aware of.

The “birth” and spread of the pandemic influenza had the World Health Organisation declaring a *Public Health Emergency of International Concern* and Saint Lucia together with the rest of the World activated their National Influenza Plans.

After the devastating 2008 hurricane season that saw hurricanes Fay, Gustave and Hanna which relentlessly battered the northern Caribbean Islands, the 2009 season proved to be relatively calm.

## **THE ORGANIZATION**

The National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) is mandated to have the nation in a state of preparedness to deal with any disaster eventuality and to coordinate the response to the impact of any hazard. It is comprised of eleven (11) National and eighteen (18) District Disaster Management Committees which are composed primarily of volunteers; however the NEMO Secretariat, headquartered at Bisee coordinates the day to day activities of the Organization.

Hazard analysis and experience shows that Saint Lucia is vulnerable to:

- Rapid Onset/Natural Hazards: Fire, Seismic, Volcanic, Tsunami, Flooding [marine and land based], Landslide, Storm, Hurricane, Medical
- Rapid Onset/Manmade Hazards: Dam Collapse, Explosion, Oil/Chemical Spill, Mass Casualty, Nuclear spill, Civil Unrest
- Slow Onset/Natural Hazards: Drought, Famine, Plague;

And although not exhaustive, mitigation of and response to these hazards have been the focus of most of our disaster management planning. This planning is guided in great measure by the Hyogo Protocol and the Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy, disaster risk reduction instruments which Saint Lucia have expressed commitment to.

**The key responsibilities of the NEMO are to:**

- Coordinate Disaster response and recovery activities
- Increase the planning activities of National and District Committees
- Strengthen response capabilities of National and District Committees
- Strengthen the planning and response capabilities of the NEMO Secretariat
- Review Disaster Plans for Saint Lucia
- Widen the Disaster Management Network by incorporating new partners
- Increase the mitigation activities of the National and District levels
- Assist with Disaster Plans for Government Ministries
- Advise on Disaster Plans for Private Sector
- Conduct, support and evaluate simulation exercises
- Research and document disaster related activities and events impacting Saint Lucia
- Conduct Public Education activities
- Conduct Volunteer Training

**ADMINISTRATION**

During the reporting period the participating states of CDERA [later CDEMA] began a process of reviewing the disaster management systems in country with the aim of developing a five year strategy and a multi year work program. The process is ongoing however it is confirmed that the inadequacy of NEMO's staffing continues to affect its ability to effectively realize its mandate.

The Office is staffed by the Director and Deputy Director, together with two other technical officers, (an Inventories Officer and an officer [who's on loan from another Government Agency] used as a Corporate Planning Officer); two administrative staff (a Secretary and an Office Assistant/Driver) and a part-time Janitor.

Discussions have been initiated with the parent ministry, the Office of the Prime Minister with the aim of securing additional staff, namely:

- Geographic Information Systems Officer
- Training and Education Officer
- Safety Officer for Mass Crowd Events
- Office Clerk

These posts were identified in the review of NEMO and are captured in the DRAFT Five Year Strategic Plan.

As the budgetary allocations from Central Government becomes more limited, there will be the increased pressure to source project funding for programs. In order to effectively do so, Project Development Officers shall also have to be employed.

## **PREPAREDNESS**

### ***Infrastructure***

A new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Headquarters was completed under the Disaster Management Project (Phase 2) [DMP-2]. The facility was handed-over to the Organization in December 2009 and efforts are continuing to secure the needed equipment and furniture to allow for its effective functioning.

### ***Legislation***

On June 1, 2010 the Disaster Management Act of 2006 came into force, replacing the Disaster Management and Preparedness Act of 2000. The Mass Crowd Events Steering Committee continues work on the Mass Crowd Events Bill.

### ***National Emergency Management Plan***

The Government confirmed the Director Met Services as the Tsunami Focal Point and the Director NEMO as the Tsunami Contact Point. With these confirmations made Saint Lucia began its preparations for a warning alert and response network. See Chapter 5: Special Reports for Saint Lucia's Country Report to UNESCO.

On 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2009 by Conclusion 498/2009 the Cabinet of Ministers approved the National Influenza Plan for Saint Lucia with supporting documents:

1. Bird Flu Policy
2. Concept of Operations
3. Strategic Plan
4. Communications Strategy
5. Ministry of Health Influenza Plan
6. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF)
7. Ministry of Education
8. Law Enforcement, Public Safety, and Security
9. Essential Services
  - a. Government of Saint Lucia - Public Service
  - b. Guidelines for the Transport Sector

The Cabinet also approved the following:

10. Guidelines for SUMA Team
11. Emergency Response Plan for the Homeless National
12. Communicable Disease Surveillance Manual
13. Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation National Civil Aviation - Security Programme

On 24 September, 2009 by Conclusion 1151/2009 the Cabinet of Ministers a second set of Plans to be added to National Emergency Management Plan for Saint Lucia.

GENERAL

1. Benchmarking Tool [BTool]

STANDARD OPERATIONS PROCEDURES

1. Agencies of the National Emergency Management Organisation

POLICY DOCUMENTS

1. Disaster Management Policy Framework or Saint Lucia
2. Governmental Officers Security of Travel Policy
3. Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis [DANA] Policy
4. Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy

GUIDELINES

1. Post Disaster Food Protection Guidelines
2. Impact of Climate Change on Design Wind Speeds
3. Engineering Guidelines for Incorporating Climate Change into the Determination of Wind Forces
4. Mass Crowds Events Guidelines

NATIONAL EMERGENCY PLANS

1. Damage Assessment Plan
2. Water Management Plan for Drought Conditions
3. Hazardous Materials Response Plan
4. Response Plan for Extreme Heat Event
5. Landslide Response Plan [*To include mudslide and subsistence*]
6. National Mass Casualty Management Plan
7. Urban Search and Rescue Plan
8. Fire Management Plan
9. Emergency Well-Being Support Plan

SECTORAL/AGENCY PLANS

1. The Saint Lucia Hospitality Industry Crisis Management Plan
  - a. *Concept of Operations*
  - b. *Hurricane Plan*
2. Airport Plans
  - a. *GFL Charles Airport Emergency Plan*
  - b. *Hewanorra International Airport Emergency Plan*
3. Seaport Plans
  - a. *Seaports Contingency Plan - Vol 1*
  - b. *Seaports Contingency Plan - Vo 2*
  - c. *Cruise Ship Response Plan*

The Disaster Management Act requires that once a National Plan [NEMP] is approved it shall be published and distributed. The Government has published sections of the Plan and in partnership with agencies such as IICA, PAHO, UNDP and Linksmedia the printing of various components of the National Plan was made possible thus facilitating the dissemination to the members of NEMO.

However, the printing of the main body of the NEMP as awarded under the Disaster Management Project – Phase 2 (DMP-II) remains outstanding.

Support from our partners continued as a number of emergency response documents were addressed.

The NEMO Secretariat continues to be approached in the planning of a number of events inclusive of:

1. CARIFTA Games
2. Southern Career Showcase
3. Jounee Kwéyòl
4. Cricket
5. Assou Square 2010

### ***Simulation Exercises***

Support was provided for the organization and/or the execution of a number of simulation exercises inclusive of;

1. The annual Saint Lucia Air and Seaports Authority Airport Exercise which was held at the George Charles Airport:
2. Evacuation drills were conducted and evaluated at five (5) Bank of Saint Lucia Branches around the island.
3. Hess Oil Ltd. Oil spill simulation.
4. Emergency Drills with schools, government agencies and private business houses

Saint Lucia and the rest of CDERA took part in FA HUM 2009 and Region Rap 2009 both of which focused on Bird Flu.

### ***Training***

NEMO conducted, supported, facilitated or organized the following training exercises for individuals and its volunteers during the year:

1. 2 Sessions: Results Based Management Training for members of NEMO
2. 3 Warehouse & Relief Supplies Management Training Workshops
3. 4 First Aid/CPR Training Workshops
4. 4 Telecoms Training Workshops
5. 3 Damage Assessment & Needs Analysis Workshops
6. 1 Municipality Response to Pandemic Influenza Workshop

### ***Projects***

Saint Lucia continues to benefit from a number of projects:

1. **Schools Safety Program** – The School Safety Program is being promoted by USAID/OFDA a partner in risk management planning. It is focused on the formulation of strategies for addressing school safety and requires broad community participation and involvement in school safety planning, the development of model plans and the replication of best practices. The program was presented to and received the endorsement of the Ministry of Education. A Committee was setup to coordinate and promote the implementation of the program.



2. **Special Program on Adaptation to Climate Change [SPACC]** – NEMO continued as a partner in GEF-World Bank sponsored SPACC. NEMO collaborated with the Sustainable Development Section on the SPACC by providing a structure, the Castries East Satellite Emergency Supplies Warehouse, for retrofitting to *climate change specifications* under the Project. It now serves as model for information sharing.
3. **Caribbean Disaster Management Project [CADM] Phase 2** – The CADM is a Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) sponsored project which aims at hardening the resilience of the CDERA member states to floods. During the year a Country visit was conducted by the sponsors and consultants and the project contract signed by the Government. Various components of the project are to be implemented during the ensuing year.
4. **Capacity Building for Programming in Comprehensive Disaster Management Project (CAP)** – One Officer was trained under this project in use of the Result-Based Management (RBM) approach for evaluating and reporting on the enhanced CDM Strategy.
5. **Earthquake Readiness Capacity Building Project** – Although not one of the pilot states for this project, Saint Lucia's earthquake readiness capacity was assessed with interesting preliminary results. A number of recommendations are being made with the aim of building resilience to earthquakes within the Region. The draft assessment was circulated for comments and the final is soon to be released. The expected outcomes under this project are:
  - i. Improved capacity for Earthquake contingency planning
  - ii. An Earthquake Awareness and Education Initiative.
6. **The Regional Monitoring & Evaluation Framework for Risk Management in the Caribbean Tourism Sector** – Funding for the Regional Monitoring & Evaluation Framework for Risk Management in the Caribbean Tourism Sector, a follow-up project to the Regional Disaster Risk Management for Sustainable Tourism in the Caribbean Project was secured by CDERA from Inter-American development Bank. This project will aim to implement the products developed under the former project. Though approved during this year it is expected to be implemented during the ensuing year.
7. **Caribbean Flood Pilot** - Under the Chairmanship of the Saint Lucia Met Services the NEMO Secretariat joined the steering committee for the Caribbean Flood Project.

Activities include projects that address each phase of the disaster management cycle. The main warning and response activity is the Sensor Web flood prediction and high resolution satellite data acquisition project. This is being implemented in Phase 1 for the entire Caribbean area (24 countries) but efforts will be made during Phase 1 to increase the resolution of the flood prediction model for Phase 1 National Partners.

Each national team was requested to examine the possibility of establishing a national repository (if one does not exist already) where the satellite data from the project could be archived. A regional central archive will be set up at Cathalac in Panama City, but it was felt that the best approach to ensure easy access to the data would be to set up parallel national archives.

8. **Comprehensive Disaster Management Harmonized Implementation Programme [CDM-HIP]** - The CDM HIP Phase One is a five-year project that is expected to be implemented in the 18 participating states of CDEMA and will run until March 2013. The US\$11,706,192 project is funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), with contributions from other donors, including CDEMA's participating states.

The long term overall impact of this programme is to achieve regional sustainable development through the reduction of losses in the Caribbean region and to impact disaster management coordination at the national and regional levels.

The major results of this programme are two-fold providing enhanced institutional support for CDM Programme implementation and enhanced community resilience in CDEMA states. Implemented by CDEMA in partnership with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), this programme supports the Caribbean's enhanced CDM strategy via a harmonized multi-donor approach.

9. **Caribbean Emergency Legislation Project** - The Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS), with the support of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank), in 2009 launched the Caribbean Emergency Legislation Project (CELP).

The CELP will assess current legal and institutional frameworks applicable under a state of emergency in the Dominican Republic and eleven CARICOM member countries: including Saint Lucia; with the objective of providing a set of recommendations for the implementation of clear and transparent procedures for natural disaster response in the Caribbean.

10. **Institutional Support and Capacity Building for Disaster Management in the Caribbean Project** – Supported by the European Union the project seeks to reduce poverty by integrating Comprehensive Disaster Management as a natural disaster loss mechanism into the sustainable development policies and strategies of the region. To achieve this; the project has three components.
- a. Review of Existing Disaster Management Model Legislation and Regulation.
  - b. Regional Infrastructure for Information Sharing an development and adaptation of Model ICT Contingency Plan
  - c. Development and adaptation of Model Public Education/Awareness Policy and Strategy.

### ***Special Assignments***

Saint Lucia as a member of the United Nations is committee to submitting the Second National Communiqué [SNC] on Climate Change. The report is due towards the end of 2010. The Director NEMO was invited to join a team of local consultants to work on the SNC.

The Director NEMO joined a Team to provide Technical Assistance to the Office of Disaster Management of Dominica primarily in the area of strengthening the Plans, Policies and Procedures for Dominica. The project shall end in 2010.

### **PUBLIC INFORMATION**

The Annual Report continues to be distributed to a list of over 200 persons and agencies, including public libraries. It will also available via the Internet <http://stlucia.gov.lc/nemp>

The internet is also used as a clearing house for the application forms needed to host a Mass Crowd Event. The site <http://stlucia.gov.lc/mce> hosts application forms and information from agencies such as the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force, Solid Waste Management Authority and the Labour Department to name a few. The membership of the distribution list for press releases and general information continues to grow. Subscription is available through a blank email to: [slunemo-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:slunemo-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

A number of disaster awareness and sensitization presentations were conducted for school principals, churches, youth groups, communities and public and private sector agencies over the year. Planning commenced to host a national schools simulation in November to commemorate the 2007 Earthquake [M7.4] however the social distancing required for the Influenza Pandemic caused authorities to postpone the event to 2010.

It is hoped that disaster management information will soon be hosted at [www.nemo.gov.lc](http://www.nemo.gov.lc) as the URL previously used ([www.geocities.com/slunemo](http://www.geocities.com/slunemo) ) is no longer operational. Presently [www.nemo.gov.lc](http://www.nemo.gov.lc) hosts links to the National Emergency Management Plan, Mass Crowd Events advice and the National Influenza Plan. Attempts to engage a Webmaster remain incomplete.

Press Releases: Utilizing the Yahoo! eGroups, NEMO distributes its Press Releases via emails to the media, the GIS and a number of interested individuals. The matrix below gives an idea of production trends. The archives are public and may be accessed online at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/slunemo>

## Press Releases by Month and Year [as of December 31, 2009]

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>2009</b>	3	6	5	20	24	21	7	19	10	13	21	7
<b>2008</b>	4	7	22	10	13	8	11	10	7	11	9	12
<b>2007</b>	13	11	11	13	15	14	7	20	6	3	4	18
<b>2006</b>	1	2	6	3	6	4	3	2	1	2	9	5
<b>2005</b>	14	17	8	8	3	11	18	15	4	18	11	2
<b>2004</b>	5	19	9	8	10	19	9	17	13	8	8	14
<b>2003</b>	5	6	15	12	9	21	23	19	12	10	10	3
<b>2002</b>										2	15	18

Source: NEMO News Archives

Additionally, the NEMO Secretariat and the District Committees continued public information sharing and sensitization utilizing TV, Radio, Newspapers as well as Town Hall Meetings. It has been realized that although the citizens do increasingly consider the information imparted, the increase has been much too slow.

## RESPONSES

The Disaster Response Mechanism was activated for the following:

### 1. Pandemic Influenza - May 2009 onwards

The National Influenza Committee activated all its Plans upon the emergence of the H1N1 virus in May of 2009.

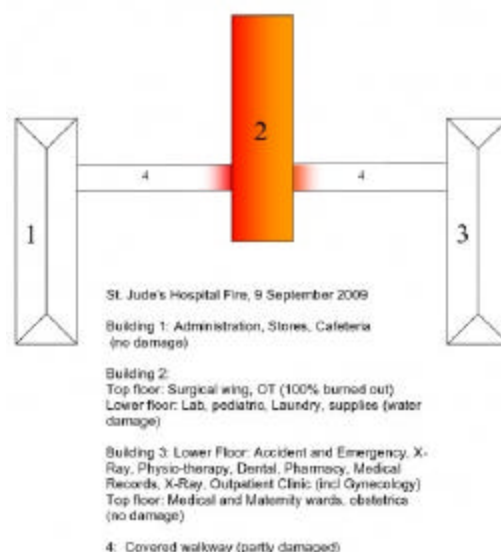
### 2. St. Judes Hospital Fire - September

In the early morning hours (approximately 1.00 a.m.) of Wednesday September 9, 2009 two Operating Theatres and the Surgical Wing of the St. Jude Hospital were destroyed by a fire, reported to have originated from the Recovery Room. The fire engulfed one third of the hospital and affected all the wings.

At the time of the fire there were 47 patients at the hospital; 44 were safely evacuated, 2 perished in the blaze and 1 succumbed to burn injuries en-route to Victoria Hospital.

### 3. Dry Season Indicator - September

The Saint Lucia Met Office indicated that the rainfall for September 2009 is the lowest on record for Castries since 1967 and the 5<sup>th</sup> lowest for Vieux Fort Since 1973.



#### 4. Lost Child at Fond O'dr - October

On October 22, 2009 the Roving Caregivers Program of the Ministry of Education facilitated a tour to Fond d'Or with parents and their children. At some point during the excursion a three [3] year old boy got separated from his grandmother. When a head count was taken as part of the departure protocol it was realized that one child was missing. A partial activation of NEMO took place. As of December 31, 2009 the toddler remained missing.

### CONCLUSION

Although 2009 is considered by some to have been a relatively normal year for disaster management in Saint Lucia, response to the H1N1 Virus indeed made it a challenging one. Increasingly, the partnerships with the Sustainable Development Section, Tourism Industry and the Education sector are strengthening. In the period under review the Ministry of Agriculture also showed increased awareness of disaster management issues. These partnerships can only auger well and act as an example for other agencies and individuals to appreciate thus become more involved and resilient to the negative impacts of hazards.

As NEMO continues with efforts at developing Policies, Plans and Strategies with respect to disaster risk management; capacity and resources for their effective actualization become increasingly and more glaringly acute, thus increasing NEMO's staff compliment needs to be made a priority.

NEMO's achievements over time however have also accentuated some of the areas that it should address with immediacy and they include:

1. The need to continue to sharpen its focus by developing a well articulated strategic plan.
2. The need to secure a proper URL for hosting its website and relevant disaster management information. Discussions have been held for possible accommodation by the Government of Saint Lucia Web services provider.
3. The need for Saint Lucia to nominate its National Focal Points for:
  - a. The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction; and
  - b. The National Benchmarking Tool
4. The need to review and consider signing the Organization of American States (OAS) *'Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance'* and the *'Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations'*

*Original signed by Dawn French*

.....  
**A. L. DAWN FRENCH**  
*Director – NEMO*

## **2 – Government Liaison Officers**

### **Introduction**

It is a requirement that an Annual Report be prepared.

Section 15 of the Disaster Management Act states that “*Every Permanent Secretary or Head of a Department of Government, chairperson of a committee established pursuant to section 9 shall submit annually to the Director, in such form and by such date as may be required by the Director, a report containing such information as may be requested by the Director for the purposes of sections 5 and 11.*”

### **Ministry of Education**

**Reporting Officer: Ann Jean Baptiste**

#### **PREPAREDNESS**

##### ***Training undertaken during the year***

The Ministry of Education and Culture through its Liaison Officer and the Research Officer in the Plant & Equipment Unit, participated in the following training activities in Guyana, Belize, Jamaica and St. Lucia.

- INEE Minimum Standards for Education in Emergencies, Chronic Crises and Early Reconstruction (Guyana)
- School Safety Course (Belize)
- Disaster Risk Reduction in the Education Sector (Jamaica)
- Results Based Management-Development of Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy (St. Lucia).

The Liaison Officer also participated in planning and sensitization workshops/meetings organized by NEMO at the national level. Of significance was the need to disseminate information and generate widespread interest in the H1N1 subsequent to the pandemic alert issued by the World Health Organisation in June 2009. Those meetings/workshops aimed at building capacity at the agency level to respond to disasters/emergencies. Areas of focus included:

- Planning/Development of Communications Strategy for Avian Influenza Pandemic
- Table Top regional simulation exercise *FA HUM 2009* to test Avian Influenza Plan (National Communications Strategy)
- Review National Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Response Plan: Ministry of Education Reporting Plan for Schools

##### ***Simulation Exercises***

The Ministry of Education in collaboration with the National Insurance Corporation participated in an evacuation drill in July 2009. The Ministry was able to use this activity to further sensitise

staff on Standard Operating Procedures for evacuation. In addition, some schools continue to conduct regular drills.

In June of 2009, the Ministry was able to reactivate its internal Disaster Committee and to date the committee has conducted six meetings. Those meetings focused mainly on assessing the Ministry of Education's state of readiness for any emergency to determine the required actions for emergency planning. Standard Operating Procedures for evacuation have been finalized. The committee is in the process of reviewing the Draft Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). On completion of this exercise, a simulation exercise will be conducted to test the feasibility of the Ministry's COOP.

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION**

The Ministry of Education is pleased to report that it has now partnered with USAID and NEMO to train education officers and all principals in school safety. The first school safety course was conducted in January 2010. Participants included education officers, one principal from each educational district and personnel from, the St. Lucia Fire Service, Royal St. Lucia Police Force, Ministry of Health, SLU Red Cross, NEMO, National Principals' Association and Parent Teachers' Association. The three-day course provided participants with the knowledge and skills to plan and formulate strategies to promote school safety. Participants commended the Ministry of Education for introducing this initiative within the programme of schools. It is expected that by year end thirty more principals would be exposed to the training.

## **EMERGENCY RESPONSES**

### ***H1N1 Response***

The Ministry of Education was confronted with the challenge of mitigating the spread of the H1N1 Influenza virus within schools. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, a mechanism was developed to monitor the spread and prevalence of the virus. In consultation with the Ministry of Health, classes had to be suspended depending on the severity of the identified cases. During the heightened period (late September to middle of October), student attendance was seriously affected. However, at the beginning of November attendance improved significantly. To date, there have been no reported cases of the H1N1 virus and school attendance has returned to normal.

### ***Emergency Shelters***

The Ministry of Education continues to undertake major works to upgrade and refurbish schools that are also used as emergency shelters.

- Extension to school plant – Ti Roche and Forestiere Combined
- Major renovations to sections of the school plant – Marchand and Boguis Combined, Castries Comprehensive.
- Reconstruction of a new block - St. Joseph's Convent
- Reinforcement of building for temporary relocation of Bexon Primary

## **CHALLENGES**

The ability to secure the requisite material and human resources to develop capacity for emergency management at the school level remains a challenge. The intervention from USAID/OFDA will provide some measure of relief in that area.

## **WAY FORWARD**

The Ministry of Education will in 2010 institute measures to generate greater awareness of disaster preparedness and school safety. In this regard, the Ministry will focus on the following:

- Develop a National School Safety Policy and institute a School Safety Programme within schools.
- Conduct school visits in collaboration with NEMO to monitor and provide the requisite support for the implementation of strategies garnered from the School Safety course.
- Undertake an evaluation of standards, equipment and operating procedures at schools to assess the level of preparedness.
- Augment water storage capacity at selected schools.
- Partner with the Ministry of Health and other external agencies to promote school safety and emergency planning at the school level.

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## **Saint Lucia Fire Service**

**NAME OF REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Fire Officer**

## **PREPAREDNESS**

Staff Training undertaken during the year were as follows:

- Search and Rescue
- Caribbean Disaster Relief Workshop
- Breathing Apparatus Wearers
- Pandemic Influenza Workshop
- EMS Training
- Leadership Training Skills
- Junior Officer Leadership Academy ( Supervisory skills)
- Bronto Skylift Operations
- Public Policy and Management
- Aircraft Firefighting Training
- EMT Instructors training
- Airport Simulation Exercise
- Fire Service Administration
- Fire Prevention Practices



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## **PUBLIC EDUCATION**

- School visits
- National Exhibition at the George Odlum Stadium
- Conducted and observed (12) Evacuation Exercises/drills.
- Participation in the organization of the National School earthquake drill.
- Evacuation drills for mass crowd events and other occupancies.
- Forty-nine (49) Public education in safety lectures and drills for public and private institutions.

## **STANDBY DUTIES**

- Jazz
- Cricket
- Jounee Kwéyòl
- FCCA Conference
- Caribbean Market Place Conference

## **EMERGENCY RESPONSES**

The fire department responded to a total of seven thousand four hundred and eight (7,408) Ambulance Calls for the year.

**Fire Calls-** six hundred and thirty four (634).

## **CHALLENGES**

The role of the firefighter is ever broadening. The number of responses to ambulance situations has outstripped fire responses 12:1; however the management structures and associated resources for dealing with this shift in services rendered have not been fully available. The personnel shortage also poses a serious challenge. The number of requests for standby for mass crowd events has overwhelmed the ability of the department to provide support.

## **WAY FORWARD**

Increased Public Relations drive to educate the nation on the work of the Fire Service and sensitize people on hazards and safety will be undertaken. A policy on Special Duty will be implemented to afford clear guide lines to staff. Efforts at improving the Ambulance Structure/resources base will be continued. Proposals for staff increase will be pursued.

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## **Office of the Governor General**

**Reporting Officer:** Uralise Delaire

### **Public Education**

Every year the Office of the Governor-General seeks to have at least one training session for all staff. On November 26, 2009 a team of four persons from the Ministry of Health facilitated a Workshop on the H1N1 Virus at Government House. In attendance were grounds men,

housekeeping staff, administrative staff and the Royal Guards. Information was provided in both English and Creole to ensure correct interpretation.

### **Preparedness**

At the beginning of the hurricane season, sections of the Disaster Plan were printed and distributed to all staff members as it pertains to their roles and responsibilities. The purpose was to ensure that all persons were aware of the actions to be taken in the event of a disaster. A stock of emergency food and other supplies were purchased for the hurricane season. We are in the process of using some of these items as they are approaching expiry dates.

Government House is a hundred and fourteen years old and the structure is about forty percent wood, hence, constant renovations and refurbishments must be made to the building. Last year, repairs were done to the roof, whereby the shingles had to be replaced. The walls to the front had to be resealed to prevent water seepage.

### **Challenges**

Whereas the Office of The Governor General cannot boast of not having challenges, we did not encounter difficulties in achieving our mandate. We are mindful of the need to be prepared for any disaster and we try as much as possible throughout the year to remain at a state of readiness.

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## **Probations and Parole Services**

**Name of Reporting Officer:** Mrs. Casilda Rosemond-Severin [Probation Officer]

### **Preparedness**

The Probations and Parole Department permitted, Mrs. Casilda Rosemond-Severin, to attend a Damage Assessment & Needs Analysis Workshop for Instructors of the OFDA. The Course was held on September 22-25, 2009.

In addition, Ms. Jacqueline Isembert, attended a one day session, held particularly for Cleaners. The topic was the H1N1 virus.

### **Public Education**

The staff of Probations and Parole Department was briefed after the workshops attended by the above named staff.

### **Emergency Responses**

The Department did not undergo any emergency responses.

### **Challenges**

1. The challenges the department experiences are the urgency to retrieve the necessary items needed to open the exit doors, if a disaster of any kind occurs.

2. In addition to this, the structure of the building in which the department is situated may have some limitations as to the number of exit doors, etc.

### **Way Forward**

The department has planned to execute at least two fire drills for the year, 2010.

## **Saint Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority**

**Name of Reporting Officer:** Kennedy Francis, Chief of Ports Police

### **PREPAREDNESS**

The Saint Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority, (SLASPA) through its Disaster Management Committee is constantly in a state of preparedness in the event that it is required to respond to an emergency. To this end and because SLASPA by the nature of its operations is so required, we continue to encourage staff, external agencies and the public in training activities, public education as well as drills and exercises. Below is an outline of activities conducted in 2009 and those slated for 2010.

#### **Training**

- Media Training for Port Managers - Transportation Security Administration, USA
- Drills and Exercises – Organization of American States (OAS)/SLASPA/Prime Ministers' Office
- Fire Extinguisher Training – SLASPA Staff
- H1N1 Workshop – Ministry of Health, Wellness, Family Affairs, National Mobilization and Gender Relation
- Emergency Operation Centre Management Training – National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO)

#### **Simulation your Committee took part in**

- Real Time Callout of SLASPA Disaster management Committee
- George F.L. Charles Crash Simulation Exercise
- Consultation between Agencies in preparation for exercises

### **PUBLIC EDUCATION**

- Monthly Disaster Committee Meetings
- Meetings with Airport/Seaport/Users/Concessionaires to inform on disaster management.
- School visits re: Airport Emergency Exercise

## **EMERGENCY RESPONSES**

- St. Judes Fire - Provision of security/retrofit of Stadium
- Rescue at Petit Piton – Air Traffic Controllers, SLASPA

## **CHALLENGES**

One of the challenge for us at SLASPA is getting head of external agencies to realize the importance of their attendance at planning meetings for emergency response as well as ensuring that information gleaned at such meetings are adequately passed on to subordinate staff in a timely manner.

To this end, we continue to:

- (a) Submit request for agency participation to the most senior staffer as well as copying memos to persons at such agencies.
- (b) Follow up with emails and phone messages in a structured manner to serve as reminders.
- (c) Provide training for all agencies to ensure awareness, skills training and review of Agency Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

Secondly, funding to ensure adequate training is conducted at all ports is minimized as we go through financial constraints. We continue to utilize the expertise of local agencies to ensure that the necessary staff are trained and made aware with the Standard Operating Procedure.

Thirdly, emergency preparedness is very time consuming and challenging in nature. Therefore, getting external agencies to provide us with the necessary support in a timely manner can prove to be quite a task. This is against the backdrop that whilst agencies are always in emergency response mode, they are tasked to conduct other functions which may be equally time consuming.

We continue to push and encourage joint agency support with the anticipation that our continued good rapport will prevail.

Finally, one of our goals has and continues to be the realization that all participating agencies will in the not too distant future approach emergency preparedness and response in a more professional manner and not see it as an annual or usual thing. We continue to stress that a certain level of realism is needed in the conduct of exercises

## **WAY FORWARD**

1. Major Simulation Exercise at a Seaport – conduct of Simulation Exercise on M.V Costa Mediterranea on January 22, 2010 (explosive device)

2. Hewanorra International Airport (HIA) Simulation Exercise (3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter)
  3. Drills all ports
  4. Submission of reviewed Airport Emergency Orders to National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO)
- 

## **Ministry of Tourism & Civil Aviation**

**Name of Reporting Officer:** Coordinator, Crisis Management Unit

### **PREPAREDNESS**

*a. Training your Committee/Agency took part in*

1. A Team from the Ministry attended the CDM Conference in Jamaica.
2. Preparations have begun for the formation of a Visitor Safety and Security Network [VSSN].

### **PUBLIC EDUCATION**

An emergency meeting was held with members of Staff informing them of the H1N1 Protocol and what should be done to prevent an infection, how to handle an infection and brochures were distributed.

### **EMERGENCY RESPONSES**

#### *H1N1*

The protocol established by the Government of Saint Lucia was adopted by the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation and the Tourism Sector (namely, Accommodations, Transportation and Sites and Attractions). We also distributed information to staff members and other key stakeholders. Information was provided on the hygiene practices which must be adopted to prevent the spread of the H1N1 virus. Those included: “cover your cough and sneeze”; clean your hands – wash hands with soap, and the use of hand sanitizer.

The Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation purchased and distributed hand sanitizers to the staff. Individuals were also encouraged to stay home and see a doctor if they had flu-like symptoms.

The Tourism Accommodations Sector: The Saint Lucia Hotel and Tourism Association had meetings with their members in order to provide them with information on the H1N1 protocol and to establish a reporting mechanism with the Ministry of Health for any guests showing flu like symptoms.

The Cruise Tourism Sector: Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd (RCL) had a meeting with key governmental, and port representatives to discuss their position regarding H1N1, and the Government of Saint Lucia requirements regarding reporting and treatment of H1N1 cases on their cruise ships. A presentation was made on how RCL treats guest and crew with flu-like symptoms. This included screening, surveillance, sanitation, communication, isolation, treatment and reporting.

The Ministry of Health and the Port Health representatives provided the RCL representatives with information regarding the accepted protocol for reporting and treatment of H1N1 in Saint Lucia. These agencies encouraged RCL to report 48 hours and again 12 hours before coming into the ports in Saint Lucia.

The Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation is currently, working on a contingency plan so the work continuity is not affected when a staff member becomes ill and is absent from work.

Hand sanitizers were distributed to all members of staff, who in turn encouraged the public to sanitize their hands sanitized.

### **CHALLENGES**

Further a limited budget prevented the training officer from conducting the usual Disaster Preparedness training for Small Property Owners and Small Craft Operators.

### **WAY FORWARD**

With the support of two other staff members on the team, it is hoped that the goals set out to be achieved will be accomplished. The tasks set out for this year are as follows:

- a. Risk Management Workshop for Small Property Owners
- b. Risk Management for Marine Base Operators and Sites and Attractions
- c. Adaptation and Adoption of a National Strategy for DRR in the Tourism Sector.
- d. Work will continue the formulation of the VSSN and its implementation

Team members responsible for conducting research and formulating the Disaster Reduction Management Policy:

- a. Mrs. Elizabeth Bailey
- b. Ms. Deepa Girdari
- c. Ms. Sophia Pierre

## **3 – National Committees**

### **Information and Education Committee**

**Report for the period January – December, 2009**

**Name of Report Officer:** Lucius Doxerie

#### **Introduction**

- As Chair of the Disaster Information Committee, convened a meeting on June 26, 2009. 12 members of the committee were present viz: The Royal Saint Lucia Police Force, NEMO, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Radio St. Lucia, Dennery Hospital, LIME, Conines? Systems, the National Archives, TCT and 2 representatives of the GIS.
- During the meeting a brief forecast was done on the 2009 hurricane season and individual members provided status reports based on the institutions that they represented.

#### **Notable among the issues discussed were :**

- RSL's concern about the station's inability to transmit throughout the island in the event of a hurricane, given that the station had no towers of its own in the north or south of the country. It was also noted that RSL's physical plant needed upgrading. It was revealed by the RSL representative that a US\$150 000 budget was needed to revamp the station.
- It was recommended that RSL submit a wish list that NEMO would attempt to source grant funding where possible to assist the station.
- A recommendation was made for the NIC to replace the GIS as the media centre, because of space constraints at the GIS.
- It was proposed that CBC Barbados and Radio St. Vincent be approached for rechanneling information to Saint Lucians in the event that local stations could not service the population with relevant information. In that regard, the stations were contacted and expressed their willingness to assist as best they could.
- By and large committee members indicated that they had been going through the motions and were prepared. They were stocked with the requisite foodstuff and had been ensuring that the consumables had not expired.

#### **Training Exercises:**

- No training exercises were conducted

#### **Public Education:**

During the period the committee through the GIS/NTN broadcast the following:

Names of Hurricane Shelters on the island

- Several hurricane tips in English and Kwéyòl dealing with what one should do to prepare for a hurricane and after a hurricane passes through the country
- Responding to earthquakes

- Construction of hurricane proof homes; dealing with storm surges and oil spills
- Hosted a special section on GIS' website with pertinent and updated information on the HINI virus
- Produced PSA's pertaining to the HINI virus
- Sourced from overseas already produced PSA's for broadcast on NTN
- Hosted at least 5 press conferences that provided information on the HINI virus. The said press
- Hosted a press conference after the St. Jude fire to inform the public through the press on coping mechanisms undertaken in the aftermath of the fire. The conference also shed light on the dual use of the stadium by sports persons and the medical fraternity.
- Conferences were rebroadcast [individually] in their entirety no less than 6 times.

**Emergency Response:**

- The committee met prepared and disseminated several press releases pertaining to the HINI virus

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**Emergency Shelters Committee**

**Report for the period January – December, 2009<sup>1</sup>**

**Name of Reporting Officer:** Augusta Ifill (Chair)

**Training Exercises:**

For the year January – December 2009, three training sessions were planned on shelter management:

- Choiseul: November 12 & 13, 2009
- Micoud North and South: November 23 & 24, 2009
- Anse la Raye: November 26 & 27, 2009

All had to be postponed due to:

- Clashes with other training events
- Unavailability of facilitators

The training has been rescheduled for 2010.

**Public Education:**

Public education continues to be via the media mainly NTN and radio and newspapers, informing of names and location of emergency shelters as well as proper use of shelters.

Guidelines are also published regarding the following:

- Items required for use at shelters
- Prohibited and non prohibited items at shelters

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<sup>1</sup> Report submitted June 3, 2010



There has also been some public education done by the individual District Disaster Committees at the district level.

### **Emergency Response:**

The year in review (2009) was a fairly quiet one for this committee in terms of shelter activation for **natural** disasters since there were no severe storms, hurricanes or earthquakes. However, there was the need to activate one emergency shelter (the Vieux Fort Comprehensive School Campus B) for two days to house patients as a result of the St. Jude's Hospital fire on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2009. It must be noted that the occupation of this shelter was only for one day and the efficient cleanup exercise which subsequently occurred enabled the students to return to school in quick time, thereby minimizing loss of school/instruction time.

### **Challenges:**

The biggest challenge continues to be the coordination with the district disaster committees. To date NEMO has not received names of representatives from all committees and as such these names are not available to the Chair. There is also the non attendance at meetings of all persons making up the National Shelter Management Committee. This is important since the shelter managers must be given a contact name within each district in the event of an emergency and all persons concerned must review their roles to ensure smooth and quick execution of duties in the event of a request for activation of any shelters.

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## **Conclusion**

It continues to be a source of bewilderment and sadness that the National Disaster Committees consistently do not report on the good works that they do. These committees work hard and yet will not inform the public of the planning and preparedness measures they are putting in place for the safety of the Nation.

The Shelters committee missed the deadline by four months and the following National Disaster Committees did not submit a report for the period January – December 2009

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis [DANA] | 6. Health                             |
| 2. Transport                                   | 7. Emergency Works                    |
| 3. Supplies Management                         | 8. Stress Management Team             |
| 4. Telecom                                     | 9. National Hazard Mitigation Council |
| 5. Wellbeing                                   | 10. NEMO Auxiliary Corps              |

## ***4 – District Committees***

### **Babonneau Disaster Committee**

**Name of Report Officers :** Sarah Jules - Committee Chairperson  
Norma Herman – Social Transformation Officer

**Training Exercises:** Warehouse Management – Nine members participated.  
There were no simulation exercises

**Public Education:** The Committee made presentations at the assembly of the S.D.A. churches in La Croix Chaubough and Boguis. About 150 persons were present. Talks were also given at the health clinics in Babonneau Health Centre. About 400 people from various communities were sensitized on disaster preparedness and their role as community. The Committee also gave talks on the H1N1 virus at two daycare Centres during Parents meeting and at the Health clinics. Mothers and Fathers groups were also sensitized as part of the Mothers’ day celebrations. About 150 persons were in attendance.

At the end of the year the committee received a CD of 100 PowerPoint presentations from the NEMO Secretariat on Disaster Risk Reduction

**Emergency Response:** The Committee responded to a fire in the Community of Fond Assau in the month of June. Six families were affected. Victims were referred to the National Community Foundation, Saint Lucia Red Cross and Caritas for assistance.

**Challenges:** The number of radios given to the Committee is inadequate for such a wide community. Some Communities are still not represented on the local Committee. The Committee will try to meet communities who are not represented on its membership in effort to get them onboard.

**Way Forward:** Late last year the Committee began work on its operations plan. This will be completed this year and hopefully will be endorsed by NEMO. The Committee will continue its sensitization programme focusing on communities that are not represented on the Local Committee as well as the schools. These community meetings will focus on:

1. Educating the residents on disaster preparedness issues with special emphasis on their role as far as their families and property is concerned.
2. Collecting pertinent information on the community so as to record all hazards identified by the residents.

3. Engaging residents in activities that will reduce their vulnerability
4. Preparing a list of old and challenged persons in the community.

Meetings of the Local Committee will commence March 2010. An election of a new executive is due to take place this year. This will be discussed at the meeting. NEMO will be informed of the results. The Committee is hoping to get training in the following areas: Stress Management and First Aid.

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## **Canaries Disaster Committee**

### **Report for the period January – December, 2009**

**Name of Reporting Officer:** Ian Frederick - Deputy Chairman

#### **Training Exercises:**

Selected Members received training in Initial Damage Assessment (IDA) Handoff and the School Safety Course. First Aid/CPR training was scheduled but not completed.

#### **Public Education:**

The main public education initiatives took the form of the distribution of flyers on taking necessary precautions against contracting Swing Flu.

At the end of the year the committee received a CD of 100 PowerPoint presentations from the NEMO Secretariat on Disaster Risk Reduction

#### **Emergency Response:**

There were no responses mainly due to a quiet hurricane season. However, the Organization provided standby emergency services for the International Country Women's Council Conference.

The Organization, in Canaries Health Aid compiled a list of elderly and persons with disabilities.

#### **Challenges:**

- Institutional Strengthening and strategic planning
- Finding new recruits and volunteers

#### **Way Forward:**

- Develop School Safety and Community Policing Programs.
- Conducting a hazard analysis and formulating necessary evacuation plans.

- Work in collaboration with Saint Lucia Red Cross to have a local group to support the Red Cross Youth established at the Canaries Primary School.

The vision for the future is to continue to collaborate with the police, medical services and the wider public, to ensure that the community develops and sustains a culture of risk management and disaster mitigation through public education and planning, while meeting volunteers' needs.

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## **Dennery South Disaster Committee**

Dennery South Committee is pleased to present its annual report from its thirty one (31) Man membership. The Committee holds its monthly general meeting every first Monday of the Month at the Dennery public library at 7:00 p.m.

### **PREPAREDNESS**

#### **Training**

- Drill Training Practice - Every Sunday from 7:30 am – 8:30 am
- Special Training for Fire Prevention, Radio Telecommunications and First Aid, every Mondays and Wednesdays at the Dennery Fire Service.

### **PUBLIC EDUCATION**

- Radio Announcements
- Churches
- Notice Boards
- Distribution of letters
- Community meeting
- CD of 100 PowerPoint presentations

### **CHALLENGES**

- Mobilization of general public to include schools

### **ACTIVITY**

- General Revision of Disaster Plan
- Village Tour to include La Caye
- Identifying Hazards
- Public activities, Fund raising
- Lectures
- Meetings with the public
- Self Help

### **WAY FORWARD**

- Self help Project

## Gros Islet Disaster Committee

**Prepared by** Miss Jennifer Gaston – Chairperson

### **PREPAREDNESS**

The Gros Islet Disaster Preparedness Committee participated in a number of training and meetings held by NEMO during the year 2009. The Committee was represented by its members in the following:

- Stress Management
- Damage Assessment
- Meeting with the JICA Consultant regarding the Flooding in the Corinth District
- Bird Flu
- Disaster Management
- Red Cross Training

The Gros Islet Disaster Preparedness Committee prepared Disaster Plans for Rodney Bay, Beausejour, Caye Mangé and Gros Islet Town

### **Continuity of Operations**

The Committee is presently working with Ms. Garcia on the Corinth Flooding issues and putting together an Evacuation plan for the residents. Meetings with the Committee and the Residents are being organized for 2010. To date the committee has:

- Establish a memorandum of understanding with business houses/Gas Stations
- Available resources listing of supplies shelters listing
- Communication – Ham Radios available at Fire Service
- Disaster Committee Headquarters – Gros Islet Fire Services (during Emergencies)
- Adapt plan of Marisule to suit Corinth area, Rodney Bay, Cap Estate and Monchy
- Make presentations at town Hall meetings
- Attended relevant meetings with NEMO regarding Community preparations
- Sourcing of generator from NEMO/Fire Services
- Issuing of vehicle passes to members during a hurricane
- Working with the Gros Islet Town Council regarding preparations

### **PUBLIC EDUCATION**

#### **Town Meetings:**

The Committee conducted meetings in the different communities and fishermen within the Gros Islet Constituency (Monchy, Grand Reviere, Corinth, Gros Islet) to update and forward information on:

- Evacuation process
- Shelters
- Waves and effects
- Tree trimmings

#### **Shelters:**

Visits to all Shelters within the Districts where done to ensure all were in place to accommodate persons in the event of a Disaster as well as meetings with the Shelter Management Team. All School Principals and Church Administrators must be commended on their co-operation regarding the use of their facilities.

**Office Meetings:**

The Committee continues to have its regular meetings every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month during the Hurricane Season and the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month outside of the Hurricane Season. Communications is done via emails and presentations to update members of plans and issues affecting the District.

**Other:**

At the end of the year the committee received a CD of 100 PowerPoint presentations from the NEMO Secretariat on Disaster Risk Reduction

**EMERGENCY RESPONSES**

The Committee participated/assisted NEMO in the following:

- Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting – Members were onsite to ensure assistance in the event of a Disaster.
- Public Events within the Gros Islet Area
- Flooding within the Gros Islet town (Marie Therese Street). Four residents were affected with one resident losing furniture and experiencing major damage to the house. Residents assisted in helping the individuals affected.

**CHALLENGES**

The Committee is still face with the following challenges:

- Flooding in the Gros Islet, Bois d'Orange and Corinth community. Due to the lack of drainage (cleaning of drains), residents in the areas of Beausejour continue to experience flooding with heavy rains.
- The lack of preparedness by residents are also an issue as some damages are done through lack of tree trimming, drain cleaning and ensuring that roofs are secured.
- The Committee recommends that the different Government Agencies/Ministry ensure that these issues are dealt with.

**WAY FORWARD**

The Committee would like to focus on the major flooding which is presently affecting the residence of Bois d'Orange and Corinth with assistance from Government and other Agencies. The Committee will continue with its education programme to update and inform residents on plans and process.

## **Laborie Disaster Committee**

**Name of Reporting Officer: Ulric Alphonse**

**PREPAREDNESS**

- Chairperson attended refresher course for Instructors organized by USAID/OFDA
- Two members successfully completed a DANA Handoff
- Fifteen members participated in a PAHO organized pilot for Surviving a Flu Pandemic from July 27 to 31.
- All sub committees were reorganized with identified Chairpersons and other officers

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION**

- Committee meetings were held
- Community discussion on the North American Influenza was organized
- Chairperson assisted in the formulation of an emergency plan for the newly developed Laborie Tourism Program
- At the end of the year the committee received a CD of 100 PowerPoint presentations from the NEMO Secretariat on Disaster Risk Reduction

## **EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

- Assisted in the EOC at the CARIFTA Games, April 10 to 13

## **CHALLENGES**

Poor attendance at meetings and organized community activities. The absence of any major disaster in the community seems to have created a feeling of security among people, so a general feeling of apathy exists.

## **WAY FORWARD**

We need to create interest and awareness among the members of the community. With our revamped committees, we hope to address this.

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## **Soufrière Disaster Committee**

Reporting Officer: Simone Mondesir - Chair

Preparedness:

Training undertook during the year.

1. The Chair attended the CDM Conference in Jamaica
2. Shelter Management
3. Relief Supplies and Warehouse Management
4. Logistic Support System (LSS)
5. Stress Management (SMID)

### **Public Education**

1. Executive Committee Meetings
2. Sub Committee Meetings

3. Public and School Meetings
4. At the end of the year the committee received a CD of 100 PowerPoint presentations from the NEMO Secretariat on Disaster Risk Reduction

### Emergency Responses

Committee did not participate in any major activities, but was on alert for floods and land slides from heavy rains and waves from sea surge.

The Committee provided support to the 2009 Jazz Festival and Jounee Kwéyòl

### Challenges

1. Lack of response in dealing with oil and chemical spills from Saint Lucia Coconut Growers Association.
2. Issues regarding cutting trees and neighbor controversies.

### Way Forward

1. De silting of Soufrière River, during the dry season, to prevent flooding.
2. Simulation Exercise of an earthquake in Soufrière.
3. Hazard and oil spills response in Soufrière (SMMA Staff to be included)
4. Membership Drive
5. Public Education, Community only responds to emergencies after the fact need to nature a pro-active mind set in responding to emergencies/disasters.
6. Co-ordination with all response agencies.

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## **Vieux Fort South Disaster Committee**

**NAME OF REPORTING OFFICER:** Kizzie Joseph (Secretary)

### **PREPAREDNESS**

Committee members took part in four training exercises for 2009:

1. Warehouse and Relief Supplies Management
2. Simulation Training  
The committee members' were tested on their emergency preparedness skills. At the end of the training the members' gave feedback and their ratings of the exercise.
3. Telecommunications Training-  
This training aimed at developing the members' telecommunication skills in the use of hand held radios.
4. First Aid and CPR Training-



Members participated in a refreshers course on First Aid and CPR to learn how to prevent injuries and to think, react and improvise in emergency situations.

### **PUBLIC EDUCATION**

1. Monthly committee meetings were held at the EOC.
2. Leaflets were distributed to schools and members of the community, on Disaster awareness and H1N1.
3. At the end of the year the committee received a CD of 100 PowerPoint presentations from the NEMO Secretariat on Disaster Risk Reduction

### **EMERGENCY RESPONSES**

Members responded to the fire at St. Jude's Hospital. They assisted in the transferring of supplies to the George Odum Stadium where the hospital was re- located.

### **CHALLENGES**

- (a) One of the major challenges the committee has faced and continues to face is the lack of participation by all the stake holders. They don't attend monthly meetings neither do they participate or support any of the activities for the annual calendar of activities.

Suggestion- Meet with the heads of the various organizations; e.g. churches, Police Force; to identify persons who could be utilized as their representative to serve on the committee.

- (b) Hazard mapping forms an integral part of the committees' calendar of activities. Site visits of Disaster prone areas are done; recommendations are then sent to the various agencies that are responsible for solving these problems. In most instances, the committee never gets any responses after letters are sent out to the relevant authorities.

Suggestion- Members should agitate and seek the assistance of the NEMO secretariat and local government.

### **WAY FORWARD:**

For the year 2010, the Vieux Fort South Committee will be undertaking a simulation exercise targeting a particular school in the Vieux Fort basin. The exercise will seek the involvement of students, members of staff and parents as well as members of the public. The exercise will also aim at assisting that particular school in the formation/ enhancement of a disaster plan.

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### **Conclusion**

It continues to be a source of bewilderment and sadness that certain District Disaster Committees consistently do not report on the good works that they do. These committees work hard and yet will not inform the public of the works that they do.

The following District Disaster Committees did not submit a report for the period January – December 2009.

- |                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Castries North      | 6. Anse la Ray      |
| 2. Castries South      | 7. Choiseul         |
| 3. Castries South East | 8. Vieux Fort North |
| 4. Castries East       | 9. Micoud North     |
| 5. Castries Central    | 10. Dennery North   |

## ***5 – Special Reports***

### **National Report Submitted to Inter-Governmental Oceanographic Commission 2009**

*National Reports will be posted to the ICG/CARIBE EWS IV web site without TWFP contact details*

#### **BASIC INFORMATION**

##### **1. ICG/CARIBE EWS Tsunami National Contact (TNC)**

*The person designated by a Member State to an Intergovernmental Coordination Group (ICG) to represent his/her country in the coordination of international tsunami warning and mitigation activities. The person is part of the main stakeholders of the national tsunami warning and mitigation system. The person may be the Tsunami Warning Focal Point, from the national disaster management organization, from a technical or scientific institution, or from another agency with tsunami warning and mitigation responsibilities.*

Name: A. L. Dawn French

Title: Director

Organization: National Emergency Management Organization

Postal Address: PO Box 1517, Castries, Saint Lucia

E-mail Address: [eoc@candw.lc](mailto:eoc@candw.lc) or [slunemo@gmail.com](mailto:slunemo@gmail.com).

Telephone Number:

Fax Number: (758) 453 2152

Cellular Telephone Number:

##### **2. ICG/CARIBE EWS Tsunami Warning Focal Point (TWFP)**

*The 7x24 contact person, or other official point of contact or address, is available at the national level for rapidly receiving and issuing tsunami event information (such as warnings). The Tsunami Warning Focal Point either is the emergency authority (civil defense or other designated agency responsible for public safety), or has the responsibility of notifying the emergency authority of the event characteristics (earthquake and/or tsunami), in accordance with national standard operating procedures. The Tsunami Warning Focal Point receives international tsunami warnings from the PTWC, or other regional warning centres.*

Name: Thomas Auguste  
 Title: Director  
 Responsible Organization: Saint Lucia Meteorological Services  
 Postal Address: c/o Ministry of Comms & Works, Union, Castries, Saint Lucia.  
 E-mail Address: [slumet@yahoo.com](mailto:slumet@yahoo.com) or [director@slumet.gov.lc](mailto:director@slumet.gov.lc)  
 Emergency Telephone Number:  
 Emergency Fax Number: (758) 454 9705 (24 hour) or (758) 453 2769  
 Emergency Cellular Telephone Number:

**National Tsunami Warning Centre (if different from the above)**  
 N/A

**3. Tsunami Advisor(s), if applicable**

*(Person, Committee or Agency managing Tsunami Mitigation in country)*  
 N/A

**4. Tsunami Standard Operating Procedures for a Local Tsunami (when a local tsunami hazard exists)**

- The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PWTC) is currently responsible for identifying and characterizing tsunamigenic events and disseminating warning/information messages on associated threats to the Focal Point (Saint Lucia Meteorological Services). The messages are sent simultaneously on the Global Telecommunications System (GTS) and to relevant SMS and e-mail recipients.
- A tsunami emergency will be declared when the PWTC advises that Saint Lucia falls within the threat area of a destructive tsunami. A destructive tsunami is initially defined, based on historical data for the Caribbean, as one which generates a maximum run-up height greater than 3.0 meters. This definition is subject to change with the availability of more in-depth information and analysis e.g. coastal hazard maps, local bathymetry, etc.
- The Saint Lucia Meteorological Services will act as the primary agency for disseminating/relaying information issued by the PWTC on tsunami threats and events. The Met Office shall be the agency to notify the public directly in the case of a Local Tsunami [i.e. 60min and less arrival time]. The Saint Lucia NEMO will coordinate all official local emergency actions in response to the tsunami threat and/or event.
- The preferred method of disseminating information to the public is through the local news media in order of priority via telephone, fax and e-mail. In addition to the above channels, information will also be disseminated e.g. to response agencies, etc, via SMS, two-way radio and visual and audible alerts.
- The information will be disseminated to the public, NEMO, response agencies and coastal and marine interests.
- An 'ALL CLEAR' will be declared on the advice of the PWTC, signifying the end of the emergency, through the same channels utilized in declaring the emergency.

**5. Tsunami Standard Operating Procedures for a Distant Tsunami (when a distant tsunami hazard exists)**

- No actions were necessary for the warnings issued during the intercessional period.

**6. National Sea Level Network**

*Please include a table with position and description of stations/sensors, and a map,*

STATION NAME	LOCATION	LAT	LON	SENSORS
Ganter's Bay (CPACC)	Castries Harbour	14 <sup>0</sup> 01.20 N	61 <sup>0</sup> 00.06 W	Tide gauge, Water thermometer, Ord. Thermometer, Barometer, Rain gauge, Wind, RH.

**7. Information on Tsunami occurrences**

*Please include sea level observations, pictures, wave arrival descriptions, public, media, or other responses to warnings, lessons learned, etc.*

*NONE*

**8. Web sites (URLs) of national tsunami-related web sites**

*NONE*

**9. Summary plans of future tsunami warning and mitigation system improvements.** *This information will be used to aid the development of the CARIBE EWS Implementation Plan.*

- *Establish network of visual/audio warning mechanisms (sirens, flashing lights) at vulnerable populated locations.*
- *Schedule meetings of **Technical Standing Committee on Coastal Hazards** with a view to establishing a comprehensive **Local Tsunami Warning Plan** and **Coastal Evacuation Plan**.*
- *Identify and train response personnel in vulnerable communities to drive local preparation and response to tsunamis.*
- *Plan and execute evacuation and response simulation exercises.*
- *Enhance education and public awareness drive through, lectures, school visits, PSAs, etc.*
- *Encourage IOC Working Group members to remain active and participate in IOC-Caraibe programs during inter-sessional period.*

**NATIONAL PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES INFORMATION****11. NARRATIVE**

*Detailed description of innovations or modifications to National tsunami warnings procedures or operations since last National Report, tsunami research projects, tsunami mitigation activities and best practices (especially in preparedness and emergency management), as well as public education programmes or other measures taken to heighten awareness of the tsunami hazard and risk.*

***1. Signage***

At the ICG/Caribe EWS of 2009 held in Martinique the area of signage was discussed. The ISO in partnership with the IOC had agreed upon a standard for the warning signs for tsunamis.

At a meeting between the Bureau of Standards and the NEMO Secretariat a plan was developed to address the area adopting the ISO Standard. Saint Lucia shall develop a National Standard for all emergency signage in the series shall be areas such as evacuation, landslide, swimming danger and tsunami among others.

As a first step a list of stake holders was developed to form the Technical Committee. The Committee shall then conduct a literature review of

- Physical Planning Act [this act controls public signage]
- New Zealand Standard for tsunami signs
- ISO Standard for tsunami signs

The Bureau of Standard shall invite agencies to form the Committee and shall coordinate the work of the committee.

## ***2. Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System (TCHWS) Project Phase I***

In support of the region's efforts, the United States Agency for International Development/Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) has provided a grant of US\$475,200.00 to empower coastal communities in the Caribbean to prepare for and respond to tsunamis and coastal hazards. This two year initiative which commences in October 2007, is the first of its kind in the Caribbean and is expected to be the catalyst for benchmarking the standards and protocols for this type of hazard in the region. The intent is to harness the expertise and experiences from existing institutions, develop and adopt a regional and national system which will save lives as it seeks to educate and prepare the communities at risk making them less prone to tsunamis, storm surges, flash floods and other hydro meteorological hazards.

The primary objective of the Tsunami & Coastal Hazards Warning System – (TCHWS) Project is to support the establishment of an effective end-to-end Tsunami warning system at the regional and national levels, and to undertake public education and awareness campaigns to prepare coastal communities for actions to be taken when a warning is issued

Specific project results include:

- Increased public awareness within communities in CDEMA's Participating States
- Institutionalized tsunami and coastal hazards awareness and tools through the provision of teaching modules
- Improved access to web-based alert and warning information
- Improved notification to at-risk population in CDEMA's Participating States

In addition, the CDEMA CU will have developed a methodology for Tsunami Early Warning System.

The project will be executed by CDEMA, in conjunction with the Seismic Research Unit the University of the West Indies, the National Meteorological Offices and the Coastal Zone Management Agencies in CDEMA Participating States.

Each agency will bring to bear its respective institutional mandate, expertise, and regional constituencies to the execution of the project. The CDEMA will serve as the project's Executing Agency while the Seismic Research Unit/University of the West Indies and the other technical agencies will provide their expertise and experience to different aspects of the project, playing a direct role in the development of the warning and dissemination protocols and the public awareness programmes.

At the end of the project, the beneficiaries of the project will include:

- The general public: from media campaigns and awareness materials prepared for the same. Products will be available through TV, radio, web-accessed, print media.
- Teachers and students: from materials produced for classroom use.
- National authorities – including disaster management, emergency and meteorological services – and at-risk communities will benefit from having clearly defined “to the last mile” warning dissemination protocols and procedures in place.

Saint Lucia is not a pilot country for this project, however the project has been monitored and attempts have been made to keep pace with the countries that are taking part.

Pilot Countries are Jamaica, Antigua/Barbuda, Barbados and Grenada.

The following are supplements to the project:

#### FA HUM 2009

FA HUM is a simulation exercise sponsored by the US Army Southern Command, coordinated by CDEMA and hosted by the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2009 Grenada was chosen as the target country for a tsunami generated by Kick 'em Jenny. Saint Lucia was asked to function as an evaluator. The lessons and recommendations suggested to Grenada were applied to Saint Lucia.

#### Standard Operating Procedures [SOPs]

Facilitated by CDEMA the SOPs developed by the Consultant were shared with the non pilot States. Saint Lucia has accepted the SOPs for use in the Tsunami Plan. With production of the SOPs it is apparent that bathymetric data is not the only resource required, there will be a need for the funding of an Early Warning Alarm System for Saint Lucia.

The SOPs address the following scenarios:

- Tsunami does not threaten Saint Lucia
- Tsunami threatens Saint Lucia in less than 30 minutes
- Tsunami threatens Saint Lucia in 30 minutes to three hours
- No potential for tsunami

- Cancellation
- Test message

Saint Lucia has no early warning systems in place as yet however this gap does not mean there are not areas that can be practiced and explored. As such the adoption of certain SOPs is recommended, namely:

- No potential for tsunami
- Cancellation
- Test message

### **3. *Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System (TCHWS) Project Phase II***

The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) through the TCHWS Project is advancing activities to increase public awareness about tsunamis and other coastal hazards in its Participating States.

The material will be included in a suite of products being developed for the public awareness component of the project which is being rolled out later in 2009. Other products include educational material for the 12 to 15 age group will be developed and distributed to all Member States as part of the public awareness programme.

### **4. *Response Plan***

Without the bathymetric data required for the modeling of the inundation levels and the production of maps the creation of a response plan remains limited. A partnership is being explored with the Sustainable Development Section of the Ministry of Planning for the accessing of Light Detection and Ranging [LiDAR] as a first step to accessing the bathymetry.

In the meantime in collaboration with the Geographic Information Systems Unit a Simplified Hazard Estimation has been used to model vulnerable areas. By selecting a reasonable elevation and identifying all areas below that elevation to be tsunami hazard zones as an acceptable and useful way to create evacuation maps. There are a few possible approaches to selecting a reasonable elevation:

- (1) *Selection of 10 meters:* Most tsunamis have serious impacts only at elevations lower than ten meters above sea level, although it is possible for very large tsunamis to be destructive above this elevation.
- (2) *Selection of 3 kilometer inland:* The destructive power of a tsunami usually dissipates by three kilometers inland, even over flat ground. This method can be used for communities on flat coastal plains.

Work continues on a DRAFT Tsunami Plan and it will soon be ready for the review of the National Tsunami Committee.

### **5. *Training***

Tsunami Warning Focal Point (TWFP) is the designated official or point of contact (primary and alternate) available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week to receive tsunami and other coast hazard-related information bulletins and warning guidance. The Tsunami Warning Focal Point (TWFP) has the responsibility of notifying the NEMO

Secretariat of the event characteristics (earthquake and/or tsunami), in accordance with the procedures of the Tsunami Response Plan. The TWFP receives tsunami information from the Tsunami Warning Centre, or other regional warning centers.

The Government of Saint Lucia has designed that the Saint Lucia Met Services be the Focal Point with the Saint Lucia Fire Service and the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force as alternates. With the recommendation that Saint Lucia adopt in the first instance the SOPs for

- No potential for tsunami
- Cancellation
- Test message

It has now become necessary for the Ops Offices of these three agencies be provided with the necessary skills set to understand the messages from the Tsunami Warning Centre and the resultant actions expected. As such a training package is proposed:

Unit 1 – National Response Mechanism

- NEMO
- NEMAC
- NEMP

Unit 5 – Tsunami SOPs

- Tsunami does not threaten Saint Lucia
- Tsunami threatens Saint Lucia in less than 30 minutes
- Tsunami threatens Saint Lucia in 30 minutes to three hours
- No potential for tsunami
  - Cancellation
  - Test message

Unit 2 – Regional Mechanisms

- ICG/Caribe
- SRC
- CDEMA
- RSS
- CDRU
- ECDG

Unit 6 - Crisis Communications

- Tsunami Signage
- Tsunami Warning Centre
- Decision Making Matrix
- Communication Chain
- Communication Types
- Communicating in a Crisis



## Unit 3 - Geography 101

- Tectonic Plates
- Plotting
- Identifying vulnerable areas

## Unit 7 – Simulation Exercise

- Zulu Time explained
- Scenarios
- Decisions taken

## Unit 4 – Tsunamis

- History in the Caribbean
- Triggers [earthquake, volcano, landslide]
- Types [Local, Regional, Distant]

Partnerships

Technical Support is required for the development of a workbook to accompany the Units, however work continues on the PowerPoint Presentation. A number of partners have been approached to assist with the presentations:

- Unit 2: Regional Mechanisms - CDEMA
- Unit 3: Geography - Sir Arthur Lewis Committee College
- Unit 4: Tsunami - Seismic Research Centre
- Unit 5: Tsunami SOPs - CDEMA
- Unit 6: Crisis Communications - Seismic Research Centre

**6. Other**

The Tsunami Decision Matrix is expected to be printed before the end of November 2009 as the first step in preparing the Tsunami Focal Points.

**7. Next Steps**

1. *Attorney General Chambers:* Under the Disaster Management Act the power for the deceleration of a mandatory evacuation lies in the Prime Minister. This legal responsibility must now be expanded to include the Tsunami Warning Focal Point.
2. *CDEMA Phase II:* Phase two of the CDEMA Tsunami Project addresses public education Saint Lucia has been invited to become a pilot state for Phase II of this project.
3. *UNDP:* The United Nations Development Fund has agreed to fund the publication of Tsunami Posters for circulation in the wider community.

4. *Curriculum Material Development Unit [CAMDU]*: Engage CAMDU with the aim of sourcing Technical Assistance for the Training Workbook.
5. *Pilot Training*: Once the training package is ready there will be the need to conduct a Pilot Training Session. In order to ensure success partner agencies will be invited be review and critic. Agencies to be invited are Red Cross, OFDA, CDEMA and SRC.
6. *Information production*: It shall be necessary for the following to be installed at the three Tsunami Focal Points [the Operations Rooms]
  - Tsunami Decision Matrix
  - Map for Plotting
  - Telephone Contact List
  - Zulu Time conversion chart

Submitted by

Name:

Thomas Auguste – National Tsunami Focal Point

A. L. Dawn French – National Tsunami Contact point

Date: 14 May 2009

## **6 – Appendices**

### **Appendix 1 - National Emergency Management Organisation of Saint Lucia**

Saint Lucia is exposed to natural and man-made hazards, which increasingly have the potential to cause significant loss of life and property, as well as serious damage to the environment and the economy. At the same time, the national and regional interdependencies resulting from globalization increase Saint Lucia's vulnerability to the impacts of events caused by natural and technological hazards both at home, and abroad. As globalization serves to create more economic opportunities in Saint Lucia and the region, key economic sectors, such as the tourism industry, could be severely disrupted, resulting in increased economic and social dislocation.

Disaster Management, though called by numerous names over the years [disaster preparedness, disaster management, disaster risk reduction, community resilience etc.] has manifested itself constantly in Saint Lucia. As far back as June 10 – 20, 1979 Saint Lucia was host to the *Caribbean Disaster Preparedness Seminar*, [part of the International Disaster Seminar Series] where over one hundred and fifty delegates from the Caribbean, North and Latin America assembled to discuss the concerns of the day. The following year that Hurricane Allen devastated the island. In November 1984 with the memory of Hurricane Allen still fresh Saint Lucia hosted another important conference: *The International Conference on Natural Hazard Mitigation Program Implementation*. *Conferences* such conferences were critical to the formation of the disaster management program that was to evolve.

The actual date for the creation of the an office to deal with disasters is not clear, however research shows that soon after 1980 there was a desk set up to deal with disasters and by 1990 there was an established Office of Disaster Preparedness being run by a National Disaster Coordinator. History making events such as the 1854 Cholera Epidemic, the 1938 Ravine Poisson Landslide and the 1948 Castries Fire required that the [Colonial] Government of the day had to appoint persons to coordinate the response.

In 1991 Saint Lucia together with fifteen other Caribbean States signed the Articles that created the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency [CDERA]. Prior to that there had been the Pan Caribbean Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Project [PCDPP].

*The Pan-Caribbean Disaster Preparedness Project (PCDPP) was established in 1981 to improve national and regional Disaster Management in the Caribbean. With headquarters in Antigua, it was launched jointly by the United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation (UNDRO) now the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA), CARICOM, Pan American Health Organisation/World Health Organisation (PAHO/WHO), and the League of Red Cross Societies (Red Cross). PCDPP was supported by bilateral donors from Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, and the European Economic Community. Although it was conceived as a short-term, 18-month project, focused solely on disaster preparedness, the PCDPP operated for almost*

*10 years. In 1989, when the project extended its work to the prevention of disasters, its acronym was lengthened to the Pan Caribbean Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Project (PCDPPP) to accommodate the term "prevention". PCDPPP has also led to the creation of disaster preparedness offices in several Borrowing Member States, e.g. the Central Emergency Relief Organisation [now the Department of Emergency Management] in Barbados, the National Emergency Management Agency [now the Office of Disaster Preparedness] and in Trinidad and Tobago the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management in Jamaica*

*Recognising the need to institutionalise the work started by the PCDPPP, in 1991 the Heads of Government of CARICOM established a regional agency to coordinate disaster management activities. The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) was formally established in September 1991 with its headquarters in Barbados.*

*Recognising the need for coordination of the response efforts in the aftermath of hurricane Hugo in 1989, which caused extensive damage to a number of islands in the Eastern Caribbean, the Eastern Caribbean Donor Group (ECDG) was formed. Donor agencies that are members of the group include BDDC, CIDA, CDB, EU, PAHO, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and USAID. Two response organisations, CDERA and the Regional Security System (RSS), are members of ECDG while IDB and the Organisation of America States (OAS) are support organisations. UNDP is the lead organisation of ECDG. [SOURCE: Caribbean Development Bank: Strategy and Operational Guidelines – 1998]*

In February 1995 the Office of Disaster Preparedness of Saint Lucia had its staff increased from two to three when the post of Deputy Disaster Coordinator was created. The next major step in Disaster Management for Saint Lucia occurred when in March 2000 the Office of Disaster Preparedness [ODP] was renamed the National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) and the resident Disaster Coordinator and Deputy Disaster Coordinator became the Director and Deputy Director. Legislation followed in 2000 and again in 2006 changing the Office to Organisation and conferring on the Minister the power to declare an enforced evacuation.

For seventeen years the ODP/NEMO functioned out of the Saint Lucia Red Cross Headquarters [1989 - 2003]. In 2003 with support from the United States Army Soth [SouthCom ], NEMO moved to Biseé and new Headquarters. Three years later with a loan from the World Bank the NEMO Headquarters again relocated to a state of the art premises.

On 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2009 the National Response Centre at Biseé was formally opened and blessed. The building together with a five year Strategic Plan for Disaster Management set a new platform for Disaster Management in Saint Lucia.

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## **Appendix 2 – NEMO Remembers 2009**

As part of an education campaign the NEMO Secretariat issues press releases highlighting the disasters that have occurred in Saint Lucia. Though many of the events are not metrological in nature, in 2009 the events remembered were storms.

Below are the events and press releases for 2009.

### **NEMO Remembers... Tropical Storm Debby**

September 9, 2009 marks fifteen years of Tropical Storm Debby.

Tropical Storm Debby, was the fourth named storm of the 1994 Atlantic hurricane season. Debby lasted only two days, reaching peak winds of 70 mph before being sheared apart on September 11. Despite the short duration, however, the heavy rains and gusty winds from Debby managed to cause nine deaths.

#### **Impact**

In Saint Lucia, Debby's heavy rains caused several landslides that killed four people and injured more than 600 others. The landslides blocked main roads and closed an airport and flooding was reported in Anse La Raye. Debby's winds damaged much of the banana crop in Saint Lucia and Martinique. Debby then brought 38 knot winds to Puerto Rico, and caused coastal damage that amounted to \$50,000 dollars (1994 USD) and high seas left a ferry stranded.

In all, Debby killed nine people and left two missing. Five were unaccounted for and more than a hundred people had been left homeless. The damage total from Debby was \$230 million (1994 USD, \$294 million 2005 USD).

#### **Lack of retirement**

Because damage was not extreme, the name Debby was not retired, and was reused in the 2000 season.

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### **NEMO Remembers... Hurricane Lenny**

19 November, 2009 marks 10 years of Hurricane Lenny [1999]

*19 November, 2009* -- Hurricane Lenny was the 12th tropical storm, eighth hurricane, and fifth major hurricane in the 1999 Atlantic hurricane season. Lenny was the strongest Atlantic hurricane ever recorded in November.

The Hurricane became know for its unusual motion from west-to-east across the Caribbean, instead of the usual east-to-west across the Atlantic.

Lenny brought damaging surf to western shores of the entire Eastern Caribbean island chain, resulting in significant damage on a number of the islands.

Many residents had to evacuate their homes as huge waves threatened — and in a number of cases, destroyed many buildings. Most development is on the usually calmer western shores. Soufriere took the brunt of Lenny's wrath but communities along the entire western coastline from Gros Islet to Laborie were affected.

### Appendix 3 - 2010 Hurricane Names



In 1953, women's names were substituted, and in 1979, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the U.S. National Weather Service switched to a list of names that also included men's names. The current list of names recycles every six years, unless a hurricane gets its name retired. Any nation impacted by a severe hurricane can lobby the WMO to have the hurricane's name retired. From 1950 - 2004, 62 hurricanes had their names retired. The list includes one tropical storm, Allison of 2001 that caused billions in damage from its heavy rains.

Source:

<http://www.wunderground.com/hurricane/retired.asp>

Names are recycled every 6 years.

The names of particularly strong and destructive storms are retired to avoid confusion in future years with storms having the same name.

Alex  
Bonnie  
Colin  
Danielle  
Earl  
Fiona  
Gaston  
Hermine  
Igor  
Julia  
Karl  
Lisa  
Matthew  
Nicole  
Otto  
Paula  
Richard  
Shary  
Tomas  
Virginie  
Walter

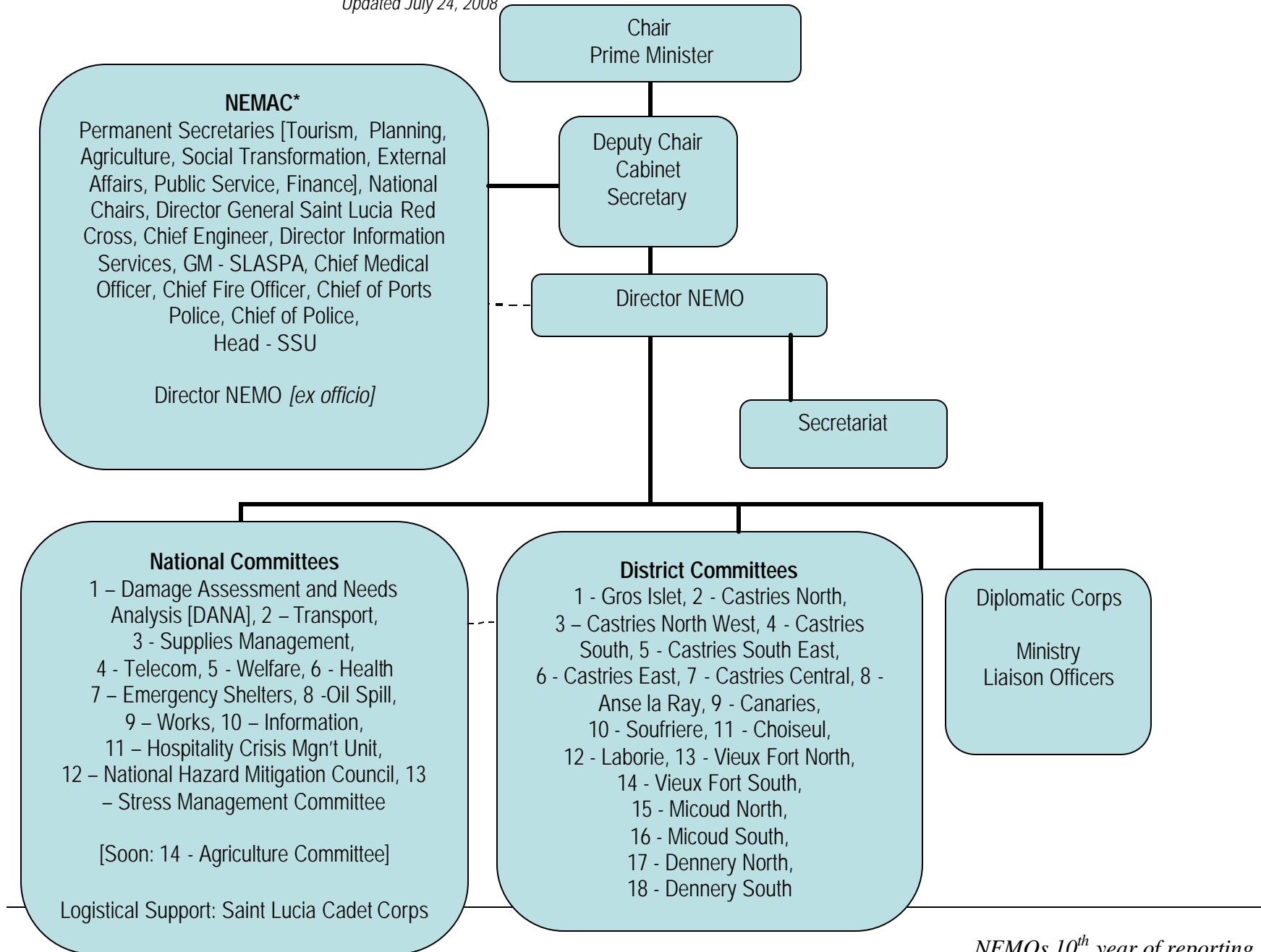
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Subscribe at [slu\\_weather-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:slu_weather-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

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# National Emergency Management Organisation Chart

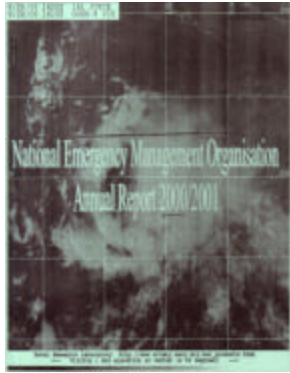
Updated July 24, 2008



*NEMOs 10<sup>th</sup> year of reporting.*



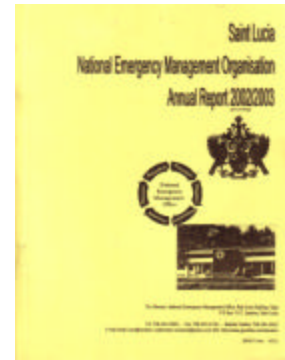
## Past Covers for the NEMO Annual Report



**2000**



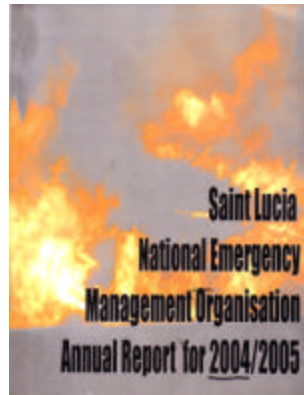
**2001**



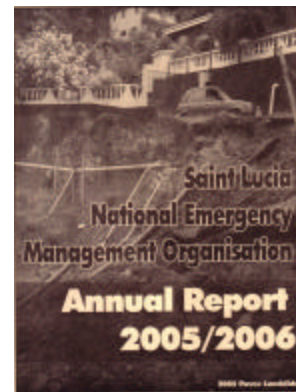
**2002**



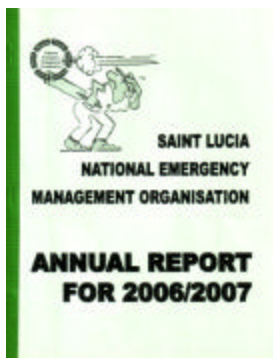
**2003**



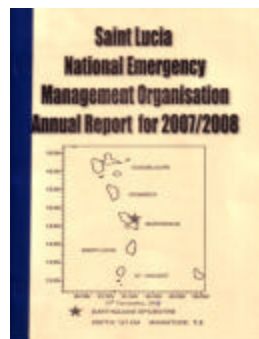
**2004**



**2005**



**2006**



**2007**



**2008**