



# Government of Saint Lucia

## Community Evacuation Plan Castries City / Quarter of Castries

*Developed by NEMO Secretariat and modeled upon the City of Cleveland  
Downtown Emergency Evacuation Plan*

*Rev. November 2, 2005 | June 21, 2006 | August 7, 2006*

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*Cabinet Conclusion 649/2007*

*Approved by  
[Government of Saint Lucia]*

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*August 2, 2007  
[Date of Approval]*

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*[sgd] Director NEMO*

*Approved by  
[Director NEMO for  
Government of Saint Lucia]*

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*13 September 2007  
[Date of Approval]*

## EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Name/Post	Work Phone	Home Phone
Fire/Ambulance [Emergency Number]	9-1-1	
Police [Emergency Number ]	9-9-9	
Commander – Marine Police	452-2595	N/A
POLICE Station Commander .....		
FIRE Station Commander .....		
Administrator Gros Islet Polyclinic <i>[If Applicable]</i>	450-9661	N/A
Administrator: ..... Hospital		
Accident and Emergency Department ..... Hospital		
Health Centre		
Spouse:		
Doctor:		
School:		
School:		
School:		
NEMO	452-3802	N/A
Saint Lucia Red Cross	452-5582	N/A

## INTRODUCTION

The National Emergency Management Organisation, together with the Ministry of Social Transformation, produced this plan to evacuate the vast majority of the workforce, residents and visitors in times of emergency. The map below indicates the different areas. The following guidelines and concepts define the scope of the evacuation plan.

## PROFILE

Castries is located in a flood plain and is actually built on reclaimed land. It houses the seat of government and the head offices of many of the businesses both foreign and local. The city's design is in a grid pattern similar to a metropolitan city like New York but on a much smaller scale. It has a sheltered harbour which receives cargo vessels, ferry boats as well as cruise ships.

[Map Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org>]



## ALERTS

There must be a trigger for an evacuation and this is based on internationally accepted alerts. Early warning systems are in place in Saint Lucia for various hazards:

### Hurricanes

#### **Storm Warnings:**

When winds are expected to affect the island within 24 hours

#### **Hurricane Watch:**

When there is a threat of hurricane conditions affecting the island within 24 – 36 hours

#### **Hurricane Warnings:**

When hurricane conditions are expected to affect the island within 24 hours.

### Volcano

#### *GREEN :*

Volcano is quiescent, seismic and fumarolic (steam vent) activity are at or below the historical level at this volcano. No other unusual activity has been observed.

#### *YELLOW:*

Volcano is restless; or fumarolic activity or both are above the historical level at this. Volcano or other unusual activity has

been observed (this activity will be specified at the time that the alert level is raised).

*ORANGE*

Highly elevated level of seismicity or fumarolic activity or both, or other highly unusual symptoms. Eruption may occur with less than 24 hours-notice.

*RED*

Eruption is in progress or may occur without further warning.

## SCENARIOS

There is the temptation to believe that an evacuation order may be used only in the case of an approaching Storm/Hurricane. Hazard analysis and experience have confirmed that Saint Lucia is at risk from numerous hazards, both natural and technological, below are a few scenarios that that may require an evacuation order:

### FLOOD

[Source: Saint Lucia National Flood Plan]

Normally, the idea we have of floods is one of a slow-growing ravine flood that lasts for weeks or months: we think of the Nile or the Mississippi river. In Saint Lucia floods are totally different: they are flash floods, they have a rapid onset and they last for one day.

### LANDSLIDE

[Source: Saint Lucia Landslide Response Plan]

There are three possible scenarios (types of landslide) under consideration in Saint Lucia:

- Rapid Onset as occurred in 1938 at Ravine Poisson;
- Slow Onset as occurred in 1999 at Black Mallet/Maynard;
- Sink holes as occurred in 2004 at Tapion;

### VOLCANIC ERUPTION

[Source: Saint Lucia Volcanic Eruption Response Plan]

There are four possible scenarios (types of eruptions) under consideration in Saint Lucia:

- A phreatic (steam) or hydrothermal eruption from the Sulphur Springs area;
- A small explosive magmatic eruption forming an explosion crater in the Belfond area;
- An effusive magmatic dome-forming eruption within the Qualibou Caldera and
- A large explosive magmatic eruption from either the Central Highlands or from within the Qualibou Caldera.

### HAZARDOUS MATERIALS [HazMat] SPILL

[Source: Hazardous Materials Response Plan]

Incidents can occur in any phase of the Haz-Mat management: packaging, storing, importation, transportation, use, reuse, production, and/or disposal of hazardous substances. In any case the response should be given to the particular conditions set by the substance involved and the incident itself.

## **EVACUATION ORDERS**

The evacuation orders are supported by the Disaster Management Act of 2006, once signed by the Governor General.

Evacuation is the emergency response activity by which emergency response organisations remove vulnerable elements from the scope of impact of a specific hazard, until the duration of the impact finishes and there is no longer any danger to return to the area where the vulnerable elements originally were.

There are three types of evacuation

### **1. Precautionary Evacuation Order:**

This evacuation order is issued when it is believed that a hazard has a high probability of posing in a significant threat to people living in the areas at risk. Citizens are encouraged to leave the danger area; however the decision to evacuate will be theirs. It will be issued when the probability of impact by the hazard is high and the vulnerability of the residents is great. [*E.g. Black Mallet and Maynard Hill was evacuated as Tropical Storm Chantal approached.*]

It is directed at persons in high risk areas such as:

- a. Coastal Areas
- b. Hill Sides
- c. River Banks or
- d. Aboard Boats

### **2. Recommended Evacuation Order:**

This evacuation order is issued to persons who may be at risk. The decision to heed a Precautionary Evacuation Order is solely that of the resident at risk. It will be issued in instances when it is believed that although the possibility of a hazard impacting an area is real, that the probability of impact is not high. For example, such an order may be issued to residents living in flood plains or areas prone to landslides when moderate amounts of rain are forecasted. [*E.g. Flood warnings from the Saint Lucia Met Service: Persons living in low lying areas.*]

### **3. MANDATORY / ENFORCED EVACUATION ORDER: THERE IS NO CHOICE.**

This evacuation order is issued when it is believed that a hazard is almost certain to adversely impact an area. After a Mandatory /Enforced Evacuation Order has been

issued all persons MUST LEAVE the danger zone. THERE WILL BE NO CHOICE in the decision to evacuate. If persons are reluctant to leave then the Security Forces shall effect the evacuation. Such orders may be used in incidents of chemical spills. [*E.g. An order was given to Anse la Raye as Tropical Storm Lili approached.*]

**TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT:**

1. Traffic Laws will remain the same unless otherwise stated via announcements.
2. Inbound traffic will be restricted.
3. Traffic will not be permitted to drive “cross town”. You must drive by the designated routes or as directed by safety officials.
4. Mass Transit [mini buses etc.] will continue to operate in rush hour status using normal routes. You should be able to take your normal bus route home.

**EMERGENCY EVACUATION:**

1. Depending on the location and extent of an emergency the pre-designated driving routes may not be usable.
2. Traffic Officers will divert traffic to the most effective routes available. Citizens should always follow the instructions of the Traffic Officers.
3. Persons with vehicles should drive to the Emergency Shelters assigned to their area as detailed in the matrix above or go to Family/Friends.
4. Persons who require assistance to get to their assigned Emergency Shelters should go to the pre designated Assembly Points [see matrix above] where they will be transported to the assigned Emergency Shelters.
5. If the size or location of an incident prevents the evacuation of any portion of the area and citizens must WALK. They should go to one of the pre-designated Assembly Points [see matrix above] where they will be transported to Shelters. [See map for locations]
6. Once at the shelters persons may make arrangements for personal transportation to family or friends.

**EVACUATION ROUTES:**

<b>RESIDENTIAL AREA</b>	<b>ASSEMBLY POINT</b>	<b>EVACUATION ROUTE</b>	<b>ASSIGNED SHELTER</b>
West Peynier Street, Chaussee Road, George Ville, La Panse, Darling Road, Conway, Wilton's Yard	Calvary Road, Eastern End – George V Park [near the pond]	Chaussee Road	Sir Ira Simmons Secondary School, Castries Comprehensive Secondary School, SDA Academy
<b>Peynier Street to Maniel Street</b>	Round About at Bannens Bay	Millennium High La Toc Road	Tapion School George Charles Secondary School

**SHELTER MANAGEMENT:**

1. All existing laws of Saint Lucia shall be enforced in a shelter.

**TERMINATION OF EVACUATION AND RETURN:**

1. Entry into the evacuated community will not be permitted until the evacuation order has been rescinded.
2. The security of the community will be maintained until the majority of the residents have returned.
3. After the order for the termination of the evacuation has been issued, transportation will be provided for the return of the evacuees from the shelters to their residences.

**DISASTER SUPPLY KIT:**

As advocated by disaster managers a bag/suitcase/box must be packed with a range of important items. The case must be located in an area where it is easy to reach as the household evacuates the premises. The case must also be in a location that every one knows about.

It is recommended that the Kit should be equipped with the following. Of course any other item you feel is necessary should be added this list is only a guide. Some items are in use every day such as car keys, in such a case you should always know where they are.

## GENERAL

1. Cash and Credit Cards
2. Medicine
3. Non perishable foods
4. Water
5. Torch Light with batteries
6. Special items for infants, elderly or disabled
7. Cell Phone
8. Charging Devices (Vehicle and Electrical)
9. Batteries
10. Charge all Electrical Devices [if there is time]
11. Medications
12. First Aid Kit
13. Insurance Papers
14. Drivers License
15. ID
16. Passport
17. Sewing Kit
18. Safety Pins
19. Pens (Markers)
20. Notebook
21. Car keys
22. Envelops
23. Zip Lock Bags
24. Watch/Clock

## CHANGE OF CLOTHING

1. Socks
2. Underwear
3. T-Shirts

## ANY OTHER ITEM AS NEEDED

## SAFETY CONCEPTS TO KEEP IN MIND:

1. Know your buildings' emergency procedures. They are critical to your safety!
2. Always remain calm in any emergency.
3. If an evacuation is ordered, use your pre-designated route for leaving the downtown area.
4. If you cannot use your pre-designated route, heed all safety personnel instructions and/or follow the general flow of traffic.

4. Pants (Uniform and Civilian)
5. Eye Glasses

## ICE: In Case of Emergency

1. Emergency Contact List
2. Doctors Contact Information
3. Dentist Contact Information
4. Eye Specialist Information

## COMFORT ITEMS

1. Sleeping Gear
2. Sleeping Bag
3. Pillow
4. Blanket
5. Toys/Games etc.
6. Reading Material
7. Radio / Discman w/ earpiece
8. Game Boy
9. Laptop

## HYGIENE KIT

1. Toothpaste
2. Toothbrush
3. Mouthwash
4. Dental Floss
5. Razor Blades
6. Razor
7. Shaving Cream
8. After Shave Lotions
9. Soap
10. Tampon / Pads
11. Lip Balm/Sunscreen
12. Toilet Paper



5. Pre-plan with other family members or car poolers how each will get home or to a shelter [could be another home] in the event of an evacuation.
6. Plan and discuss secondary access numbers and meeting locations with your family members in the event that you are unable to contact each other using normal methods.
7. Having decided upon the Shelter and the Assembly Point test yourself and your family. Run the test during the day and then the same test at night.
  - How long will it take to get from your home to the Shelter / Assembly Point?
  - Did you remember the Disaster Supply Kit?
  - Are you satisfied that you took the shortest possible time?

**SPECIAL NOTE:**

1. Special Needs People:  
The Ministry of Health through its network shall make arrangements for Special Needs People. Contact your Local Health Center or the Local Representative of the National Council of and for Disabled Persons for Details.  
  
Areas for consideration include:
  - a. The putting on of special aids [e.g. a caliper], special shoes etc. If there is very short time available for evacuation which does not permit enough time needed to put on these, Persons with Disabilities [PWD] should have an additional personal advance plan of evacuation that will consider evacuation without the support of those aids and appliances for such emergencies.
2. Animals [Large and Small]  
For Public Health and Safety reasons animals [livestock and pets] are not allowed in Public Emergency Shelters.
3. As part of your Evacuation Planning you are to make arrangements for your animals.
  - a. **DO NOT LEAVE ANIMALS TIED – THEY MAY DIE.**
  - b. **DO NOT SET THEM FREE TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES – THEY MAY DIE.**

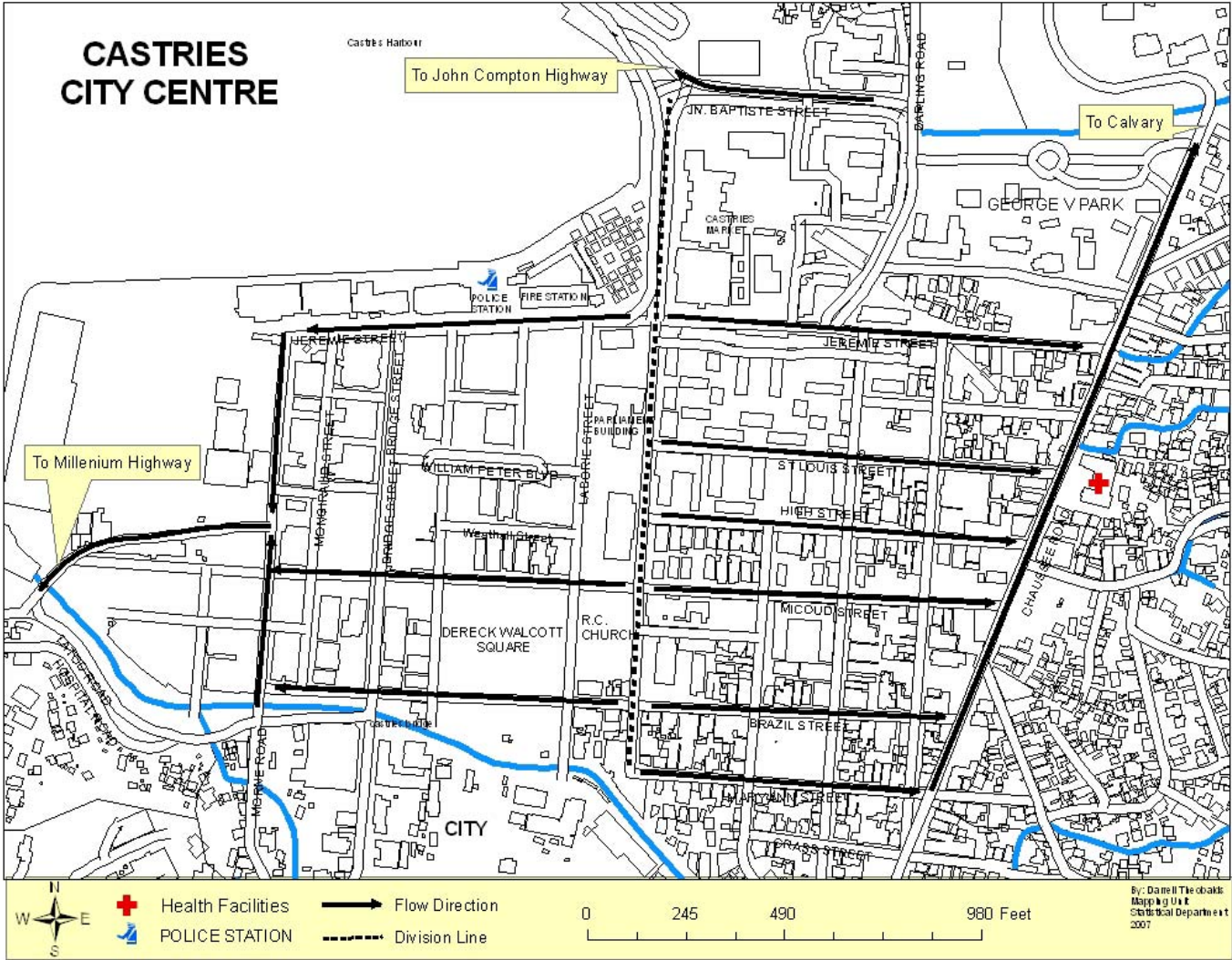
**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

This Community Evacuation Procedure is supported by the complete set of Emergency Plans, Policies, Legislation and Standing Operating Procedures. The Saint Lucia National Evacuation Plan consists of:

Volume

1. Concept of Operations
2. Emergency Shelters [Annual List]
3. Special Needs Evacuation Plan
4. Animal Evacuation and Recovery Plan
5. Traffic Management Plan

# Evacuation Route Map



## Appendix 1 - Table for Individual Needs

### EMERGENCY STORAGE: BASIC 72 HR. KIT

SOURCE: <http://www.thebackpackersguide.com/72hrkit.htm>

#### 1. FOOD.

##### A. Three Day Supply of Food (no refrigeration or cooking required):\*

Canned fish, pork, etc. (½ lb/person)  
Milk (½ lb/person)  
Crackers (1 lb/person)  
Fruit [fresh or dried] (1 lb/person)  
Canned juice (46 oz/person)  
Peanut butter (½ lb/person)

\*This supplies daily 2100 calories and essential nutrients.

##### Other substitution ideas:

Nuts, raisins, fruit rollups, granola bars, dried beef, jerky, canned meats, crackers, instant pudding, presweetened powdered drinks, such as lemonade, box drinks, hard candy, candy bars, energy bars, and dry cereals.

##### B. Three Day Supply of Food (some meals require cooking):

No special backpacking food is required. It just needs to be lightweight, which generally means dry. All of these ingredients can be obtained at grocery stores. Most have a long shelf life and can be stored at home until needed. If an emergency occurred, it would be best to eat your perishable foods first. For the first day or so, you can take foods like fruits, vegetables and meats. The primary consideration is the weight.

Below is a recommended menu and intended as a guide only:

Day	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
1	Granola Bars, Fruit [fresh or dried], Boxed Juice	Sandwiches, Fruit [fresh or dried], Box drinks	Rice, Rolls, Butter Fruit punch
2	Bread with jam, butter, Milk	Sandwiches, Fruit [fresh or dried], nuts, Candy Bar	Pasta [Spaghetti/Macaroni] with sauce, cheese Juice
3	Cereal (any kind) Milk	Soup, Crackers Fruit [fresh or dried],	Soup, Bread, Fruit [fresh or dried]

## **2. WATER. 1 gallon/person**

**A. Storage.** Store water in containers you can move. Be prepared to either carry water with you or treat water to make it drinkable.

### **B. Treating Water.**

**1. Heating.** The surest method of making your water safe is to bring it to a boil, then let it cool. At higher elevations, boil it for several minutes to kill microorganisms because the boiling temperature of water will be lower.

**2. Chemical.** Available at most camping supply outlets, water purification tablets will kill most waterborne bacteria. The tablets contain iodine, halazone or chlorine. Over time, an opened container will lose its potency. Probably best to replace opened bottles after six months. For clear water, drop one tablet (8mg) into a quart or liter of water and let it stand 10 minutes. Add 10 minutes if the water is cold or discolored; 20 if both.