



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Contact (758) 468-8754/452-3802

Email: admin@nemo.gov.lc

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 3

DIRECTOR’S NOTE4

NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.....5

MISSION.....5

VISION.....5

STAFFING.....6

STRUCTURE OF NEMO.....7

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS MEASURES.....8

KEY ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTERS.....12

COMMITTEE REPORTS..... 14

NATIONAL/STANDING DISASTER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

Royal Saint Lucia Police Force..... 14

Saint Lucia Fire Service..... 14

Supplies Committee..... 14

DISTRICT DISASTER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES.....15

Gros Islet.....15

Babonneau17

Castries Central.....18

Castries East.....19

Castries South East.....23

Castries South.....25

Anse la Raye..... 27

Soufriere..... 28

Choiseul..... 30

Laborie..... 32

Vieux Fort South..... 34

Micoud North..... 39

Micoud South..... 40

Dennerly South..... .41

ORGANISATIONAL CHALLENGES.....42

WAY FORWARD.....42

CONCLUSION.....43

DISASTER DIARY.....44

2024 HURRICANE NAMES’ LIST.....45

APPENDICES..... 46.

INTRODUCTION

This report outlines the key measures and activities undertaken by the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) of Saint Lucia during the year ending December 2024. These efforts were directed toward the four pillars of comprehensive disaster management: mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The year brought both challenges and progress as NEMO continued to build resilience across communities and sectors in Saint Lucia.

One of the most significant events during the reporting period was the partial impact of Hurricane Beryl in July 2024. While Saint Lucia was spared a direct hit, the island experienced adverse effects, particularly in the southwestern coastal communities of Soufriere and Laborie. These areas recorded coastal erosion, damage to infrastructure, and disruptions to the agricultural sector, including loss of crops and livestock. Neighboring islands, such as Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines bore the brunt of the storm's fury, prompting Saint Lucia to offer regional solidarity and support through CARICOM mechanisms and mutual aid arrangements.

In response to the ongoing threats posed by climate change and increasing disaster risks, NEMO placed emphasis on strengthening institutional capacity and enhancing operational readiness. A significant milestone in 2024 was the formal appointment of a Director and Deputy Director, alongside the recruitment of additional technical and administrative staff. These appointments contributed greatly to improving the Organisation's structure, governance, and ability to coordinate and lead national disaster risk management efforts.

Throughout the year, NEMO also intensified community outreach, stakeholder engagement, and public education campaigns, while continuing to update emergency plans and conducting training and simulation exercises. The Organisation worked in close collaboration with District Disaster Management Committees, government agencies, regional partners, and international organisations to ensure a cohesive and inclusive approach to emergency management.

As we reflect on 2024, this report not only highlights the activities and achievements of the past year but also reaffirms NEMO's commitment to building a safer, more resilient Saint Lucia for all.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

It is indeed my absolute privilege and pleasure to present the 2024 edition of the Saint Lucia National Emergency Management Organisation Annual Report. The report, which details the activities of NEMO and its associated agencies, is an annual requirement under the Saint Lucia Disaster Management Act No. 30 of 2006.

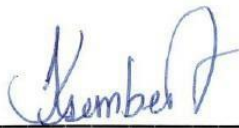
Apart from a degree of damage as a result of the passage of Hurricane Beryl, our island was, thankfully, not impacted by any noteworthy disaster during the year under review. Saint Lucia was spared the worst of Hurricane Beryl, which impacted the island on July 1st. Our agricultural sector and national infrastructure were affected, and the coastal areas on the southwestern coast of the island suffered from the effects of the hurricane.

I would like to express my profound thanks to the members of the national emergency management system in Saint Lucia, who displayed a high level of preparedness during the approach of Hurricane Beryl and the other hazards during the review period. Leading up to Hurricane Beryl, the National Emergency Management Advisory Committee (NEMAC), the National Emergency Operation Centre, and the National and District Disaster Management Committees were all activated and in readiness for any eventuality.

During the year, and in keeping with its mandate to ensure the efficient functioning of preparedness, prevention, mitigation, and response, NEMO both organized and took part in a number of training initiatives. These initiatives, which included training in disaster preparedness, were targeted to a large extent at the volunteers of NEMO as part of an effort to equip them with skills in the area of disaster management.

The National Emergency Management Organisation would like to place on record its profound thanks to the Government of Saint Lucia and its numerous local, regional, and international partners and sponsors for their tremendous support during the year. The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency and the Regional Security System were more than willing partners during the period.

As we look ahead, NEMO would like to reiterate its commitment to comprehensive disaster management in Saint Lucia. It remains our desire to work with governmental agencies and the private sector as we seek to realize this goal. Our focus will continue to be in the diverse communities in our efforts at disaster risk reduction and overall community empowerment.



Kenisha Jeffery-Isembert

Director of NEMO

NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The National Emergency Management System of Saint Lucia is made up of the following components:

- *The National Emergency Management Advisory Committee.*
- *The National and District Disaster Management Committees*
- *The National Emergency Management Organisation Secretariat*

All three components of the National Emergency Management Organisation are supported by the Disaster Management Act No 30 of 2006 and the National Emergency Management Plan. NEMO is mandated to ensure the nation is in a state of readiness to deal with any disaster eventuality and to coordinate the response to the impact of any hazard. To satisfy this mandate, NEMO relies on the full support of its fourteen (14) National Committees and eighteen (18) District Disaster Management Committees comprising primarily of volunteers.

THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION

The National Emergency Management Organisation (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. In pursuit of this mandate NEMO relies upon the support and effort of its fourteen (14) National and eighteen (18) District Disaster Management Committees consisting of volunteers

Mission Statement:

The role of the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) is to develop, test and implement adequate measures to protect the population of Saint Lucia from the physical, social, environmental and economic effects of both natural and man-made disasters. Its responsibility is to ensure the efficient functioning of preparedness, prevention, mitigation and response actions.

Vision Statement:

A nation highly resilient to hazard impacts and adaptable to hazard risks.

The Key Responsibilities of the NEMO are to:

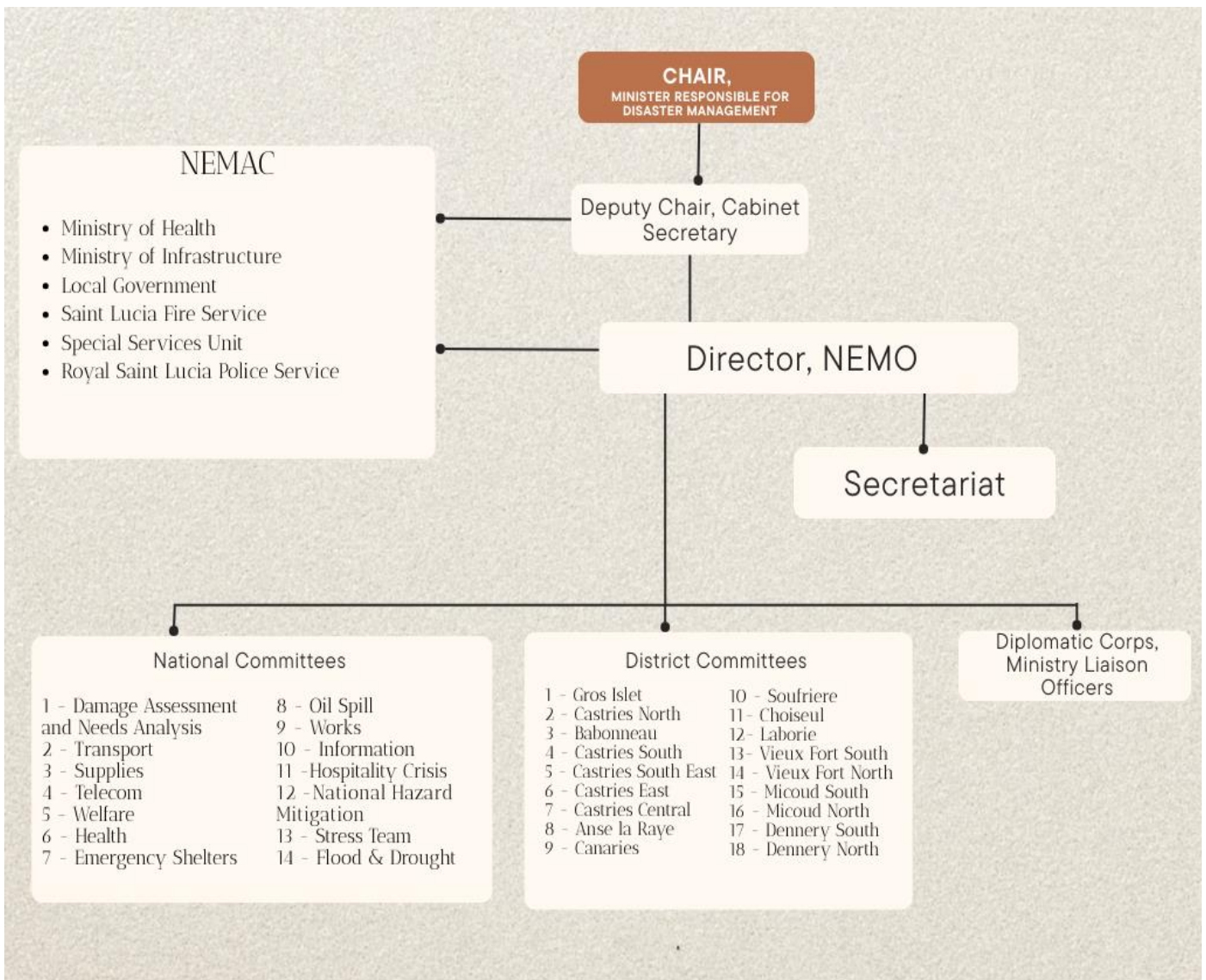
- Coordinate Disaster response and recovery activities
- Increase the planning activities of National and District Committees
- Strengthen response capabilities of National and District Committees
- Strengthen the planning and response capabilities of the NEMO Secretariat
- Review Disaster Plans for 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 Educational Activities
- Conduct Volunteer Training

NEMO STAFFING 2024

NAME	POST	RESPONSIBILITIES
Kenisha Jeffrey- Isembert	Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overall Management ● Coordination ● Operations ● Finances
Princess Khodra (wef from September 2024)	Deputy Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community Preparedness ● Public Education ● Training
Vacant	Program Development Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Training and workshop development ● Education of Public
Chrisanphe Epiphane (January to October) Andrea Smith (Acting capacity from November)	Administrative Secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Administration ● Documentation and information
Malcom Job	Assistant Warehouse Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overseeing warehouse operations ● Mass crowd support
Kerwin Xavier	Communications Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Management of Communications
Horace Popo (Short term consultancy from November)	Telecommunications Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Telecommunications Consultant
Fabian Jules	Information Technician	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintenance and control of electronic systems
Junior Aimable	Inventories Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Managing and controlling inventory
Wendell Laurencin	Warehouse Assistant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Receiving and processing goods of warehouse ● Mass crowd support
Miguel Fevrier	Communications Consultant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Communicates messages of Secretariat
Vernon Francois	Consultant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Best practices expert

Ophelia Joseph (January to October) Morella Bruce (From November)	Custodian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning • Maintaining healthy environment
Hildreth Henry	Driver/Office Assistant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employee Transportation • Internal NEMO Tasks
So Shikama (wef from May 2024)	JICA Volunteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QGIS Mapping Expert
Bradley Parise (wef from September 2024)	Peace Corps Volunteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programming Development

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF NEMO:



NEMO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS MEASURES

Trainings/Workshops and Meetings

For the period under review numerous sessions were conducted both locally and in collaboration with international agencies

March

First Aid Training

On March 3-5 2024, NEMO conducted a comprehensive first aid workshop targeting a diverse group of participants, including:

- NEMO Secretariat staff
- Government employees
- Private sector workers
- Members of local District Disaster Management Committees (DDMC)



The workshop was facilitated by experienced Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) from Leson Pou Lavi ProTrainings. Participants received instruction and hands-on training in:

- Basic life support
- Wound care
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)
- Management of various medical emergencies



Upon successful completion, attendees were awarded certificates valid for two years, recognizing their ability to assist in emergencies and contribute to community resilience.

April

Caribe Wave 2024

The National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) of Saint Lucia played a key role in coordinating the country's participation in the 2024 CARIBE WAVE tsunami simulation exercise, held on March 20, 2024. This annual regional drill is designed to improve tsunami preparedness across the Caribbean.

NEMO's main responsibilities included:

- **Coordination and Planning:** NEMO led the national planning and execution of the exercise, focusing on testing Saint Lucia's tsunami warning systems, emergency protocols, and communication networks.
- **Public Alert Systems:** Around 10:00 am on the day of the simulation, NEMO sent out electronic alerts to the public as part of a simulated tsunami warning. These were used to test how quickly and effectively alerts could be distributed.

- **Community Engagement:** The exercise included participation by the community of Laborie. This allowed NEMO to assess evacuation procedures and gauge readiness at the community level.
- **Public Communication:** NEMO emphasized that the alerts were part of a simulation and reassured the public there was no real threat. This helped reinforce the importance of knowing how to respond during an actual tsunami warning.

Overall, the exercise allowed NEMO to evaluate current systems, identify areas for improvement, and strengthen Saint Lucia’s overall readiness for tsunami hazards.

May

Chainsaw Management

A one-week chainsaw management training program was held from May 3 to 10, 2024 to strengthen the island’s disaster response capacity. The training involved 15 participants and was carried out in collaboration with a partner organisation specializing in emergency support and development.



Key Highlights:

Comprehensive Curriculum: The training covered chainsaw safety protocols, tree felling techniques in hazardous conditions, emergency response procedures, and environmental considerations for disaster recovery.

- **Hands-On Experience:** Participants took part in practical exercises guided by experienced professionals. These sessions helped ensure that participants gained the skills needed to operate chainsaws safely and effectively during emergencies.

Certification: At the end of the program, participants received certificates recognizing their competence in chainsaw operations specific to disaster management.



We note the importance of these types of training in building local capacity. By equipping individuals with specialized skills, NEMO continues to support community resilience and improve preparedness for future emergencies

September

In 2024, Laborie, a coastal fishing community in southern Saint Lucia with a population of approximately 7,363, achieved the distinction of becoming the nation's first UNESCO/IOC-recognized Tsunami Ready community. This recognition was the culmination of over two years of dedicated efforts led by the Laborie District Disaster Management Committee, in collaboration with local schools and residents. Given its vulnerability to tsunamis from nearby seismic activities and the Kick 'em Jenny submarine volcano, the community implemented a comprehensive preparedness strategy. This included the development of evacuation maps, conducting public education campaigns, and establishing a multifaceted alert system that combines modern technologies like radio and instant messaging with traditional methods such as church bells and conch shells. The Tsunami Ready designation not only enhances

Laborie's resilience to natural hazards but also serves as a model for other at-risk communities in Saint Lucia to bolster their disaster preparedness initiatives.



October

18th: Professional Development Day Tabletop simulation exercise with the teachers of the Gordon and Walcott Memorial Methodist School. .

22nd: School Safety presentation with the Junior Safety Monitors group of the Gordon and Walcott

Memorial Methodist School.

30th: Presentation to the students of the Vide Bouteille Primary School on the work of NEMO and the importance of having a family emergency plan.



November

11th: NEMO Secretariat was visited by the Red Cross Group of the St Mary's College. A presentation on NEMO (its work and structure), and the importance of having a family emergency plan was made. Students received a template to take home and prepare a family emergency plan.

22nd: NEMO participated in the full scale simulation exercise of the Hewanorra International Airport. SLASPA, in partnership with NEMO and other agencies, conducted a full-scale emergency simulation at Hewanorra International Airport. The exercise, mandated by ICAO, simulated an aircraft accident to test the airport's emergency response.



The drill involved airport and airline staff, St. Judes Hospital, the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force, and the Saint Lucia Fire Service. It began with Air Traffic Controllers declaring an accident.



The exercise focused on response timeliness, quality, and readiness, with evaluators monitoring the performance of all involved agencies. The insights gained will help improve real emergency responses, ensuring effective national disaster preparedness.

25th and 26th: the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO), with support from USAID, hosted an Initial Damage Assessment (IDA) training workshop for volunteers from District Disaster Management Committees across the island. The two-day training was held at the NEMO Secretariat Conference Room and focused on equipping participants with the knowledge and tools necessary to assess the impact of hazards and disasters within their communities.

The IDA training plays a critical role in the national emergency response system, as it enables local responders to gather timely and accurate information in the immediate aftermath of a disaster. This information is essential for guiding response efforts, mobilizing resources, and informing national and international partners.



Through a combination of theoretical instruction and practical exercises, volunteers learned how to document damage to homes, infrastructure, and essential services, as well as how to prioritize needs and communicate findings to central authorities. The training also emphasized the importance of safety, coordination, and community engagement in post-disaster scenarios.

26th: NEMO participated in the Tabletop simulation exercise at the George F.L Charles Airport where tabletop simulation exercise was conducted to assess and enhance emergency response coordination among key agencies. Participants included airport management, the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force, the Saint Lucia Fire Service and medical teams. The exercise focused on evaluating communication, decision-making, and resource deployment during a simulated emergency scenario. It provided an opportunity for agencies to review and refine their emergency plans, ensuring that all parties are prepared to respond effectively in the event of a real crisis. The tabletop exercise was a valuable tool for strengthening the overall disaster preparedness at the airport.

KEY ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTERS

HURRICANE BERYL

On June 27, 2024 the Saint Lucia Meteorological office flagged Hurricane Beryl as a Tropical Wave in the Tropical Atlantic moving westward near 9 mph or 15 kilometers per hour. According to the local Met Office, environmental conditions were forecast to be conducive and development of this system was anticipated. The system was forecast to develop into a Tropical Depression or Tropical Storm by the ensuing weekend several hundred miles east of the Windward Islands.

The system became Tropical Depression Two and was further upgraded to Tropical storm on Saturday, June 29, 2024. At 5:00pm, Tropical Storm Beryl was then located about 1086 miles or 1748 kilometers east-southeast of Saint Lucia.

A Hurricane Watch was issued for Saint Lucia at 5:00 pm on Saturday, June 29, 2024. Residents of Saint Lucia were asked to brace themselves for possible flooding, heavy rainfall, strong gusty winds and storm surges associated with the system. At 5:00pm, June 29, 2024 Hurricane Beryl was located about 834 miles or 1348 kilometers southeast of Saint Lucia. Maximum sustained winds were estimated at 75 miles per hour.

A Hurricane Warning was issued for Saint Lucia on June 30, 2024. At that stage the system was located about 706 miles or 1136 kilometers east, south-east of Saint Lucia. Hurricane Beryl was moving quickly towards the west with Tropical Storm force winds extending outward up to 70 miles or 110km. On the forecast track, the Hurricane was expected to move across the windward chain of Islands on the evening Sunday night, June 30 into Monday morning, July 1.

At 12:00 noon, Sunday, June 30, 2024, a weather advisory from the Saint Lucia Met Office ominously reported that Hurricane Beryl continued to rapidly intensify and was now an extremely dangerous hurricane forecast to bring life threatening winds and storm surge to the Windward Islands. At that point Hurricane Beryl was located about 467 miles or 751 kilometers east south-east of Saint Lucia.

Hurricane Beryl started affecting Saint Lucia about 5:00 am on Monday, July 1, 2024 with maximum winds of 120 miles or 195 km per hour with higher gusts. The effects of the storm increased during the course of the day with multiple reports of flooding, infrastructural and housing damage. Serious storm surges resulted in extensive damage to the waterfront areas of Soufriere, Laborie and Vieux Fort. As the system got into the Caribbean Sea, the hurricane warning which was in effect for Saint Lucia was downgraded to a Tropical Storm warning at 8:00 am on July 1, 2024.

The Tropical Storm warning was subsequently discontinued at 8:00 pm on Monday, July 1, 2024. No deaths or serious injuries were recorded in Saint Lucia.

SAINT LUCIA GOVERNMENT AND THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION (N.E.M.O) ACTIONS TO HURRICANE BERYL

From June 27, 2024 to the evening of July 1, 2024, the Saint Lucia Met Office and N.E.M.O issued regular updates and advisories via social media (Facebook/WhatsApp).

A meeting of the National Emergency Management Advisory Committee (N.E.M.A.C) was convened at the N.E.M.O Secretariat at 3:00 pm on Sunday, June 30, 2024. The meeting was initially chaired by the acting Prime Minister Honorable Earnest Hilaire. Prime Minister Honorable Philip J. Pierre joined the meeting whilst it was in progress. Prime Minister Pierre delivered an address to the nation with reference to the approaching hurricane about 8:00 pm on Saturday, June 29 2024.

The National Emergency Management Advisory Committee (N.E.M.A.C) convened a pre-strike meeting with diverse stakeholders about 10:00 am, Sunday, July 1, 2024. The meeting which was chaired by Prime Minister, Honorable Phillip J. Pierre received final reports on their state of preparedness from agencies including the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force, Saint Lucia Fire Service, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Infrastructure, WASCO, LUCELEC, Flow, Digicel, Chamber of Commerce, Saint Lucia Hospitality and Tourism Authority and the District Disaster Management Committees around Saint Lucia. The National Emergency Operations Centre was activated from 5:00 pm, June 30, 2024 as Saint Lucia was placed on level 3 alert on Sunday, July 1, 2024.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (NEOC)

A National Shutdown Order was issued on June 29, 2024 following the meeting of the National Emergency Management Advisory Committee (NEMAC) and Stakeholders. The Shutdown was in effect from 8:00 pm on June 30, 2024 and to remain in effect until the all clear is issued at 5:00 am on July 2, 2024

As a result, the NEOC was activated by the Director of NEMO from 5:00 p.m. on June 20, 2024. The post of Director of the NEOC was also activated and Lieutenant Colonel Lucius Lake took up that position.

Present at the NEOC were representatives from the following agencies:

- Saint Lucia Fire Service
- Royal Saint Lucia Police Force
- Chair, National Supplies Committee
- Chair, National Shelters Committee
- Chair, DANA Committee
- Government Information Service/National Information Committee
- NEMO Volunteers
- Saint Lucia Cadet Corps
- Director, NEMO
- Ministry of Health
- Saint Lucia Met Services



NATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Royal Saint Lucia Police Force - 2024 Report Excerpt (Compiled by Sergeant Colin Vidal)

The following disaster preparatory activities are noted:

Two police officers participated in virtual training on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief from 22nd to 26th, April, 2024.

One police officer attended the Tradewinds Conference from 3rd to 9th, November 2024, which included modules on Field Training Exercise, Command Post Exercise, and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief.

Saint Lucia Fire Service - 2024 Report Excerpt (Compiled by Ditney Downes and Anwar Deterville)

In 2024, a total of 1,330 disaster preparatory drill and lecture sessions were conducted at the crew level, encompassing 522 practical sessions, 611 lecture sessions, and 197 combined sessions. Fire-fighting techniques were the primary focus of the training, with 339 sessions conducted in this critical area. LFF 418 Charles distinguished himself as the top training conductor, leading an impressive 54 sessions. The training efforts were distributed relatively evenly across divisions, with 664 sessions conducted in B Division and 666 sessions in C Division, ensuring consistent skill development across the island.

Supplies Committee – 2024 Report (Compiled by Colonel Nathan Hyacinth)

In 2024, the Supplies Committee's main operations were the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl.

During this period, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with MASSY STORES was updated. A report was submitted to NEMO headquarters. There was a continuation with the work done with our international partner and sponsor, Global Support and Development (GSD) with the re-organisation of the warehouse and stock card system. In the process efforts were made to equip the satellite warehouses with basic equipment.

It must be noted that the committee has yet to meet in its entirety, however a core group maintains contact during a response through a WhatsApp group. Every effort should be made to bring the DDMC's together to facilitate the management of supplies using CEDEMAs' Logistics platform.

District Disaster Management Committees

Gros Islet District Disaster Management Committee – 2024 Report (Compiled by Vance Pilgrim)

With the exception of the passage of Hurricane Beryl on July 1, the Gros Islet District Disaster Committee was not overwhelmed by any significant disaster in 2024. The Committee engaged in internal training and some mitigation programs throughout the year.

As usual, the year started with monthly General Meetings up until June, after which they became bi-monthly, along with Executive Meetings. The Committee was in the process of establishing an account, but the idea fell through within the Executive due to challenges which prevented completion of the process.

At the start of the 2024 Hurricane Season, the routine Memorandum of Understanding with Archelles Holdings Petrol Station and the Red Dot Mini Mart in Gros Islet was established.

Since 2024 was forecasted by most agencies to be a very active and explosive hurricane season, the Committee took a proactive approach. The Chair met with the Mayor and members of the Gros Islet Constituency Council to seek their cooperation in supporting mitigation and post-disaster efforts. The perennial flooding problems at the rear of the Gros Islet Roman Catholic Church were brought to their attention. The Mayor agreed to do whatever was possible to alleviate the situation.

Disaster and Flood Mitigation

In May 2024, the Chairperson, Secretary, and Assistant Secretary, along with former Divisional Fire Officer, Mabi Francis of the Northern Division, conducted a disaster awareness session with residents of Flamboyant Drive. The discussion focused on flood mitigation measures for the area, which had experienced flash flooding in November 2022, resulting in considerable property damage. The Youth Emergency Action Committee, a youth volunteer group mentored by Officer Francis, was also present and pledged to assist post-disaster in any way possible.

The Disaster Committee also met with residents of Mountain View, Piat, and Grande Riviere to discuss hurricane preparedness and post-disaster response.

Vice Chair, Samantha Joseph met with retirees from the district to discuss disaster vigilance, mitigation, and post-disaster response, especially during hurricane events.

Emergency Shelters

Chairperson David Moise, along with a representative from the Ministry of Infrastructure, conducted site visits to the district's designated hurricane shelters to assess their suitability to house residents after a disaster. The updated shelter list was submitted to NEMO.

Training of Members

The first in-house activity was a virtual two-day training session for the district's shelter managers on how to operate shelters. This workshop was organized by chairperson, David Moise and facilitated by former NEMO Training Officer Andrew George. A follow-up simulation exercise was scheduled but did not take place.

The second in-house training was also a virtual session facilitated by Mr. George. Committee members learned about shelter management and how to handle common issues that may arise in these facilities.

Radio Communication

Despite ongoing issues with the hand-held amateur radios and the designated base, the Committee proceeded with its scheduled radio exercise using the base at the Gros Islet Fire Service.

The Committee was also invited to participate in the Smoke Alarm Initiative, led by former Divisional Fire Officer Mabi Francis. A list of vulnerable households was compiled, and alarms were distributed to those homes.

Four Committee members participated in a virtual Basic Incident Command System workshop facilitated by FEMA. Committee members are also scheduled to attend a Basic First Aid refresher facilitated by Mrs. Vernelle Alphonse-Cerry, a certified member of both St. John's Ambulance Brigade and the Disaster Committee.

Response to Hurricane Beryl

Committee members actively monitored Hurricane Beryl from its early development through its intensification into a major hurricane. Once the system became a credible threat, a meeting was held at the Committee's Emergency Operations Centre at the Gros Islet Fire Service on the afternoon of June 28, 2024. All sub-committees were activated and placed on stand-by to review their responsibilities.

Although Gros Islet did not experience the full force of the hurricane, the community was affected by tropical storm-force winds with occasional gusts reaching hurricane strength. Due to adverse weather on Monday, June 30, the Initial Damage Assessment team was unable to go out and conduct assessments. It was not until Tuesday, July 1, after the All Clear had been issued, that a partial assessment could be carried out.

Water Storage Tanks

The Committee received from NEMO ten -1000-gallon and ten- 650-gallon water tanks, which were distributed to residents within the district who have been experiencing water shortages.

Conclusion

Despite the impacts of Hurricane Beryl, the Gros Islet District Disaster Committee and Saint Lucia as a whole were spared a major disaster.

Babonneau District Disaster Management Committee – 2024 Report (Reporting Officer Sarah Jules)

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION ACTIVITIES

Training Activities

July 2024: The committee selected one of its members to participate in a warehouse management workshop to support the efficient management of the satellite warehouse located in Babonneau.

November 2024: One committee member represented the group at an Initial Damage Assessment (IDA) workshop. This training aimed to equip participants with the technical skills needed to assess damages after a disaster and support the provision of aid and relief to affected residents.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

August 2024: The committee distributed twenty (20) water tanks to vulnerable and under-resourced residents in the community. This initiative ensured that the most deserving households had access to an adequate water supply during the hurricane season.

The Committee also held online meetings via Zoom with its members to plan and discuss readiness and response strategies for potential disasters, including but not limited to Hurricane Beryl.

In addition, the committee conducted a hygiene pack distribution drive throughout Babonneau and surrounding areas. Hygiene packs designed for a family of five were distributed by members, and through community institutions. Recipients of packs for onward distribution included:

- The Principal of Des Barras Primary School
- La Guerre Health Centre
- Fond Assau Wellness Centre
- Plateau SDA Church
- Faith Baptist Church

Communities that benefited from the distribution included Paix Bouche, Boguis, Plateau, Garrand, Balata, Cabishe, and Babonneau proper.

CHALLENGES

- Lack of financial resources to implement community-based projects
- Inadequate materials and equipment in the satellite warehouse
- Decreasing member support and participation

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Revamp the Committee's Facebook page to improve public engagement and visibility
- Conduct more frequent and thorough assessments of the satellite warehouse to ensure supplies are adequate and up to date

WAY FORWARD

The committee will continue collaborating with the Secretariat to strengthen disaster preparedness and response efforts within the community. It remains committed to educating residents on the importance of volunteerism and aims to develop and implement a comprehensive work program for the upcoming year.

Castries Central District Disaster Committee – 2024 Report (Reporting Officer Davis Paul)

Achievements

(1) Disaster Risk Reduction Activities

- Training: In July 2024, a Committee member participated in a warehouse management workshop.
- In November 2024, the Committee attended an Initial Damage Assessment (IDA) workshop to enhance members' skills in assessing disaster damage and providing aid.

(2) Emergency Response

- Water Tank Distribution: In August 2024, 20 water tanks were distributed to vulnerable community members to ensure a steady water supply during the hurricane season.
- Meetings: Attended 17 regular Zoom meetings and 8 executive meetings (2 in person, 6 via Zoom) to prepare for potential disasters, including Hurricane Beryl.
- Workshops: Participated in 9 workshops.
- Hygiene Pack Distribution: Distributed 60 hygiene packs throughout Central Castries and surrounding areas, reaching key institutions and vulnerable residents.
- Simulation Exercises:
 - Bank of Saint Lucia – 2 exercises
 - Camille Henry Memorial School – 1 exercise
 - Flow – 1 exercise

Community Support

- Provided lunch for the homeless and needy on 3 occasions.
- Engaged in ongoing communication with Cornerstone Humanitarian Society regarding housing for the homeless.

Challenges

- Limited finances to carry out community-based projects
- Insufficient materials and equipment
- Decline in member support and participation

Recommendations

- Revamp social media pages or advertisements to improve community engagement
- Conduct more frequent warehouse assessments to ensure supplies remain adequate

Way Forward

- Promote volunteerism and increase community involvement
- Continue collaboration with the Secretariat on disaster preparedness and response
- Develop and implement a work program for the upcoming year
- Engage local community and group leaders to collaborate with the disaster committee

Castries East District Disaster Management Committee – 2024 Report (Reporting Officer Allister Phillip)

Introduction

The information highlighted reflects the activities executed for the period of January to December 2024 by the Castries East District Disaster Management Committee (NEMO). The efforts of our volunteers allowed us to fulfil the work as required by our mandate and service to the community of Castries East.

Executive:

1. Chairperson- Allister Phillip
2. Vice Chairperson- Junior Mathurin
3. Secretary – Lelia James-Henry
4. Assistant Secretary- Jeanell James
5. Treasurer- Chavez Fowell
6. Assistant Treasurer- Julitta James- Stephen
7. PRO – Jean Luc Constantine

Monthly Activity Report

January 2024

(1) Stakeholder meetings were conducted at the Saint Lucia Fire Service on 26th January, 2024. Meetings were held with the Saint Lucia Fire Service, Marchand Police Station, Ministry of Equity, Saint Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority & NEMO



(2) Cohort one (1) have been trained on 20th January, 2024 in Conflict Resolution and leadership Skills

(3) Honouring our retired Shelter Manager of the Bishop Charles Gachet RC Primary School on 29th January, 2024



February 2024



On 14th February, Castries East-NEMO Team was represented at the Independence Baton Relay.

March 2024

On 17th March we took part in a Community Walk-through and Clean-Up campaign in collaboration with the Castries East Youth and Sports Council



April 2024

Conflict Resolution and Leadership Training continued with Cohort two.



May 2024

Organized Emergency First Aid training, including hands-on practical exercises. Training was facilitated by the Saint John's Association



June 2024



(1)Completed Basic Sign Language training conducted by the Grenada School for the Deaf. The virtual sessions were held twice weekly from June 3 to 26, 2024.

(2) Hosted a Disaster Preparedness Information Booth on behalf of NEMO and the Office of the Prime Minister on June 21, 2024.



(3) At the Awards Ceremony hosted by the Castries East Youth and Sports Council on June 29, 2024, at the Saint Joseph's Convent Auditorium, the Chairperson was honored with the "Outstanding Youth in Environment and Sustainable Development" award for 2023. The Castries East District Disaster Management Committee also received the "Community Achievement Award (Organisation)" for their contribution in 2023.



July 2024

Castries East District Disaster Management Committee responds swiftly to Hurricane Beryl. Demonstrated strong coordination and community support during emergency response efforts.



August 2024



Castries East Project Featured at Grantee Exchange – August 13, 2024 Proudly participated in the event, showcasing local initiatives and community impact.

September 2024



(1) A community walk-through was conducted on September 22, 2024, to assess local risks, raise awareness, and strengthen disaster preparedness efforts within the Castries East district.

(2) From September 16th to 20th, Castries East DDMC took part in an Initial Damage Assessment (IDA) Training.

(3) Participated in Shelters and Shelter Management Training held on October 2nd – 3rd, 2024, at NEMO Headquarters.



October 2024

Hosted a presentation booth at Sandals Grande for the 2024 RedLAC Conference on October 9, showcasing disaster preparedness efforts and community initiatives.



November 2025



(1) Attended the National Youth Awards on 9th November, 2024

(2) Participated in Transect Walk Training and the development of a Hazard Intervention Plan, aimed at identifying community vulnerabilities and implementing targeted risk reduction strategies



Castries South East District Disaster Management Committee – 2024 Report (Reporting Officer Phillip Leon)

Overview

This report outlines the activities and developments of the Castries South East District Disaster Management Committee (CSEDDMC) for the period January to December 2024.

Executive Committee

The CSEDDMC Executive Committee composed of the following members:

Phillip Leon – Chair

Sandra Jn Charles – Deputy Chair

Berthia Nixon – Secretary

Annie Aubrey – Assistant Secretary

Roger Joseph – Treasurer

Shanda Charles – Assistant Treasurer

Eugenia Wilkinson – Public Relations Officer (PRO)

Mario Boyce – Chairman of the Constituency Council (Floor Representative)

The Executive was supported by several sub-committees spread throughout the constituency. Meetings were held monthly or as needed.

Activities

Training

While the Committee did not organize its own training sessions during the reporting period, members actively participated in several capacity-building programs facilitated by other District Disaster Management Committees and NEMO. These included:

- CPR Training
- Chainsaw Use and Safety Training
- Initial Damage Assessment (IDA)
- Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Training

Community Outreach

The Committee was involved in a community outreach initiative focused on distributing donated items. With support from the Social Transformation Officer (STO) of the Ministry of Equity and donations from the Government of Japan, CSEDDMC distributed:

- Clothing and shoes to approximately 12 households
- A small number of toys to families in need

Hurricane Beryl Response

The impact of Hurricane Beryl on the district was minimal, with damage largely limited to tree crops and vegetation. Key actions taken included:

- Activation of the Odsan Combined School as an emergency shelter for two elderly residents who had sent out distress calls
- Reintegration of these individuals with their families shortly after the storm
- Submission of a damage assessment report to NEMO's Secretariat

Goals for 2025

Looking ahead, CSEDDMC has outlined the following goals to enhance community resilience and disaster readiness:

- Recruit new volunteers across the constituency
- Re-equip and organize the satellite warehouse
- Continue training initiatives to build local disaster response capacity

Castries South District Disaster Management Committee – 2024 Report

(Reporting Officer Mervin Joseph)

Executive Summary

The Castries South District Disaster Management Committee (CSDDMC) demonstrated a proactive approach to disaster risk management in 2024. Last year, we focused on strengthening community resilience, enhancing preparedness, and ensuring effective response strategies to natural disasters affecting our communities.

Committee Membership

The CSDDMC is composed of key stakeholders including local government officials, community leaders, representatives from emergency services, and volunteers. Our membership base has grown by the new addition of Goodlands which was not part of organisation for many years, reflecting increasing community involvement in disaster management efforts.

Key Activities and Achievements

- **Disaster Preparedness Workshops:**
 - Conducted 4 workshops during the year, targeting several community members. Topics included emergency planning, evacuation procedures and family safety protocols.
 - Collaborated with local schools to implement youth-focused training sessions, instilling disaster preparedness awareness among students.
- **Resource Acquisition:**
 - Secured emergency supplies from NEMO, including first-aid kits, food, water, and communication devices, mattress, water tanks
 - Established a local emergency supply depot to ensure quick access to resources during a disaster.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns:**
 - Launched a public awareness campaign utilizing social media, community bulletins, and WhatsApp to inform residents about disaster preparedness tips and the importance of having emergency kits.
- **Partnership Development:**
 - Strengthened partnerships with local NGOs and Castries East DDC, enhancing collaborative efforts in disaster response and recovery.
- **GEO Mapping:**

Able to map out all vulnerable areas within our community. It is used during the disaster to reach out to those most in need.

We were also fortunate to provide water tanks to community members due to the high demand for water in times of need.

- **Other Areas of Interest**
 - ❖ Organized a booth and participated in community outreach
 - ❖ Routine assessments and submitted reports.
 - ❖ Formalized the Executive and Community Committees.
 - ❖ Geo mapped hazards and prepared proposal based on findings.
 - ❖ Updated Shelters list and their status.
 - ❖ Cleaned the warehouse and collected supplies.
 - ❖ Established Vehicle Registration List.

- ❖ Routine communication and meeting through Whatsapp Chat.
- ❖ Donation of tanks to the Barre St. Joseph Community Center/ Hurricane Shelter

Challenges Faced

- **Limited Resources:** Despite efforts, the Committee faced challenges in acquiring sufficient resources for all communities.
- **Community Engagement:** Some segments of the community remained disengaged; therefore, more targeted outreach efforts will be required to increase participation.

Future Goals for 2025

1. **Enhanced Training Programs:** Implement more advanced training programs focusing on specific disaster scenarios and recovery techniques.
2. **Increased Community Involvement:** Develop initiatives aimed at engaging under-represented groups in disaster preparedness activities.
3. **Strengthening Infrastructure:** Advocate for improved infrastructure in vulnerable areas to better withstand natural disasters.
4. **Executive:** The present executive term ended and was asked to hold on until elections are set, A meeting was convened to start preparation for persons who would like to be part of the election of officers.

Conclusion

In 2024, the Castries South Disaster Committee made significant strides in enhancing disaster preparedness and community resilience. We recognize the continuing challenges and will strive to improve our efforts in collaboration with NEMO and our community partners. We appreciate the support from NEMO and look forward to further collaboration in the future.

Anse la Raye District Disaster Management Committee – 2024 Report (Reporting Officer Steven Griffith)

The Anse la Raye District Disaster Committee undertook several initiatives aimed at enhancing disaster preparedness and community resilience during the reporting period.

Flood Mitigation and Environmental Projects

The Committee successfully carried out mitigation works along the Petite Rivière to reduce the flood risk affecting Anse la Raye village. Additionally, a boardwalk construction plan as part of the Anse la Raye Mangrove Restoration Project has been recognized by Alliance Française and included in its 2025 program of activities.

Collaboration and Partnerships

The Committee maintains a strong working relationship with the Anse la Raye branch of the Saint Lucia Red Cross, collaborating on all disaster-related activities within the district.

Vanard/Millet Sub-group Initiatives

The Vanard/Millet sub-group remains highly active and implemented several critical measures:

- Conducted a comprehensive damage assessment across the district following the passage of Hurricane Beryl.
- Ensured that all emergency shelters in the Vanard and Millet areas were prepared and operational ahead of the hurricane season.
- Compiled a detailed registry of vulnerable and disabled individuals within the communities.
- Coordinated the distribution of water-tanks and essential disaster relief supplies to the most affected and at-risk households.

Soufriere District Disaster Management Committee – 2024 Report (Reporting Officer, Nadia Cazaubon)

Executive

Placid Lascaris - Chairman	R'Montay Regis - Treasurer
Nadia Cazaubon – Deputy Chairperson	Glyndia Charles – Assistant Treasurer
Rochelle Charles – Secretary	Zephaniah Jn. Baptiste – Communications Officer
Cyria Lafeuillee – Assistant Secretary	Clarette Regis – Floor Representative

Monthly Activity Report

January

25th – report of a landslide at Bouton gap with a large tree blocking the road. Infrastructure responded and cleared it



26th – report of another slide in the Bouton area

February, 2024

9th – Sea swells generated from a trough in the North Atlantic Ocean caused minor damage along the waterfront. Mr. Lascaris assisted in transporting two individuals from Baron’s Drive, who sustained leg injuries while attempting to salvage their boats, to the Soufriere Hospital. Three boats reportedly sank at Baron’s Drive. The floating jetty at Malgretoute near the Paradise Hotel broke its anchor. It was however recovered by four persons.

March, 2024

13th-14th – Members attended the first aid course held at NEMO HQ

April, 2024

10th – Soufriere DDC meeting at Soufriere Primary School and via Zoom.

12th – Tremor reported in Soufriere

May, 2024

3rd- Garieus Jn. Baptiste and Nadia Cazaubon both completed the Chainsaw training held at NEMO Secretariat and topped the Game of Logging exam at the end of the course.

5th – Soufriere Jazz

5th – Report of bush fire above Green Fig Resort

14th – Magnitude 4.6 earthquake reported at 12:54 am

28th – Soufriere DDC meeting at Soufriere Primary School ahead of a tropical wave.

June, 2024

11th – Earthquake reported in Soufriere (Diamond, Sulphur Springs and Fond St. Jacques). No report from UWI SRC.

23rd – An earthquake was reported around midnight.

29th – **Hurricane Beryl** Soufriere pre-strike meeting.

30th – Soufriere DDC meeting at Soufriere Police Station. List of emergency shelters circulated online, Whatsapp blast. Joint national prestrike meeting.

- 1 shelter opened (St. Isidore's Hall)

An IDA and a final report on Hurricane Beryl has been submitted to NEMO HQ.

July, 2024

6th – Flow Cell Tower on Church Street exploded. The Soufriere Fire Station was contacted and responded.

August, 2024

10th – Localized flooding in parts of Soufriere

11th – Report of heavy rainfall causing pools at Sulphur Springs to overflow. Note this is a usual occurrence, however, this time a video of it went viral on social media.

September, 2024

19th – Presentation of a Tsunami hazard and evacuation map done for Soufriere by Japanese JICA volunteer done at Soufriere Police Station and via Zoom

October, 2024

7th – Magnitude 5.1 earthquake reported

11th – Magnitude 4.0 earthquake reported

November, 2024

4th – Magnitude 5.0 earthquake reported

25th & 26th – Members participated in the IDA training held at NEMO HQ

December, 2024

27th – Soufriere DDC Christmas party held at Whispers in Soufriere

Choiseul District Disaster Management Committee – 2024 Report (Reporting Officer Charleen Charlery)

Committee Composition

The Executive Committee consists of the following members:

- **Chairperson:** Jeny Gaillard
- **Deputy Chairperson:** Pius Stephen
- **Secretary:** Charleen Charlery
- **Assistant Secretary:** Adhara Charles
- **Public Relations Officer:** Peter Phillip
- **Treasurer:** Luanne St. Rose
- **Assistant Treasurer:** Brad Thomas

Meetings

The Committee convened eight times during the year under review. The Executive met on the first Monday of each month to regroup and discuss the 2024 work plan.

Key Actions

- Held stakeholder meetings with representatives from WASCO, LUCELEC, Environmental Health, Infrastructure, Welfare, Local Government, and Fisheries to discuss disaster management roles and responsibilities.
- Reviewed and submitted the *Community Disaster Safe Welfare Community (BOKOMI)* handbook to NEMO for approval.

Trainings Attended

Committee members participated in several capacity-building sessions, including:

- First Aid and CPR
- Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
- Incident Command System (ICS)
- Mass Crowd Support
- Initial Damage Assessment (IDA) – both online and in-person
- A designated reporter also attended the DANA Workshop

Other Activities

- Distribution of mattresses to vulnerable households
- Regular maintenance of the disaster warehouse, including lock upgrades and inventory checks
- Ongoing maintenance and operational checks on WOUXN (handheld) radios
- Updated the committee’s community database

Preparedness Measures

The Committee undertook several initiatives to improve disaster readiness:

1. **Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs):** Efforts were made to secure MOUs with local businesses, including Rubis Service Station and Massy Stores in Choiseul.
2. **Shelters and Supplies:** The list of emergency shelters was reviewed, and recommendations were made to update the list.
3. **Communications:** With assistance from NEMO, the base for the WOUXN ham radios was procured. Regular radio check-ins were conducted with NEMO headquarters.

4. **Warehouse Security:** Locks were changed, and additional security measures were implemented.
5. **Equipment Audit:** The warehouse was inspected to ensure that all supplies were up-to-date and in working order. An official inventory was conducted and requests were submitted to the disaster office.

New Projects

The Committee received approval for the **Tsunami Ready Project**, funded by USAID and in collaboration with the Tsunami Interpretation Centre.

- A project facilitator was identified and shared with NEMO and USAID.
- A planning meeting was held with the project consultant to discuss deliverables and outcomes.

Challenges

CDDMC continues to face several ongoing challenges:

1. The communication network remains non-functional.
2. Local businesses, including Massy Stores, BCJ, and Rubis Gas Station, have not responded positively to MOU requests.
3. Some key stakeholders remain non-committal in supporting committee activities.
4. Difficulty in recruiting and retaining committed volunteers.

Way Forward

1. Increase the visibility of the Committee within the general public.
2. Request NEMO's support to secure MOUs with local business partners.
3. Prioritize the completion of the communication network with support from NEMO.



Laborie District Disaster Management Committee – 2024 Report (Reporting Officer Denis Hunte)

Overview

The year 2024 was relatively quiet for the Laborie District Disaster Management Committee. However, the Committee remained committed to ensuring the safety, preparedness, and resilience of the community. Members consistently responded when called upon, both individually and as a group.

Activities

Emergency Response

- **Hurricane Beryl:** The Committee was activated during the threat of Hurricane Beryl. A pre-strike meeting was convened, and members prepared to carry out assigned roles. The district experienced flooding from storm surge and minor structural damage. Members promptly submitted Initial Damage Assessment (IDA) reports to NEMO and distributed care packages from the satellite warehouse as needed.
- **Community Fire Response:** The Committee responded to the fire event that destroyed the home of a local family. Community support was immediate, and the Committee facilitated additional relief with assistance from NEMO and the Red Cross. Relief supplies were provided through the Committee's warehouse.

Training and Capacity Building

- Two members participated in **IDA training** hosted by NEMO.
- Three members completed **CPR and First Aid training**, expressing high praise for the quality and usefulness of the course.
- Three members completed **Chainsaw Safety training**, with one undergoing further training. These individuals have supported both the Committee and the Laborie-Augier Constituency Council (LACC) in community clearing and hazard reduction efforts.

Tsunami Ready Program and Public Awareness

- The Committee spearheaded the **UNESCO Tsunami Ready Recognition Program**, with support from the International Tsunami Information Center Caribbean Office. This initiative focused on strengthening community awareness and preparedness for tsunami hazards.
- On **September 24, 2024**, Laborie was officially awarded **Tsunami Ready status**, making it the only community in Saint Lucia to receive this recognition.
- The Committee promoted participation in the **Carib Wave 2024 tsunami evacuation exercise**. While some residents and institutions engaged in the drill, overall participation was low. The exercise revealed a need for continued public education and engagement around hazard readiness.

Challenges

- **Limited financial resources** continue to constrain the Committee's ability to implement projects and respond independently.
- **Public apathy** towards disaster preparedness persists. Community members tend to engage only during or after a hazard event, with little interest in pre-impact education or planning.

Way Forward

- Increase the number of **community awareness sessions** to build understanding of the Committee's role and encourage broader participation.
- **Develop and submit project proposals** to local and international agencies to fund key initiatives.

- Continue **public education** on a wider range of hazards and the importance of preparedness.
- Build **new partnerships** with potential donors and training providers.

LABORIE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ulric Alphonse (Chairman)	Makeva Anthony
Lydia Charlemagne (Dep. Chair)	Christine Arleen Wilson
Carla Chicot	Janicia Blasse-Warner
Denver Chicot	Yvonne Barthelmy
Helen Paul	Ashley Aimable
Jenny Chicot-Louisy	Teisha Joseph
Julian DuBois	Lill Pamphile
Julie Charlery (Public Health Rep)	Chewem Verneuil
Karlis Noel	Alexander Simeon
Laura Jn Pierre	Carina Snagg
Nicholas Henry	Karen Charles
Nazilta Wilson	Wilma John
Prudent Andrew	Valkie Alexander
Anrick Renee	Natalie John
Ivy Remy-St Helen	Michelle Daniel-Sydney
Denis Hunte	LACC Member
Christa St Jour	Laborie Police (Sergeant)
Terrance Charlemagne	Shyan Chiquot
Michelle Charlery	Urban Hutchinson
Michelle Duplessis	Wilna Mondesir

Vieux Fort South District Disaster Management Committee – 2024 Report (Reporting Officer Lindy Eristhee-Smith)

Overview

The focus of the Vieux Fort South District Disaster Management Committee (VFSDDMC), for the period January to December 2024 was the empowerment of its members through training using practical scenarios/experiences for the enhancement of skills, confidence building, creation of awareness and knowledge of different disasters and appropriate response strategies.

The Committee also sought to develop capacity building by utilizing the skills set of its members during the in-house training sessions. This approach was adopted given the addition of new members who had not received training in the field. Some of the areas addressed were:

1. Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA)
2. Hazard Analysis
3. Search and Rescue
4. Basic First Aid Training
5. Telecommunications

(1) DANA

Date: June 11, 2024

Facilitators: Ketura Stanislaus and Mevin Gabriel

This session was conducted by members, Ketura Stanislaus and Mervin Gabriel, who had previously undergone training in the subject. It was done to familiarize new members and serve as a refresher tool for others.

(2) Hazard Analysis

Date: May 25, 2024

Facilitator: Lindy Eristhee-Smith

This session was not conducted as planned but the information was shared via the Committee's WhatsApp chat. Details of the subject matter as well as the steps to be undertaken when conducting a hazard analysis were shared. Persons were asked to try the steps at home, for instance, to see the outcome.

(3) Search and Rescue – Knot Making

Date: April 20, 2024

Facilitator: Wilbert Amsterdam and Frederick Moseley

Key concerns highlighted were to always go on those assignments as a Team. Ensuring all go and return safely was also reiterated to the group. He emphasized the need for one person to be responsible for the communication aspect of the mission. Establishing protocols for communication with the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC),

should be realized early. He also stressed that if someone is not familiar with the search area, then they should use a compass.

He then made a Lensatic Compass available for demonstration to the group and demonstrated how it should be held to get the appropriate reading with the arrow facing north.

Knots taught were:

- Bow Line
- Clove Hitch
- Reef Knot
- Granny Knot
- Fisherman's Knot

Materials were made available where each member was given a length of rope to practice the various knots being demonstrated. This was a fun-filled exercise, as persons learnt much from each other (peer teaching and learning), with the demonstration of the different methods in making those knots. Many took photos or even competed with each other to determine the rate at which that particular knot could be made if the need arose during a Search and Rescue expedition.

(4)Basic First Aid

Date: April 20, 2024

Facilitator: Michael Alphonse

Safety hints upon arrival on a scene were highlighted. Possible causes of sudden unconsciousness were discussed with examples from participants. Some of those being inhalation, heart/cardiac arrest, epilepsy and stroke. He also provided guidance as to how those situations could be addressed prior to the arrival of emergency personnel. Other situations which require medical attention were highlighted like allergies, ingestion of poisonous substance(s) and bug bites.

Despite sharing the above information, emphasis was on dealing with a fracture and application of a triangular splint/ bandage and tourniquet, wound to the head or puncture.

Again, a very interactive session which reinforced the skills of members especially during the dramatization activity.

(5)Telecommunication

Facilitator: Wilbert Amsterdam and Mervin Gabriel

This session saw the use of the hand-held radios by members who practiced the conveying of a message using the alphabet. This exercise has made the use of such devices much easier for members. However, it has been noted that many of the radios need to be maintained and serviced as they are not in good working condition in the absence of a Telecommunications Officer at NEMO.

Training Opportunities

The month of June saw the participation of members in virtual training offered by USAID through IFRC.

The Certificate in the Fundamentals of the Command Post was successfully completed by Neil Archer and Alita Flavien, whilst the Certificate in the Fundamentals of Emergency Operation Centre Management (MACOE), was successfully completed by Lindy Eristhee-Smith.

HURRICANE BERYL

A Pre-Strike Meeting was held with members of the Committee and various stakeholders on June 30, 2024 in the wake of impending Hurricane Beryl. Discussions were held with Mrs. Lorna Ambrose, Shelter Manager, Beanfield Comprehensive Secondary School to ensure the availability of the school during this time. She assured the use of the assigned classes as needed.

Mr. Wayne Cumberbatch, Mayor of the Vieux Fort South Constituency Council and Miss Sherma Glasgow, Social Transformation Officer for Vieux Fort South, were also updated on preparations for the impending weather phenomenon. The police and fire service personnel were also informed of the state of preparedness and did likewise.

Miss Glasgow's discussion focused on a safe space for the homeless of that constituency. A total of eight persons were identified. A shelter was identified with police assistance for security.

VFSDDMC During Hurricane Beryl

- The Vieux Fort South District Disaster Management Committee was activated to assist residents of Vieux Fort South in response to Hurricane Beryl which impacted Saint Lucia, Sunday June 30- July 1, 2024.
- Emergency Shelter activated was the Beanfield Comprehensive Secondary School.
- Preparations were also made for possible activation of the Plain View Combined School and the Victory Pentecostal Church with assigned teams.

Shelterees

- 36 shelterees (20 female and 16 males) were housed at the Beanfield Comprehensive Secondary School during the period under consideration.
- Ages ranged from 10 months to 80 years
- One 80-year-old female who had mobility changes (used a walking stick) and required transportation assistance. She was also diabetic.
- One 47-year-old wheelchair bound male who was diabetic and hypertensive
- One 12-year-old male with an acute heart problem
- One 47-year-old female who was both hypertensive and diabetic
- One 67-year-old female who was hypertensive

Description of Shelterees

Ages (0-5 yrs) – 1 male; 2 females

(6-17 yrs) – 7 males; 5 females

(18-39 yrs) – 3 males; 7 females

(39-80 yrs) – 5 males; 6 females

Initial Damage Assessment

Minor damage was noted in Vieux Fort South. The damage noted was:

- Fallen galvanize sheet fences particularly in the Bruceville area and near the St. Jude Pre-school along New Dock Highway
- Fallen trees and branches
- A completely destroyed wooden house in Bruceville. Owner is a 35 -year -old male Moses Phillip. He currently resides with his mother.
- Fallen cables
- Fallen pole along the Vieux Fort/ Laborie Highway near True Value. It was addressed by the assigned contactor
- Sargassum along the paved road along the Vieux Fort/ Castries Highway. This was cleared by members of the VF South Constituency Council

Response

Some five (5) sheets of galvanize were distributed to two families whose roofs were blown off.

One referral was made for the Red Cross to provide assistance to a male occupant whose home was not impacted by the system but whose situation was dire. He was, however, advised to cut the overhanging branches which had been on the rooftop and affected the integrity of the structure and rooftop.

Conclusion

Despite the deactivation of the Shelter, three (3) of the sheltered agreed to spend the night for fear of the safety of their home after the spells of gusty winds and no electricity.

The security officer on duty was informed. They were assisted the following day by the Committee. The space occupied was cleaned and made ready for use by the school occupants.

Members of the Committee assisted in the cleaning and rearrangement of the five (5) classrooms which were occupied by the shelterees. Toilets and grounds were also cleaned.

Gratitude is extended to **ALL MEMBERS of the VFSDDMC** who volunteered their services selflessly during the passage of Hurricane Beryl.

Installation of Water Tanks

The long overdue installation of water tanks through the Vieux Fort South Constituency Council has finally become a reality. Such an initiative commenced with discussion with former Mayor, Mr. Cyril Saltibus, but had to be delayed due to the unavailability of funds. However, this came to fruition in 2024, when water-tanks were installed in the communities of La Ressource, Dierre Morne, La Tournay and Bruceville. This project, though delayed, ensured the placement of water tanks in secured yet accessible spaces for the distribution of a reliable water source to residents particularly after an event. It has been noted that accessing water is a challenge to residents and such a supply would be an asset to those communities.

Collaboration with Stakeholders

As customary, the Committee attended the Stakeholders Meeting of the District Six Education Office in preparation for the District Six Primary Schools Athletics Sports on March 7, 2024. This was attended by Miss Alita Flavien, who

has represented the Committee at such forums and has undergone training in Mass Crowd Management, First Aid and Search and Rescue. Her contribution and insight in such events assured the safety of students and patrons alike.

Additionally, three members of the Committee assisted at the event held at the Phillip Marcellin Grounds, Vieux Fort, March 20, 2024.

The Committee also assisted with training of fellow members of District Disaster Committees hosted by the Castries East District Disaster Management Committee which coordinated the Initial Damage and Needs Assessment Training. This training was held virtually from September 16-20, 2024, from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm.

Successes

- Committee ensures communication with members through its WhatsApp chat
- Members showed interest in the mandate of the Committee and subject
- Hosting of virtual meetings to facilitate attendance of members
- Members continue to avail themselves when assistance is required

Challenges

- Decline in interest of membership
- Inability of some members to attend training offered due to work schedule or inadequate time when informed
- Concerns expressed about the relocation of the Warehouse as the land on which it is currently housed is owned by Renwick and Company. The Committee has been notified by the Company. NEMO has been informed. Possible suggestions have been shared. Committee awaits the status of negotiations between the two parties.
- Poor and delayed response to requests made for supplies by the Secretariat given the vulnerability of the community to different meteorological phenomena.
- The negative response of employers when volunteers who are members of staff are desirous of assisting in the aftermath of an event.
- Absence of visits by representatives of the Administration of NEMO.

Micoud North District Disaster Management Committee – 2024 Report (Reporting Officer Marcellina Newton)

Preparedness

In preparation for Hurricane Beryl, several meetings were held with key stakeholders, including representatives from the Fire Service, Police, Nursing Department, schools, and churches. These meetings focused on strengthening coordination and planning for potential disaster events.

- The list of vulnerable persons was updated, and home visits were conducted to assess needs.
- Shelter facilities were inspected to ensure they were safe and ready for use.
- A communication and information dissemination plan was developed to ensure timely updates to the public during emergencies.

Public Information and Awareness

- A town hall meeting was held to discuss various aspects of disaster preparedness and management with the wider community.
- A public address (PA) system was used to share important updates, particularly during the Hurricane Beryl preparedness phase.

Emergency Response

- Water tanks were delivered to vulnerable individuals, especially those living in areas without piped water access.

Training

- An Initial Damage Assessment (IDA) training session was planned; however, it was postponed due to the unavailability of the facilitator. The Committee is still awaiting rescheduling of this important session.
- A newly recruited member was given the opportunity to participate in training exercises hosted by NEMO, helping to build internal capacity.

Challenges

- Poor attendance at regular meetings with most members only participating when a storm or hurricane is imminent.
- General lack of preparedness among residents.
- Flooding in Malgretoute during Hurricane Beryl due to the unaddressed desilting of the river mouth.
- Limited financial resources continue to affect the Committee's ability to operate independently and implement planned activities.

Way Forward

- Increase educational outreach to committee members on disaster preparedness and management.
- Conduct school visits to sensitize students on disaster risks and engage them in volunteerism.
- Organize training sessions to build the capacity of Committee members.
- Encourage greater community participation and recruit new members to strengthen the Committee

Micoud South District Disaster Management Committee – 2024 Report

(Reporting Officer Paul Francis)

Executive Members (January–December 2024):

Paul Francis – Chair Person

Ines Joseph – Secretary

Wendy Eristhee – Communications Officer

Peterson Auguste – Assistant Chairperson

Anna Clercent – Treasure

Joseph Annelle – Assistant Treasure

Nadia Baptiste – Assistant Communications Officer

Catherine Maximin – Micoud South Council – Chair

Vern Flavius – Micoud South Council – Secretary

Alyn Roserie – Fire Service – SLFS

Meetings:

Throughout the period under review, the following meetings were held:

- Monthly meetings as a unit
- Individual meetings/discussions by the various officers as per community in relation to:
 - o Disaster Risk Management
 - o Risk Management
 - o Disaster Mitigation
 - o Role and function of the management/D.D.M.C.

Capacity Building:

Attended meeting and workshops held at the Secretariat/NEMO on many occasions. Planned and facilitated by management:

- Disaster Risk Management and Mitigation
- Chainsaw Operation
- Information on the operation/function of the National Disaster Plan

Collaboration:

Collaborated with the Ministry of Health and Wellness on parasite control and management (i.e. the Aegypti mosquito) in the various communities within the Micoud South District. NEMO assisted by providing water to the Ministry of Health and Wellness.

Emphasis was placed on:

- Cleaning/good sanitation of the environment
- Providing the residents with the appropriate knowledge and material (e.g. the tablets) For controlling the incident of water and environmental contamination by reducing the mosquito population

Community Assistance:

Distributed water tanks to the most vulnerable/needed persons within the district:

- Number of tanks distributed: Fifteen (15)
- Tanks capacity: 650 and 1000 gallons

Post Beryl Report:

Submitted to the Secretariat.

Warehouse Retrofitting:

Changed door locks and electrical components with the assistance of the NEMO's Secretariat.

Shelters:

- Assisted the Secretariat in providing and installing identification signs for the district shelters
- The shelters were also visited for approval by the officers from the Ministry of Infrastructure

Underprivileged:

Updated the list of most vulnerable by the D.D.M.C. officers within the district.

Dennerly South District Disaster Management Committee – 2024 Report (Reporting Officer Zenith Edward)

MEMBERS:

Ausbert Regis (Chairperson)
Zenith Edward (Deputy Chairperson)
Gabriella Prospere (Secretary)
Alban Estephan (PRO)
Alleyne Regis
Anjhae Etienne
Shirley Biscette
Dean Biscombe
Dean Cauzabon
Diana William

Janice James-John Baptiste
Justina Wells
Kimani Poleon
Lyndell Velinor
Leola St. Clair
William St. Juste
Stecia Stanislas
Tarrick Wilson
Dolivera George
Tahir Stanio

Overview

The Committee embarked on a few training workshops to help build the capacity of its members. Workshops were conducted virtually in the areas of Initial Damage Assessment, Responsibility of a Disaster Preparedness Volunteer, Needs Assessment and Shelter Management. Each session registered approximately twelve members at a time. There were opportunities given to encourage discussion and questions from members.

Challenges

No public meetings were held, however, there were two siren exercises for the rise in water level. These exercises incorporated the sirens being activated, making the community aware of the sound.

Committee Mobilization

The Committee was mobilized before impending events three times. All members along with the chairperson of the Dennerly South Constituency Council gathered at the Dennerly Fire Station to discuss and strategize for the events.

In an effort to remain aware of the status of the constituency, members were zoned and reports of hazards within the community were circulated within the committee. The Committee then explored ways to address the hazards identified.



ORGANISATIONAL CHALLENGES

Throughout 2024, NEMO Saint Lucia encountered several challenges that impacted the pace and scope of our disaster management efforts. While the organisation remained committed to building national resilience, limited resources, competing priorities, and operational setbacks occasionally hindered progress. Staffing constraints and delays in stakeholder engagement affected the implementation of some planned activities, particularly those requiring cross-sectoral collaboration.

Additionally, the evolving risk landscape, including prolonged drought conditions and increasing public demand for climate adaptation support highlighted the need for greater community outreach and education. Despite these difficulties, NEMO continued to adapt and find ways to fulfill its mandate. Key challenges included:

- Staffing limitations, which affected response times and the ability to execute outreach and training initiatives.
- Delayed procurement and budgetary constraints, slowing down logistics for preparedness activities.
- Limited public engagement in some districts, making it harder to build momentum for the District Disaster Management Committees.
- Competing priorities among partners, leading to postponements in scheduled trainings and drills.
- Insufficient public awareness around newer threats such as drought and climate change impacts, requiring greater emphasis on communication strategies.

Despite these hurdles, the NEMO team remained dedicated to strengthening disaster preparedness and response across the island. Lessons learned in 2024 will help shape a more resilient and efficient approach moving forward.

WAY FORWARD

As we reflect on the challenges of 2024, NEMO remains committed to strengthening its operational capacity, community engagement, and coordination with key stakeholders. Addressing these issues head-on will ensure that Saint Lucia is better equipped to manage and recover from disasters in the years to come. Our way forward includes targeted improvements in staffing, resource mobilization, and public outreach:

- **Strengthening human resource capacity** by advocating for the recruitment of key technical staff and exploring internship or volunteer partnerships to support administrative and field operations.
- **Improving procurement and budgeting processes** by working closely with central agencies to ensure timely access to necessary equipment, supplies, and logistical support.
- **Enhancing district-level engagement** through enhancing District Disaster Management Committees, including targeted training and consistent follow-up with local leaders.
- **Expanding public education efforts** using traditional and digital media to increase awareness of hazards such as drought, climate change, and fire risks.
- **Fostering stronger inter-agency collaboration** by establishing quarterly coordination meetings with partners to align goals and prevent delays in implementation.
- **Monitoring and evaluating programs** more systematically to identify gaps, measure impact, and improve the design of future initiatives.

By taking these strategic steps, NEMO aims to build on its foundation, reduce vulnerabilities, and empower communities across Saint Lucia to be active participants in disaster risk reduction and climate resilience.

CONCLUSION

As we close the chapter on 2024, NEMO Saint Lucia extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who played a role in disaster risk management. From national agencies and local authorities to first responders, volunteers, educators, NGOs, and regional and international partners; your commitment, collaboration, and tireless work have been essential to our progress. We also thank every community member who took part in training, shared information, or helped prepare their households and neighborhoods. You are all part of the national effort.

Looking ahead, NEMO is ready to take on the evolving challenges of disaster preparedness and response with renewed focus and determination. We will continue to strengthen our partnerships, invest in local capacity, and expand public awareness. By improving coordination, building district-level resilience, and using data and innovation to guide our actions, we are laying the groundwork for a safer and more prepared Saint Lucia.

We welcome everyone, current partners and future allies, to join us in this mission. Together, we can reduce risks, protect lives, and ensure that our island remains strong in the face of any hazard.

SAINT LUCIA 2024 DISASTER DIARY

1. June 6 [2004] - 20th Anniversary of the Fire at Conway

2. September 9th [2009] - 15th Anniversary of the Fire at
St.Judes Hospital

3. September 9th [2004] - 20th Anniversary of Hurricane Ivan

4. September 19th [1994] - 30th Anniversary of the Landfall of
Tropical Storm Debby

5. October 1st [1999] - 25th Anniversary of the Black
Mallet/Maynard Hill Landslide

6. November 19th [1999] - 25th Anniversary of the Landfall
of Hurricane Lenny

2024 Atlantic Tropical Cyclone Names

Alberto

Beryl

Chris

Debby

Ernesto

Francine

Gordon

Helene

Isaac

Joyce

Kirk

Leslie

Milton

Nadine

Oscar

Patty

Rafael

Sara

Tony

Valerie

William

APPENDICES

Staff Creole Day Celebration 2024

In 2024, NEMO Saint Lucia joined the island-wide celebrations of Creole Day with a vibrant display of culture right in the office. Staff came dressed in traditional wear, shared local dishes, and decorated the space with Creole-inspired touches. The celebration was a joyful reminder of Saint Lucia's rich heritage and the importance of embracing cultural identity even within the workplace



International Men's Day

Celebration 2024

On November 17th, NEMO celebrated International Men's Day with a small in-office event. The women on staff organized the celebration to honor and appreciate the men on our team. It was a thoughtful gesture that highlighted the importance of mutual respect and recognition in the workplace. The activity served as a meaningful team-building exercise, strengthening camaraderie and fostering a positive and inclusive office environment.



