

## HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS PLAN, CAYO DISTRICT

### Introduction

In the event a hurricane is likely to strike the Belize District, patients from Rockview Hospital will be transferred to San Ignacio Hospital accompanied by staff and supplies. Therefore the District Medical Officer will need to send home patients.

1. General Objective of Plan: The main objective of this plan is to provide general medical care to all persons who require it as a result of a disaster situation taking into account the urban and rural areas of the Cayo District. This plan has to work in harmony with the National Hurricane Preparedness Plan set out by the Ministry of Health of Belize.
2. Committee Members: The Medical Relief Committee of Cayo District is made up of the following:-

District Medical Officer  
Second Medical Officer  
Sister-In-Charge  
Dispenser  
Hospital Clerk  
Public Health Inspector  
Public Health Nurse  
Primary Health Care Coordinator  
District Trainer

### Function of Committee Members

- a. District Medical officer: Chairman, who has the overall responsibility of the affairs of the Medical department in San Ignacio. He is the liaison officer with the San Ignacio Emergency organization. He delegates his authority to the Second Medical Officer and the Sister-in-charge of the hospital to activate emergency plan before, during and after the disaster. He assigns the Medical Officers and other staff to the various emergency centers set up throughout the District. Liaise with Supervisor/Director of Mental Health concerning transfer of patients and staff.
- b. Second Medical Officer: Assists the District Medical officer in implementing this plan and is in the capacity of assuming full responsibility of the implementation of this plan once the authority is delegated to him.
- c. Sister-in-charge: (i) activate emergency plan, before, during and after the disaster. (ii) assigns nurses to the Hurricane Shelters and Hospital. (iii) ensure that food and drugs supplies are available at the Hospital and Emergency Supplies to shelters.

- d. Dispenser: is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that the proper supply of medicines, drugs and emergency materials are stocked up in the Dispensary before a disaster strikes. This Officer is responsible for the proper storage and security of these materials at all times at the Hospital.
- e. Public Health Nurse: has the responsibility of coordinating activities with the Rural Health Nurses and Community Health Workers where these exist, so as to ensure that first aid teams will readily be available in the villages. Moreover the Public Health Nurse has to work in a coordinated effort with the Public Health Inspector in teaching the public how to deal with epidemics especially diarrhoeal diseases due to contaminated water and upper respiratory tract infection due to exposure.
- f. Public Health Inspector: has to coordinate with the Public Health Nurse as described above. The Public Health Inspector has to assist the Police in the identification and disposal of the dead once a disaster has struck.
- g. Hospital Clerk: responsible for distribution of food, to the Hospital; also responsible for providing flashlights batteries, fuel, household supplies, security and custody of files and documents. A proper record of the activities of the Medical relief Committee is desired as much as is humanly possible.
- h. Primary Health Care Coordinator and District Trainer: act as liaison between the Community Health Workers and the Hospital Administration; Coordinate with District Medical Officer, Pharmacist and Public Health Nurses for supply of drugs and medication and first aid kits for the Communities in need and for referrals of patients from the Community Health Workers.

### 3. Emergency Procedure and Activities

- 1. The Health Disaster Committee will assemble at the San Ignacio Hospital and will activate the hospital plan.
- 2. The District Medical Officer or Sister-in-charge will alert all staff and assign their duties.
- 3. Discharge patients who can go home and set aside an area of the Hospital for general out-patient and in patient management.
- 4. Designate an area of the hospital and prepare same to receive patients and staff from Rockview Hospital.

5. Transport medical/nursing personnel and supplies to emergency shelters.
6. Fit windows and doors with shutters.
7. Await for storm to pass.
8. Following the ALL CLEAR
  - Management of injured persons.
  - Re-check emergency shelters.
  - Allocate other staff as necessary.
  - Prevention of epidemics.
  - Identification and burial of the dead.

Village Committees: In coordination with the Primary Health Care Coordinator, Emergency Committees are to be set up in each village properly through these committees. It is important that the village health committee be a part of the emergency committees. Also the emergency Hospitals have been set up in such a way that there is easy access of the villages to these emergency centers.