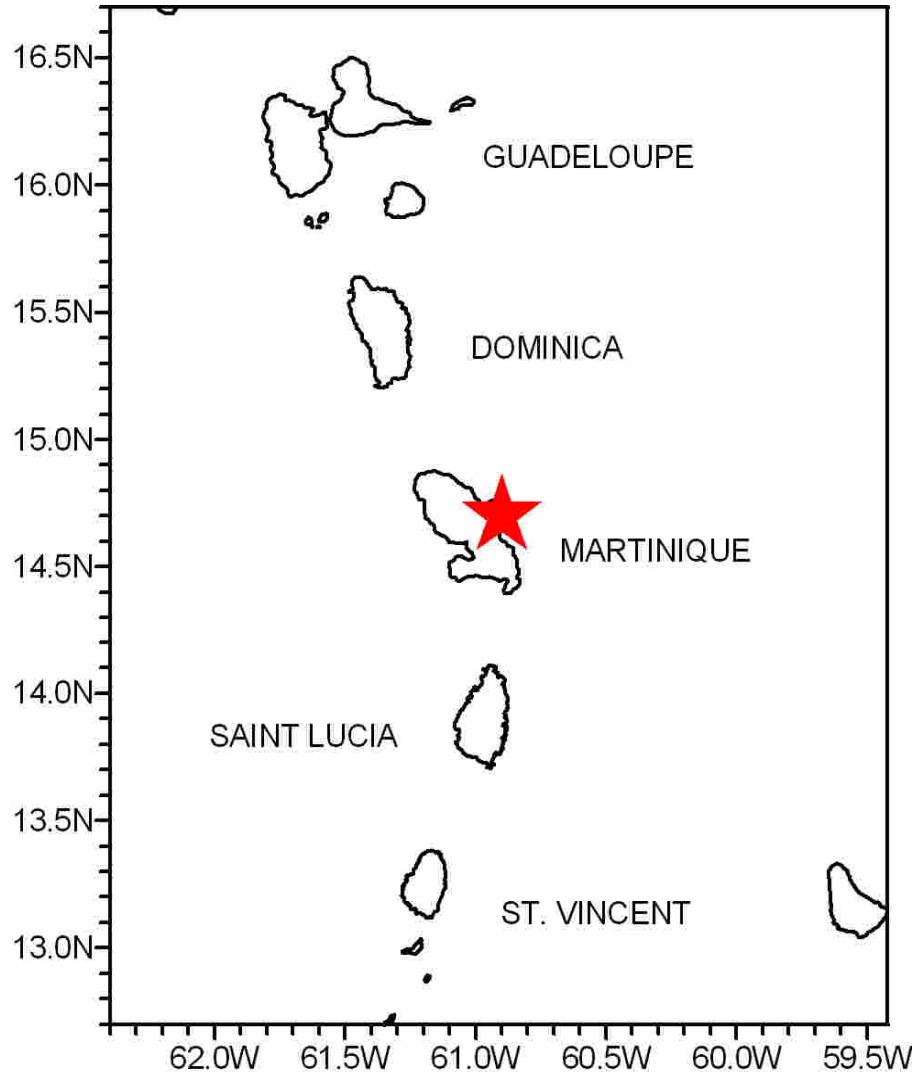


Saint Lucia National Emergency Management Organisation

Annual Report for 2007/2008



EARTHQUAKE EPICENTRE

DEPTH: 121 KM MAGNITUDE: 7.3



*Office of the
National Emergency Management Organisation
Prime Minister's Office*

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NEMO Staff List

	NAME	POST	RESPONSIBILITIES
1.	Dawn French	Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall Management • Coordination • Operations • Finance • Training
2.	Julian Du Bois	Deputy Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Preparedness • Public Education and Information • Training • Establishment of MOUs
3.	Andrew George	Human Resource Development Officer <i>(Seconded from National Printing Corporation)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Continuity of Operations • Development of Back-Up Guidelines for the Government Service
4.	Fay Albert / Ivaline Joseph	Inventory Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Preparedness • Monitoring of Stocks • Training • Establishment of MOUs
5.	Jocelyn Nelson	Secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration • Documentation and Information
6.	Anne Noel / Jennifer Lacarrisse	Cleaner/Office Assistant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning • Collating documents • Delivery of Mail

Part 1
Annual Report of the
Office of the National Emergency
Management Organisation
April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008

INTRODUCTION

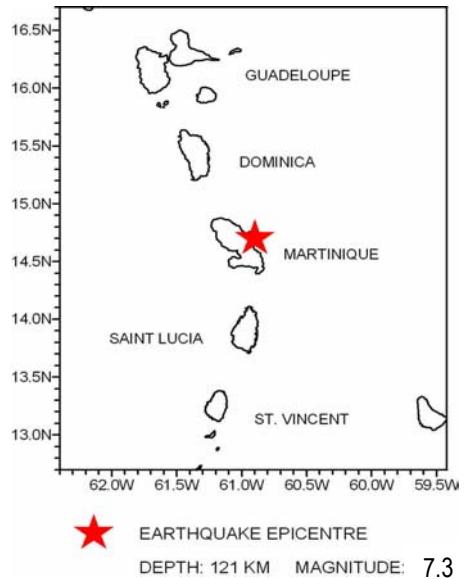
The perception of the public remained firmly fixed on hurricanes until the island was rocked on 29th November, 2007 by a 7.3 Earthquake off Martinique.

The mandate of the NEMO Secretariat requires that the country be prepared for any hazard. Hazard analysis and experience shows that Saint Lucia is vulnerable to:

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

The key responsibilities of the Organisation are:

- Widen the Network of Disaster Management with new partners
- Increase the mitigation activities of the District Committees
- 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 Office of NEMO
- Review Disaster Plans for Saint Lucia
- Assist with Disaster Plans for Government Ministries
- Advise on Disaster Plans for Private Sector
- Research and documentation
- Disaster response and recovery
- Conduct Public Education
- Conduct Volunteer Training
- Conduct Simulation Exercises



The dedicated work over the years on the revision of the Policies, Plans and Protocols that make up the Saint Lucia Emergency Management plan came to fruition as the Government of Saint Lucia on August 2, 2007 approved a number of response plans. These may now be viewed and downloaded from www.stlucia.gov.lc work on the remaining plans continue for areas such as Avian Influenza and the Tourism Multi Hazard Plans.

For the third year the Mass Events Guidelines remains a draft document available at Public Libraries, published in the Gazette and at www.stlucia.gov.lc. Though many planners are contacting the Secretariat in search of guidance on what is required, comments from the public remains limited. A final round of consultations is planned for 2008 with the intention for adoption in 2009.

ADMINISTRATION

As the discipline of disaster management expands and fully embraces the comprehensive disaster management strategy it is becoming increasingly necessary to increase the staffing compliment. In collaboration with the parent ministry of the NEMO Secretariat i.e. the Office of the Prime Minister, it is intended for this Office to be provided in the first instance with a Training Officer, Planning Officer and Safety Officer.

PREPAREDNESS

With the approval of the National Emergency Management Plan, it is now possible to print copies of the plan for distribution. One such plan is the Community Evacuation Plan – approved by the Cabinet of Ministers it can now be used by every community on the island.

The NEMO Secretariat was represented on planning teams such as the State Funeral of Sir John Compton, the Atlantic Rally for Cruisers and Assou Square all of which required Community Evacuation Plans.

The Aviation Security Program neared completion. The annual simulation exercise with the Saint Lucia Air and Seaports authority took place at the George Charles Airport.

Saint Lucia continues to benefit from a number of projects:

1. **Schools Safety Program** – The School Safety Programme looks at formulation of strategies for addressing school safety. The focus is on broad community participation and involvement in school safety planning, building model plans and dissemination / replication of best practices. The organizational set up at the district and school building levels is adapted as an approach towards implementation of the programme. The District Wide Plan setting out the guidelines for the School Building Level Emergency Response Plan will be drawn up by the School Safety Advisory Committee which also comprises the School Safety Team. The Committee will look into the overall implementation process and ensure sustainability of the programme, assist the school in process formulation of safety planning and establishing linkages with various departments.
2. **Risk Management Benchmarking Tool [BTool]** -- The goal of developing a regional BTool is to improve the ability of national governments, civil society organizations, and the private sector to proactively plan and implement effective and efficient actions that would reduce their vulnerability to natural disasters and create greater economic resilience when they do occur.
3. **Special Program on Adaptation to Climate Change [SPACC]** -- Saint Lucia is one of three Caribbean countries participating in the GEF-World Bank SPACC. The project proposes a merging of the SPACC and World Bank EOC Projects. The SPACC Project will provide an opportunity to introduce the climate change element [including hurricane resistance] to allow for the retrofitting of a key building.
4. **The Caribbean Risk Management Initiative (CRMI)** – The CRMI was launched by the UNDP's Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) and Regional Bureau for

Latin America and the Caribbean (RBLAC) in 2004 as an umbrella programme designed to build capacity across the Caribbean region for the management of climate-related risk. The CRMI is led by the Cuba and Barbados/OECS UNDP Country Offices, in close collaboration with partners and other UNDP Country Offices in the region.

As part of the UNDP strategy for knowledge management, the CRMI provides a platform for coordinating and sharing knowledge and experiences on risk management throughout the Caribbean, across language groups and cultures. Our premise is that the most sustainable way forward involves finding and sharing the lessons learned here in the region.

5. **Caribbean Disaster Management Project [CADM] Phase 2** – The overall goal of this project is to mitigate damages in CDERA member states particularly for the flood hazard. The emphasis on this hazard is in keeping with the findings of the Status of Disaster Preparedness in CDERA Participating States conducted in May 2001 which identified floods as the most common event - occurring in 90 % of CDERA Participating States in the last five years, however in contrast only 25% of these countries have any plans in place to guide disaster management activities for this hazard.
6. **Capacity Building for Programming in Comprehensive Disaster Management Project (CAP)** -- The focus of CAP will be on meeting articulated country needs for technical assistance through horizontal corporation under a Technical Assistance Protocol (TASP); walking countries through the design, development and implementation of a CDM programme using a Result-Based Management (RBM) approach, enhancing country capacity for project development and reporting and the development of databases of information on country capacity and needs.
7. **Earthquake Readiness Capacity Building** -- The project will complement ongoing or planned disaster loss reduction capacity building among CDERA Participating States. It will facilitate national programming that seeks to harness interventions and promote collaboration amongst partners for enhanced earthquake contingency planning.
8. **Multi-Hazard Plan for Tourism in the Caribbean Project** -- This Multi-Hazard Plan was designed for use by a variety of tourism establishments to include hotels and resorts; restaurants; small craft markets (roaming and fixed); and businesses near airports and seaports. The Plan has integrated the proposed Model Institutional Framework for Disaster Management for the Tourism Sector in Caribbean Countries (Revised November 2006) developed by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA). The pilot activity in Saint Lucia served to present the manual to tourism sector and test the various components of the plan particularly the proposed institutional framework for disaster management for tourism, through a variety of table- top exercises and related activities.
9. **Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction** -- The Global Platform is the main consultative forum on disaster risk reduction at the global level. It brings together a wide range of actors in the various sectors of development and humanitarian work, and in the

environmental and scientific fields related to disaster risk reduction. It aims at expanding the political space dedicated by governments to disaster risk reduction, in all sectors, and contributes to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals particularly in respect of poverty reduction and environmental sustainability. The Platform, as a global forum, will advocate for effective and timely action by nations, communities and all stakeholders and partners to mitigate risk, manage vulnerabilities and reduce disaster.

10. **Mixed Migratory Flows in the Caribbean** -- Within this complex mix of flows are certain categories of persons who have moved involuntarily – asylum seekers, refugees and victims of human trafficking – whose protection needs distinguish them from migrants and therefore require that states establish adequate institutional safeguards.
11. **DipECHO IV** -- The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), with support from the European Commission Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), as part of its commitment to Safe Hospitals is involved in a project to '*Strengthening communities through Safer Health Facilities in the Caribbean.*' This initiative started on the 1 November 2007 and will continue until December 2008. Though not a target country, Saint Lucia shall provide technical support to the fellow islands that are taking part.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

The Annual Report shall continue to be distributed to a list of over 200 persons and agencies, including public libraries. It was also available via the Internet.

Disaster information remains hosted at www.geocities.com/slunemo while the website continues to be maintained in an ad hoc fashion.

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

Press Releases by Month and Year

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
2008	4	7	22									
2007	13	11	11	13	15	14	7	20	6	3	4	18
2006	1	2	6	3	6	4	3	2	1	2	9	5
2005	14	17	8	8	3	11	18	15	4	18	11	2
2004	5	19	9	8	10	19	9	17	13	8	8	14
2003	5	6	15	12	9	21	23	19	12	10	10	3
2002										2	15	18

Source: NEMO News Archives as of March 21, 2008

Both the National Office and District Committee continued with traditional methods of sharing with Appearances on TV and Radio as well as Town Hall Meetings. Though increasingly persons do consider the information imparted, unfortunately many do not and only focus when an event occurs.

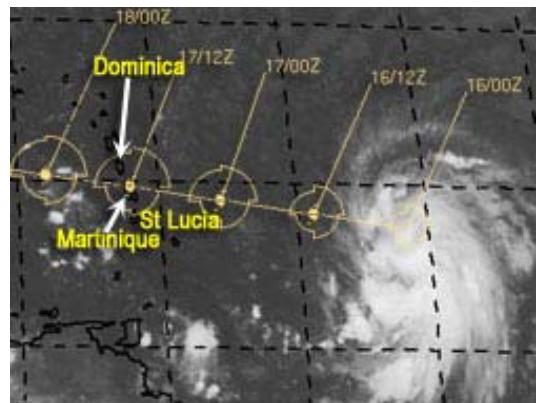
RESPONSES

The National Emergency Management Organisation was involved in the following:

1. Hurricane Dean of 17th August 2007

Hurricane Dean passed between Saint Lucia and Martinique on the night of Friday, 17th August and the early morning of 18th August 2007.

The “all clear” was issued by Saint Lucia’s Meteorological services at 4:00 pm on 18th August, 2007. Generally most of the damage was caused by the winds and the rough seas. However there were several areas where damage was as a result of flooding.



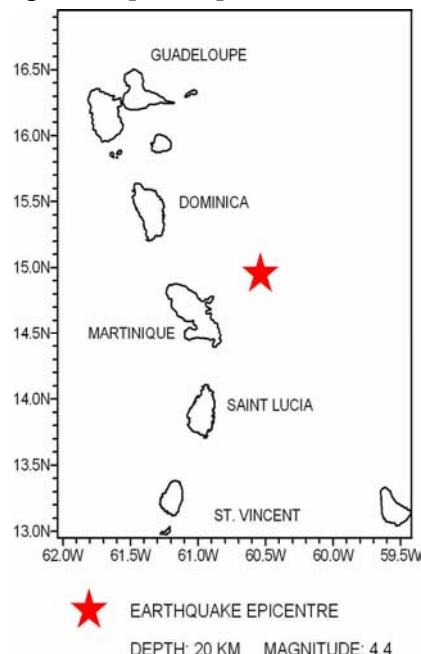
2. The State Funeral of Sir John Compton on 18th September, 2007

On November 23, 2006 the NEMO Secretariat signed a Memorandum of Understanding [MOU] with the Saint Lucia Fire Service on Mass Causality Management [MCM], which allows of trained volunteers to be under the command and control of the Fire Service On Scene Commander. The MOU was activated for the funeral arrangements as volunteers reported to the Micoud and Castries Fire Stations for deployment alongside Fire Officers.

The Community Evacuation Plan was also completed and published for Micoud Village and Castries City.

3. Earthquakes

- 4.9 on 13th September 2007
- 7.3 on 29th November 2007
- 4.3 on 5th December, 2007
- 4.4 on 2nd February, 2008
- 4.6 on 6th February, 2008
- 3.2 on 9th March 2008
- 4.1 on 26th March 2008



The 7.3 magnitude earthquake on 29th November produced panic across the island and though there was no need to activate the National Response Mechanism the NEMO Secretariat’s role in educational emphasis on an all hazards approach was dramatically highlighted by the earthquakes.

4. Royal Visit by the Prince of Wales

Though not involved in the planning of the visit by the Prince, the NEMO Secretariat provided advice and support to the Soufriere Disaster Committee which had been engaged by the Local Planning Team.

The opportunity was taken to complete, publish and circulate Community Evacuation Plan for Soufriere Town.

5. Oil Spill - Castries

Thursday February 21, 2008 required a response from NEMO HQ from the Bank of Saint Lucia to an Oil Spill at the Corner of Mongiraud and Jeremie Streets. The site was once a petrol station and new construction discovered and ruptured old petrol tanks that still contained fuel. The Oil Spill Committee was activated.

6. Easter Swells

NEMO alerted the Country and a pre strike meeting was convened when the Saint Lucia Met Service forecasted a deep low pressure system centered over the North Atlantic would generate large northerly swells ranging from 7 to 18 feet and were expected to affect the coast of Saint Lucia.

CONCLUSION

One of the greatest challenges to disaster management is Saint Lucia is the continued perception that preparing for a disaster is the role of the Government in particular that of the Secretariat of NEMO. Undoubtedly there is a specific role for the Government and all her agencies to have protocols in place to ensure the survival of the country after a disaster. It is in this same vein that persons and companies realize that they too must endeavour to partner with government to ensure the safety of all.

Model plans available from the NEMO Secretariat for families, communities and corporate entities. In the meantime the government continues its campaign of preparedness. On the agenda for 2008 are:

1. Disaster information remains hosted on the free geocities service as plans remain in place to have information transferred to and hosted at NEMO.GOV.LC
2. It continues to be a goal and a requirement of the Disaster Management Act No. 30 of 2006 for the annual report to be published in the Saint Lucia Gazette
3. To have the Disaster Management Act No. 30 of 2006 assented to, in the meantime the Disaster Preparedness and Response Act No. 13 of 2000 remains in effect.
4. For Saint Lucia to nominate its National Focal Points for:
 - a. Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
 - b. National Benchmarking Tool

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A. L. DAWN FRENCH

Director – NEMO

Part 2

Reports of the Members of NEMO



2004 NEMAC Meeting

NATIONAL COMMITTEES

SAINT LUCIA METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES

REPORT ON DISASTER ACTIVITIES FOR PERIOD APRIL 2007 TO MARCH 2008

March 2007 - Saint Meteorological Hurricane Emergency Procedures updated.

May 2007 – Two Technical Meetings were convened for Meteorologists and Forecasters at the Hewanorra Met Office on 10 May and 29 May. Meeting chaired by DMS.

June 2007 – Met Services delivered Met Report at first NEMAC meeting on 25 June.

July 2007 – Technical Meeting convened for staff at the Met Office, GFL Charles airport. Meeting chaired by DMS.

August 2007:

Met Services actions during approach and passage of Hurricane Dean

Normal tracking and reporting of the progress of Dean in public weather bulletins continued throughout its tropical wave and Tropical Depression phase. A press release was issued by the Met Office at the Hewanorra Airport at 11:00 a.m. 15 August when Dean became a Tropical Storm, 1000 miles east of the Windward Islands.

- 15 August, 11:00 p.m.: First advisory issued by Met Office, Hewanorra Airport. Island placed under hurricane watch.
- 16 August, 5:00 a.m.: Hurricane warning issued for Saint Lucia. Small craft asked to remain in port and residents advised to safeguard life and property in preparation for impact. All relevant parties duly informed in accordance with Hurricane Emergency Procedures.
- 16 August, 1:30 p.m.: NEMAC pre-strike meeting convened in Cabinet room. DMS briefs gathering on approaching system and expected impact. Based on projections decision taken on closure of businesses by 6:00 p.m. 16 August and for total shutdown of normal activities on 17 August.
- 16 August, 4:00 p.m.: Emergency roster implemented for Met Offices at GFL Charles and Hewanorra airports. Government 4WD pick-up trucks delivered to Met Offices on request of DMS.
- 17 August, 11:00 a.m.: Hurricane warning for Saint Lucia downgraded to Tropical Storm Warning.
- 17 August, 4:00 p.m.: All clear issued for Saint Lucia.

Emergency Weather Information Network (EMWIN) system was installed at the GFL Charles airport during hurricane season.

A number of flood watches and warnings were issued between June and December.

Hurricane Emergency Procedures will be updated during March 2008.

*Thomas Auguste
Director of Met Services
07 February 2008.*

DISTRICT COMMITTEES

CASTRIES SOUTH EAST DISASTER PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2007

In September 2007 the Castries South East Disaster Preparedness Committee was successful in executing its long outstanding Symposium.

Fifty (50) Community Leaders gathered from the communities of Belair, Coolie Town, Barre Denis, Odsan, Cul de Sac, Marc, Bexon, L'Abayee, Ravine Poisson, Sarrot, Forestiere, Guesneau, Ti Rocher, Four Roads, and Dierre Morne/Capital Hill to hold discussion on Disaster Preparedness and the rejuvenation of the Committee.

At this Symposium volunteers formed its Core Committee, Sub-Committees and its core of Community Representatives.

This one-day session included presentations by the Deputy Director of NEMO Mr. Julian Dubois, the Community Development Officer Martha Blanchard, representatives from St. Lucia Electricity Services and Water & Sewage Company.

Volunteers were also apprised on developments following Hurricane Dean, which included pre and post strike meetings, damage assessment and outreach following the event. Community leaders were active during Dean in identifying storm victims and assisting in recovery efforts.

While there were no significant reports of damage following the Earthquake, which rocked the island later on in the year, the Bexon Primary School did experience some minor infrastructural damage.

Twelve (12) Volunteers from various communities were trained in First Aid and CPR and will be included in the core of trained volunteers in Disaster Management.

Having expressed commitment to Disaster Preparedness and Management at its Symposium, Committee members have now planned their follow up activity, which will be a Handing Over form the Old Executive to the New Executive and its Sub-Committees. This process will include handing over of files and the Warehouse, an inventory of Supplies, Committee Structuring, Programme Planning and Training of Volunteers.

Castries South East Disaster Preparedness Committee takes this opportunity to thank its outgoing Committee for all its efforts over the past seven years.

The Committee also wishes to thank the St. Lucia Red Cross for its outstanding efforts in providing assistance to persons whose homes were affected by Hurricane Dean in 2007.

February 1, 2008

**CANARIES EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2007**

In spite of the threats of the name hurricane, we were blessed by Mother Nature and the most high.

The Canaries Disaster Emergency Committee held meetings with its members. I must note that not all was well attended. We also held many executive meeting. It was a challenge to bring members under one roof to discuss important issues.

We attended workshops organized by NEMO and other agencies during the period. The committee held a few meeting with organizations in the Canaries basin to discuss the way forward for the committee and to keep members informed.

Committee members had the privilege to pass thought the community to look at some of the trees and drains that may be hazards to people and properties. The community was well please with this move.

At a recent executive meeting of the Committee several recommendations was made for 2008.

1. Membership drive
2. Restructure of the various committees
3. To organized a simulation activity for the community.
4. To organize more training within the community.
5. To invite more Government officers to our meeting.
6. To get the community to be involved in the formation of a disaster plan for the community.
7. To work closer with the District Representative.
8. Fund raising.

PLANS FOR 2008:

MARCH

Executive meeting
Meeting with fire department
General meeting
Community visit for inspection purposes

APRIL

Visit shelters
General meeting
Formation of auxiliary fire branch

MAY

Meeting with police and nurse
Executive meeting
Meeting with shelter managers
Meeting with CDO and district
Representative

JUNE

General meeting
Fundraising
Training in telecommunication

JULY

General meeting

AUGUST

Executive meeting
Fundraising

SEPTEMBER

General meeting

OCTOBER

Executive meeting

NOVEMBER

General meeting with district
Representative, Village Council, community
groups and CDO's

DECEMBER

Social activity

The Canaries Emergency Committee would like to work much closer with NEMO, the District Representative, all CDO's and other Agencies that are involved in disaster mitigation for the betterment of all Canarians and visitors.

Prepared by:

Gregory Deterville – Chairman

February 11, 2008

Central Castries
Disaster Preparedness Committee
Annual Report 2007 / 2008

Activities for 2007

During the period under review the committee undertook the following activities:

- The committee participated in responses to floods in Central Castries
- Participated in hurricane Dean and Tropical Storm responses
- Committee meetings held every two weeks
- Attended to persons affected by major earthquake
- Members participated in training organized by NEMO
- Attended workshops in collaboration with St. Lucia Red Cross and NEMO
- Central Castries has teamed up with in-operational committees in Castries North and Castries East
- Participated in responses to fires in the city
- Introduction of Executive members to the Mayor and Parliamentary Representative
- Distribution of evacuation plan with relevance to the funeral service of Sir John Compton
- Held workshop with St Lucia Red Cross for teachers based in schools in Central Castries
- Site search for construction of a satellite warehouse for the committee

Plans for 2008

- Collaborate with the Ministry of Communication, Works, Transport and Public Utilities on flood mitigation project in Castries
- Committee meetings to be held
 - one general meeting per month
 - one executive meeting per month
- Meet with committee groups (Re: disaster management)
- Membership mobilization drive, every month
- Workshop to develop committee disaster plan
- Pre-hurricane season mobilization
- Setting up sub-committees

- Collaborate with Ministry of Physical Development, Environmental and Housing (Re: unplanned development in Central Castries)
- Meeting with stakeholders in Central Castries such as Solid Waste Management, Castries City Council, Business Houses, Schools for talks on proper garbage disposal
- Alleviating the problems of homelessness and the increase of vagrants in Central Castries
- Ensure that stacks of tools, equipment, etc. that are necessary during an emergency are in order and easily accessible to members
- Ensure that all two –way radios are in working order
- All hurricane disaster plan team members are checked to ensure accessibility of every one
- Transportation – vehicles are kept filled with fuel. Ensure that a list of standby vehicles along with contact number, home address and proper directions are available
- Ensure that the entire disaster team is on alert
- Meeting with shelter managers, to ensure that all shelters are safe for use

*Davis Paul
Chairperson
Central Castries Disaster Preparedness Committee I
February 20, 2008*

Annual Report 2007/2008
Castries South Disaster Preparedness Committee

ACTIVITIES OF 2007/2008

Revitalization

- Revamping of the Core Committee. There seem to be a general lack of interest.
- Revamping of Ciceron Sub-committee continued
- Developed Disaster Preparedness Improvement Plan
- Developed draft Community Emergency Plans for all communities except Goodlands

Training

- Ciceron - Organizational Development with focus on Team Building

Satellite Warehouse

- Construction completed
- Awaiting official handing over

Equipment and Supplies

- Five kerosene lamps
- Five Radios

PLANS FOR 2008

Institutional Strengthening

- Follow Disaster Preparedness Improvement plan
- Revamp and Strengthen Core and Sub-committees
- Establish new Community sub-committees

Training

- Community Disaster Management Planning
- First Aid/CPR
- Hazard Identification and Mitigation
- Organizational Strengthening

Satellite Warehouse

- Equip Warehouse

*MARGARET LUBRIN AOKI
Community Development Officer
February 21, 2008*

LIAISON OFFICERS

Ministry of Education and Culture Annual Report - 2007-2008

Introduction

The Ministry of Education and Culture is cognizant of its pivotal role in ensuring that all personnel within the entire sector are adequately equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary for preparing and managing their schools in the event of an emergency. The events of August 16, Hurricane Dean, and in particular the earthquake of November 29, 2007, will remain indelible in our minds as a constant reminder that events of this nature are imminent and engaging in emergency/disaster preparedness activities must be a regular practice within the entire education sector.

Through the continued efforts of NEMO, Education officers, principals and teachers have engaged schools in preparing individual emergency school and districts plans. To date, a number of schools have submitted those plans which NEMO is currently reviewing for feedback and finalization.

Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)

The Ministry of Education in collaboration with NEMO has done substantial work on its Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) and work on this document is in progress. Further, the Ministry of Education is now in the process of realigning its priorities to reflect new developments and global trends. In that respect, there is need to refocus the COOP to reflect this new thrust. The addition of the Department of Culture under the Ministry's portfolio requires some level of synergy between emergency management plans between the Ministry of Education and the Department of Culture. In that regard, the development of Emergency Management plans for mass crowd events is an area that the Department of Culture needs to give some consideration

NEMO continues to provide assistance through their presence at mass crowds events organized by the Ministry of Education and Culture. Those include Assou Square, Independence activities and Carnival activities.

Assessment of Damage (Hurricane Dean, Earthquake)

The after shock of Hurricane Dean contributed to structural damage to most schools on the island with the damage being substantial in some cases; for instance at a number of schools, roofs were seriously damaged or uprooted. Those schools included St. Mary's College, Forestiere Combined, Special Education Centre, Clendon Mason Memorial Secondary school, Bouton Combined School and Gros Islet Infant. In other instances, the chain link fence surrounding some schools collapsed. In an attempt at ensuring continuity of operations at those schools the Ministry has undertaken temporary measures until full rehabilitation can be installed.

The earthquake of November 29, 2007 has left an indelible mark on our minds. As a result of the earthquake and the subsequent aftershocks, the Ministry of Education conducted an in house site inspection; to be followed with a thorough inspection by consultants in the near future. The inspection revealed minor damage to some schools. The damage included, cracks to: walls, joints between buildings, underside of beams and corners of flooring. However, in the case of St. Joseph's Convent there was extensive damage to an entire block housing approximately 256 students. Consequently, the building was evacuated and temporary arrangements are now in place to accommodate students in an effort to continue the school's programme. Plans are afoot to demolish and reconstruct a building block to return to normalcy.

The damage observed at our two newest secondary schools (Gros Islet and Marigot Secondary) are considered superficial and not of a structural nature. Consequently, unlike St. Joseph's Convent the structural integrity of all the buildings at those schools has not been compromised by the earthquake.

Emergency Shelters

The Ministry of Education in collaboration with NEMO and the Ministry of Finance continue to undertake repair works on schools used as emergency shelters. Under the OECS Emergency Management Second Disaster Project complete retrofitting was done to Laborie Boys' School. The main objective of this activity was to reduce the vulnerability of the shelter and make the building more habitable as an emergency shelter. Some work was also done on the Mon Repos Primary school to allow for more secure premises.

Under this project, emergency supplies for those shelters will be procured. In consultation with NEMO the Ministry of Education has submitted for procurement a list of emergency supplies to the Project Management Unit of the Ministry of Finance. There is ongoing discussion regarding the housing and security of those supplies at emergency shelters.

Plans for 2008

The Ministry of Education and Culture has planned the following as its focus in 2008

1. Develop a collaborative evacuation plan in the event of an emergency at the building in consultation with other tenants of the Sir Francis Compton Building.
2. Assess the status of Emergency Management plans in all schools.
3. Facilitate the organisation of drills for schools whose plans have been reviewed by NEMO and finalised.
4. Review and finalise the Ministry of Education's COOP in consultation with NEMO,
5. Invite the fire service to assist in checking and assessing the status and usability of fire extinguishers at all schools/centres.
6. Conduct an assessment of the structural integrity of school buildings.

School Safety Programme

The Ministry of Education is currently in dialogue with NEMO in organising a School Safety Programme for all schools on the island. The programme will focus on assisting schools in formulating strategies for addressing school safety and will involve broad community participation in school safety planning. In the initial pilot phase training of school and ministry personnel will be provided. This phase of the programme will be funded by the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA).

*Liaison Officer
Ann Jean Baptiste
February 18, 2008*

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES**National Emergency Management Organization
REPORT FOR 2008/ 2009**

The year April 2007 to March 2008 the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries was able to ensure that most of the requirements for the safety of its workers and property during the hurricane season and in the event of a disaster had been put in place.

During the Hurricane season every officer did exactly what was necessary to secure their work area including responding to natural disasters.. In the month of August hurricane Dean damaged our food crops but damage to building and property was minimal.

On November 29, 2007 an earthquake of 7.5 magnitude shook St.Lucia and other Caribbean islands. This left the members of staff in a state of panic. A few tremors' have been felt since then and every time staff from the 4th and 5th floors of the Sir Stanislaus building are in a panic and have evacuated.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in its agenda for 2008/2009 is seeking the following:

1. A fire drill for the department along with the other agencies presently housed in the building (Sir Stanislaus James Building)
2. Ensure that all fire escapes are properly labeled "Emergency Exit" (communication with N.I.P.R.O. has taken place but the delay is still on N.I. P. R. O's part).
3. Radio communication devices have been allocated and maintained. Annual testing is being carried out in preparation for the hurricane season. Further development of the radio system is required and will be undertaken in the new financial year (2008/2009)
4. Continue the Disaster plans for all the Ministry's out offices
5. Ensure that Continuity of Operations plan for whole office is completed
6. Finalise the Emergency Action Plan for crops, pest and animal diseases .January 11- 18, 2008 personnel of the Ministry participated in a workshop on the Black Sigatoga in plantains and bananas . There was also a simulation exercise for Avian Influenza (bird flu) held in St. Lucia in August 2007.The livestock professionals of the Ministry and poultry farmers participated in the regional simulation exercise.

The opportunity is taken to thank N.E.M.O. for the assistance that it has given during the reporting period.

.....
Anthony Thomas

Liaison Officer

February 18, 2008

Part 3

Work program

Ministry of: Office of the Prime Minister

Strategic Plan of Fiscal Year: 2008

Objectives [5 year period]	Strategies	Targets Fiscal Year 2008/2009]	Indicators	CDM** Intermediate Results
1. Increase the staffing compliment of the NEMO Secretariat. [See attached]	<p>1. Consultation with the Permanent Secretary on two staffing reports prepared by CDERA and the World Bank.</p> <p>2. Creation of the posts of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuity of Operations Officer • Training Officer • Geographic Information System [GIS] Officer • Media Officer • IT Officer • Mass Events Safety Officer • Admin Officer 	<p>1. Submission to the Permanent Secretary, report on the revised staffing compliment.</p> <p>2. The reports and recommended posts accepted by the Permanent Secretary in the first quarter.</p> <p>3. New posts created:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second Quarter – Continuity of Operations and Training Officers • Third Quarter – Media, GIS and IT Officers • Fourth Quarter – Admin Officer • Mass Events Safety Officer 	<p>1. All Posts created.</p> <p>2. 2008/2009 reflects the new budget heads</p>	Administration and Capacity Building
2. Implementation of Safety Protocols for Mass Crowd Events.	1. Sector consultations on the Safety Protocols for Mass Crowd Events.	1. Final Safety Protocols submitted to the National Emergency Management Advisory Committee	<p>1. Safety Protocols approved by NEMAC.</p> <p>2. Safety Protocols</p>	Preparedness and Response

	<p>2. Supporting Mass Crowd Events legislation drafted by AG Chambers.</p> <p>3. Creation of post of Mass Event Safety Officer to be imbedded at NEMO.</p>	<p>[NEMAC] for review.</p> <p>2. Third Quarter - Supporting Mass Crowd Events legislation drafted.</p> <p>3. Fourth Quarter - Post of Mass Event Safety Officer created.</p>	<p>approved by Cabinet.</p> <p>3. Post of Mass Event Safety Officer created and officer hired.</p> <p>4. Mass Crowd Events legislation passed and promulgated.</p>	
3. Review of the National Emergency Management Response Plan as required by Law.	Sector consultations on for approval of the plans.	<p>1. Every Quarter - Plans reviewed and approved by the National Emergency Management Committee [NEMAC]</p> <p>2. Third Quarter - Preparation of Cabinet Memo for the approval of the Plans.</p> <p>3. Fourth Quarter – Submission of Plans to Cabinet</p>	<p>1. Plans approved by NEMAC</p> <p>2. Plans approved by Cabinet.</p> <p>3. Plans published: Hard Copy and eCopy.</p>	Information and Education
4. Creation of Evacuation Plans for every Community on the island.	<p>1. Community consultations to complete Plan.</p> <p>2. Obtain maps of the respective communities, in an electronic format</p>	<p>1. Every Quarter – Three Community Evacuation Plans completed.</p> <p>2. Every Quarter – Three Community Evacuation Plans published: Hard Copy and eCopy.</p>	<p>1. Every Quarter – Three Community Evacuation Plans printed.</p>	Information and Education

5. Quin-Annual review of the National Risk Register and the Benchmarking Tool.	Series of Consultations for review and amendment of the National Risk Register and the Benchmarking Tool.	Creation of Review Team by Chair National Hazard Mitigation Council [NHMC]	1. Documents approved by [NHMC] 2. Documents published [hard copy and electronically]	Mitigation and Research
6. Establishment of Disaster Management budget within each Ministry.	1. Creation of a recurrent budget head entitled “Disaster Management” 2. Disaster Management to be added to the Subject Object Codes/Detailed Object Codes [SOC/DOC]	1. Budget submissions reflect Disaster Management in areas such as <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continuity of Government planning• training,• provision of education material• acquisition of equipment,	1. 2008/2009 reflects the new budget heads 2. Heightened level of preparedness throughout the Public Service. 3. A shorter recuperation time after a disaster. 4. All Government projects reflect mitigation components.	Administration and Capacity Building

Part 4

Special Reports

TALKING POINTS

OPENING OF THE TOURISM MULTIHAZARD WORKSHOP COCO PALM HOTEL MAY 16, 2007

The Multi-Hazard Plan was developed in cooperation with tourism stakeholders throughout the Caribbean including the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), *the Caribbean Hotel Association (CHA) and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency.* The initiative to develop the Multi-Hazard Plan was supported by OAS Division of Trade Tourism and Competitiveness (DTTC), with funding from the U.S. State Department to assist the tourism sector to prepare for, respond to, and recover from critical events such as terrorist events and hurricanes.

One major goal of the project was to provide a planning tool which covered preparedness, response and recovery guidance for these events. The focus of the multi-hazard plan is on significant events, such as terrorism and hurricanes that could severely impact the Caribbean tourism sector's physical infrastructure, employees, customers, and business resiliency.

The importance of protecting the national and natural assets of small states in our hemisphere cannot be overstated in the thrust to reduce poverty and maintain the stability of their economies. Small states are known to be susceptible to natural disasters, to have excessive dependence on international trade and are increasingly vulnerable to global developmental trends. Likewise they are known to suffer from many exogenous factors, including lack of economies of scale and the high costs of maintaining public administration and infra-structure. For many of these small states, particularly in the Caribbean, tourism has become increasingly important as a solid revenue generator, therefore it plays a critical role in their overall economic development.

According to the World Tourism Organization “unless travelers feel a certain degree of security in making a trip, they will not embark on a journey” Simply put, travelers no longer fear safety and security but in fact demand it. It is therefore imperative that small states embrace the realities of today’s world and implement fundamental changes within their systems to engage in actions at every level our systems to plan for, respond to and recover from any event, whether natural or man-made, which threaten security or negatively impact their economic well-being.

The recent work of the organization on tourism in small states, particularly the Caribbean has been geared towards implementing standards and operating practices which can protect the vulnerable tourism industry from influences within and our outside the countries. Such work includes a partnership with the American Hotel and Lodging Association- Educational Institute to provide extensive training for hotel security personnel, tourism police, customs and immigration, the development of a plan to prepare for and respond to a natural and man-made disaster on tourism infra-structure

This Multi-Hazard Plan has therefore been designed for use by a variety of tourism establishments to include hotels and resorts; restaurants; small craft markets (roaming and fixed); and businesses near airports and seaports.

The Plan has integrated the proposed Model Institutional Framework for Disaster Management for the Tourism Sector in Caribbean Countries (Revised November 2006) developed by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA).

The pilot activity in Saint Lucia would serve to present the manual to tourism sector and test the various components of the plan particularly the proposed institutional framework for disaster management for tourism, through a variety of table- top exercises and related activities.

**Cold Water
Address by
A. L. Dawn French - Director NEMO
at
Opening Ceremony for MoH/MAFF Bird Flu Simulation Exercise
September 5, 2007**

Salutations

Ladies and Gentlemen – Let me take this opportunity to welcome the visitors, friends and colleagues who have come here today to assist Saint Lucia with its preparations for the modern version of the “plague”.

Let me start with my first quote:

“The killer pandemic flu kills in twenty four weeks more than the HIV/AIDS virus can claim in twenty four years.” Michael Leavitt - US Secretary of Health

As a people we have a tendency to say it won’t happen to me. You know – God is a West Indian. So let’s burst that bubble now. The Centre for Disease Control have developed a computer model call WorkFluLoss – available online if you Google it – we ran the model for Saint Lucia using a population base of 161,000, the model gave us 40,250 sick, 704 needing hospitalisation and 493 dead – in eight weeks.

In the two years I have been surrounded by the experts I have come to fear not only for myself; but also for this world that we live in. The infected, sick and dying will be us, it will be the whole world and there will be no Donor Agencies to come to our assistance. We will indeed be an island.

Therefore redundancies are needed in the places where we work – there are three of us here from the NEMO Secretariat. We have tried over the years with limited success to have the Public and Private enterprise to have contingency plans. Now with the threat of the Avian Influenza, planning is even more vital.

This brings me to my second quote.

“Who’s going to run the utility plants? Who’s going to haul your garbage? Who’s going to bury the dead? In 1969 – the last pandemic we had, which was a mild one, the average time for a casket being made till it was in the ground was six months.” Dr. Michael Osterholm – Infectious Disease Expert.

Finally... as the Director of NEMO I have requested an audience with Saint Lucia’s Cabinet of Ministers to make a presentation on the subject of Avian Influenza.

Kofi Annan, when he was Secretary General United Nations stated in no uncertain terms that...

“...we need political leadership and energy at the highest level. We need clear commitment from the top to ensure coordination of the response in every country, bringing in all parts of Government, civil society and the private sector,”

I await the reply of Cabinet.

I end my little horror story with a prayer.

May we never have to apply what we learn here today.

Thank you

**Address by
A. L. Dawn French - Director NEMO
at
Two Day Review of Department of Human Services
Continuity of Government Plan
March 6, 2008**

Salutations

Ladies and Gentlemen – In 2000 the Secretariat of the National Emergency Management Organisation conducted a training session in Business Continuity Planning. From that one training session has emerged a program that targets EVERY corporate entity on this island to have a Disaster Plan for their office.

The program took on a new urgency in 2004. Why 2004? Some of us may remember a little demon called Hurricane Ivan and as demons do Ivan lambasted Grenada – and whereas there was much talk of the looting of the private sector many may not be aware of the looting of Government Offices. Thus as a direct result of the devastation of Hurricane Ivan – the NEMO Secretariat turned its focus on the Ministries and Agencies of Government as we sort to have the Offices develop or review their Continuity of Government Plans.

Today we are all here to review the Continuity of Government Plan of the Division of Human Services. I must congratulate the staff on this achievement.

Of course Tropical Storms and Hurricanes protocols are there – by the way today is March 6, 2008: leaving us less than three months to complete preparations for the 2008 Hurricane Season. The Plan touches on many other threats: as it should. Areas such as:

- HIV/AIDS
- Violence in the Work Place even
- Sexual Harassment
- Stress Management

Topics not usually associated with a Disaster Plan.

As the Agency tasked with having the country prepared for any disaster, we will also propose the addition of other threats, such as:

- Computer Meltdown
- Loss of Utilities
- Withdrawal of Labour
- Hostage Situation
- Avian Influenza

The Division of Human Services provides an essential service to numerous persons and any thing that causes an interruption of that service may be viewed as a disaster by its customers.

This two day meeting is the laudable first step by the Division to ensure that this does not happen.

Once again I congratulate the team and look forward to a fruitful two days.

Thank you,

HTS ePoll of 19 – 26 March, 2008

HTS E- Poll - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

http://vote.sparkit.com/poll.spark/1071877

Google epguides Y! Mail Christian Lyrics Music ... Mail C&W eMail TheBox Mininova EZTV MediaConverter Media Convert Swap List ITAT All Things Are Possible

Gmail - Successful Mission to Grenada ... Yahoo! Mail - slunemo@yahoo.com slunemo : Pending Messages HTS E- Poll

Message Alert
You have **5 messages** waiting for you. OK

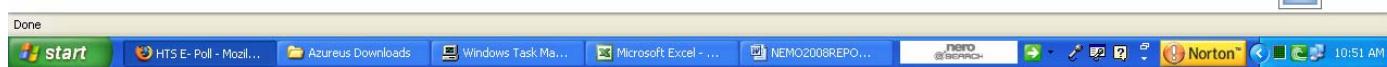
HTS E- Poll

Have emergency personnel prepared the island adequately to deal with impending disasters? [93 votes total]

Yes (28)	30%
No (50)	54%
I Don't Know (15)	16%
I Don't Care (0)	0%

EMAIL THIS POLL

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Part 5 – Appendices

NEMO Profile
Disasters Remembered
Hurricane Names for the period 2008 – 2012

The National Emergency Management Organisation

HISTORY

Disaster Management, though called by numerous names over the years has manifested itself constantly in Saint Lucia. As far back as June 10 – 20, 1979 Saint Lucia was host to the Caribbean Disaster Preparedness Seminar, where over one hundred and fifty delegates from the Caribbean, North and Latin America assembled to discuss the concerns of the day. Of course it was the following year that Hurricane Allen blasted Saint Lucia.

The actual date for the creation of the an office to deal with disasters is not clear, however by 1990 there was an established office being run by a National Disaster Coordinator.

A year later in 1991 Saint Lucia together with fifteen other Caribbean States signed the Articles that created the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency [CDERA]. Prior to that there had been the Pan Caribbean Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Project [PCDPP], which ran from 1980 to 1991 with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNDRO, PAHO/WHO, Red Cross and other international agencies and had serviced the Caribbean including Saint Lucia.

In February 1995 the Office of Disaster Preparedness had its staff increase from two to three when the post of Deputy Disaster Coordinator was created. The next major step in Disaster Management for Saint Lucia occurred when in March 2000 the Office of Disaster Preparedness was renamed the National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) and the resident Disaster Coordinator and Deputy Disaster Coordinator became the Director and Deputy Director.

NEMO is responsible for having the Nation in a state of preparedness for an event, also for responding to the needs of the Nation after an event and coordinating this response at local, regional and international levels.

NEMO's 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.

HAZARDS

Severe weather systems are not the only threat that NEMO must plan and respond to; hazard analysis and experience have confirmed that Saint Lucia is at risk from numerous hazards, both natural and technological:

- Meteorological Hazard: Hurricanes, Tropical Wave, Tropical Storm, Storm Surge, Flooding, Land Slides, Drought

- Seismic/Volcanic Hazard: Volcanic Eruption, Earthquake, Tsunami [Marine and land based]
- Technological: Fire, Explosion, Hazardous Material Spill, Mass Poisoning, Pollution, Civil Unrest
- Other: Plague, Mass Causality, Epidemic Outbreak, Dam Failure, Office Violence, Terrorism, Bomb Threat/Explosion, Utility Failure

OPERATIONS

During “peacetime” the Office of the National Emergency Management Organisation acts as a secretariat assisting the eighteen local communities with various public awareness campaigns as well as training sessions. One area of constant activity is providing advice to companies and service groups on action that can be taken before, during and after a disaster. The Office also takes part in activities that will heighten awareness with the public e.g. Radio and Television programs, summer school talks, production of telephone cards and the creation of an Internet website at <http://www.geocities.com/slunemo> where certain sections of the National Plan are available.

Disaster Management in Saint Lucia is executed on a voluntary basis and during an event NEMO is part of a larger network that comes into existence to respond to a disaster. There are various Ministries that are essential to a response action. There are also eighteen (18) District Committees that are composed similarly to the national committees, which are composed of representatives of various Ministries and Social Groups. For a response action the national personnel contact his/her local counterpart and together execute an action.

During an event NEMO transforms into the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC). The NEOC is the center from which all commands are issued and to which all demands are made. It is the seat of control for the Prime Minister as Chairman of the NEOC and as Leader of the State. All heads of essential services locate at the NEOC e.g. Commissioner of Police, Chief Fire Officer, Chief Medical Officer, etc.

With the permission of the Cabinet of Ministers; NEMO has the responsibility of the majority of Government’s resources during a crisis. These resources are coordinated by NEMO/NEOC but are utilized by various agencies. With the cooperation of the private sector NEMO also has access to the resources of individuals and companies.

Finally the **Emergency Powers Act 5 of 1995** provides the office with the ability to commandeer DURING A STATE OF EMERGENCY ONLY. Therefore NEMO/NEOC has access and control of the resources of the Nation when faced with a disaster. In 2000 the **Disaster Preparedness and Response Act 13 of 2000** was passed thus consolidating and placing in law the actions of NEMO.

The NEOC has one final responsibility, and that is to the Tourism Industry. The sector has created the Crisis Management Unit (CMU) which functions out of the Ministry of Tourism. Once the National EOC is activated the CMU is also activated.

REGIONAL LINKS

Saint Lucia is a member state of CDERA. The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA), which is an inter- governmental regional disaster management organisation established in 1991 by an Agreement of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Its headquarters are located in Barbados.

CDERA has three (3) principle organs:

- The Council is the supreme policy making body and is comprised of the Heads of Government of the Participating States or their designated representatives. It meets annually to review the work of the Agency, approve its Work Programme and Administrative Budget and make any other major policy decisions required.
- The Board of Directors is made up of the National Disaster Coordinators of Participating States, with the Coordinator (see below) as Chairman. The Board serves in a technical advisory capacity and makes recommendations to Council on matters such as those mentioned above.
- The Coordinating Unit is the administrative headquarters of the Agency and is located in Barbados. It is responsible for executing the activities of the Agency and conducting its day-to-day business. Source: CDERA 2001

RESPONSE PLANS

Disaster Management is not conducted on an ad hoc manner. There are plans and procedures to be followed and no two hazards are responded to in the same manner. As such in August 1996, the Cabinet of Ministers accepted and authorized the Saint Lucia National Emergency Response Plan.

In 2002/2003 with the assistance of the OECS Emergency Recovery and Disaster Management Project, NEMO reviewed the 1996 Response Plan and commissioned new plans to address other hazards.

Once the Cabinet of Ministers has accepted and authorized the new plan the completed National Emergency Response Plan for Saint Lucia will comprise of the following:

- Hurricane Response Plan
- Flood Management Response Plan
- Anse la Raye Evacuation Plan (Appendix to Flood Management Response Plan)
- Earthquake Response Plan
- Volcanic Eruption Response Plan
- Oil Spill Plan
- Hazardous Materials Plan
- Stress Management Response Plan
- Hazard Mitigation Plan

- Maritime Search and Rescue Plan
- Land Search and Rescue Plan
- District Model Plan
- Policy on Donations
- Policy on Travel
- Policy on Management Dead Bodies in Disasters
- Policy on Emergency Shelters
- Policy on Emergency Housing

NEMO's partners continue to work on the:

- Health Sector Response Plan
- Ministry of Works Response Plan
- Borderlais Correctional Facility Response Plan
- Cruise Ship Response Plan
- Hospitality Industry Crisis Response Plan

While NEMO works on:

- Policy Guidelines on Mass Crowds Events
- Policy on Hazard Mitigation
- Policy on Displaced Persons
- Emergency Shelter Program

All Correspondence concerning the National Emergency Management Organisation should be addressed to:

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 National Emergency Management Organisation
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NEMO's Homepage: <http://www.geocities.com/slunemo>

NEMO's Press Releases Archive: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/slunemo/>

NEMO Remembers the MAY ROSE DISASTER

February 13, 2007 -- Even as the Nation gears up for Valentine's Day, the National Emergency Management Organisation brings another disaster moment to the attention of all.

This date in history: February 13, 2007; it is 70 years since the May Rose Disaster.

The following is supplied by the: Saint Lucia National Archives Authority:

The "May Rose No. 349" was a canoe which was owned and captained by Mr. Alphonse St. Juste of Choiseul. It acted as a ferry, serving the towns and villages along Saint Lucia's west coast. The May Rose was licensed to carry twenty passengers, in addition to a crew of three.

**70 years
since the
May Rose
Disaster.**

On February 13th, 1937, at about 7:30 p.m., the May Rose left Roseau Bay and headed southward for the towns of Soufrière and Choiseul. There were eleven passengers. Most of whom were fish vendors, returning to their homes. According to an account given by one of the crew members, Mr. Albertin Frederick, the trip was proceeding well, up until about two miles from Soufrière, near a spot called Pointe Grand Caille. There, Captain St. Juste made the decision to turn the canoe seaward and travel outside a nearby reef, rather than inside it, as was the custom for canoes. Yet, unknown to him, there was a strong tide running in a north-westerly direction with contrary waves meeting at the point and breaking across the reef. As related, by Mr. Frederick, it was too dark to see any danger ahead and as soon as the Captain realized the danger he shouted, "Pull fast for the current is strong!" The crew pulled fast as they were told, and in doing so, the canoe encountered one of the waves and capsized throwing everyone into the water.

Mr. Frederick, an experienced seaman, was able to swim to shore at Anse Jambon and then make his way to Soufrière on foot. When the incident was reported, a small motor launch was sent out to search for other survivors. Two were found at Anse Mahaut. However, because of the prevailing rough weather the small boat could not venture out to sea so as to search for others. The team returned to Soufrière and in the morning recommenced the search effort but no other survivor was found. None of the bodies of the twelve victims was ever recovered. Two days later, fishermen found the May Rose drifting out to sea off Canaries and towed her to the Canaries Bay.

An investigation into the cause of the mishap concluded that, based on the evidence of the survivors, it was a tragic accident and no one could have been blamed.

NEMO Remembers... 1972 - Floor Collapse at Teacher's Training College

March 23, 2006 -- The headlines of the Voice Newspaper of March 25, 1972 said it all:

Disaster At Teachers' College

It was thirty five years ago today that two hundred and fifty people plummeted fifteen feet to the ground that Thursday evening, when the auditorium floor of the Saint Lucia Teachers' Training College suddenly collapsed during a Miss Complex Beauty Contest staged by the students.

The Voice Newspaper described the event:

It was a gruesome sight as the victims landed on top of each other, their desperate screams for help renting the air. Many lay helpless under a massive pile of smashed lumber, broken chairs and other debris. There was blood everywhere.

Those students who were in another part of the building when the tragedy occurred saved the day. Had it not been for their quick action in rushing to the rescue, the result might have been much worse.

Mr. Vernon Warner, one of the judges of the beauty contest, worked like a real-life hero. Car-owners who were able to drive soon started transporting the injured to Victoria Hospital.

Within half an hour of the accident all the victims had been transported to the Victoria Hospital where of the two hundred and fifty only six were hospitalized, among them was Mrs. Marjorie Thomas, wife of Mr. Leyton Thomas the then Minister of Education. Ironically the same building is now called the Leyton Thomas Building and houses the renamed Division of Teacher Education and Management Studies.

The Crusader Newspaper issue of March 25, 1972 also reported on the disaster but added this:

This disaster precipitates the need for establishing an Authority or Committee for the prevention of accidents in public places or places of assembly.

Thirty five years later the National Emergency Management Organisation commenced moves to improve public safety at large events. Because of the size of the audience that are drawn to such facilities the generic term used is MASS CROWD EVENT. Though there are mechanisms for the Licensing of such events, there is an increasing need to coordinate the Licensing of such Shows, and so the Government of Saint Lucia through the Membership of NEMO began circulating the Guidelines in 2005.

As we remember the events of March 23, 1972 and express relief that there was no loss of life, the NEMO Secretariat repeats its call for Saint Lucians to read the Mass Events Guide to ensure that such incidents don't repeat.

The Mass Crowd Events Guide is still available for comment at the Official Documents Section of the Government of Saint Lucia Website or from the NEMO Secretariat at Biseé.

**Thirty five
years since
the Floor
Collapsed at
Teacher's
Training
College**

Hurricane Names for the period 2007 – 2011

In the event that more than 21 named tropical cyclones occur in the Atlantic basin in a season, additional storms will take names from the Greek alphabet

For the Daily Weather Update Call (758)-454-3452

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Andrea	Arthur	Ana	Alex	Arlene
Barry	Bertha	Bill	Bonnie	Bret
Chantal	Cristobal	Claudette	Colin	Cindy
Dean	Dolly	Danny	Danielle	Don
Erin	Edouard	Erika	Earl	Emily
Felix	Fay	Fred	Fiona	Franklin
Gabrielle	Gustav	Grace	Gaston	Gert
Humberto	Hanna	Henri	Hermine	Harvey
Ingrid	Ike	Ida	Igor	Irene
Jerry	Josephine	Joaquin	Julia	Jose
Karen	Kyle	Kate	Karl	Katia
Lorenzo	Laura	Larry	Lisa	Lee
Melissa	Marco	Mindy	Matthew	Maria
Noel	Nana	Nicholas	Nicole	Nate
Olga	Omar	Odette	Otto	Ophelia
Pablo	Paloma	Peter	Paula	Philippe
Rebekah	Rene	Rose	Richard	Rina
Sebastien	Sally	Sam	Shary	Sean
Tanya	Teddy	Teresa	Tomas	Tammy
Van	Vicky	Victor	Virginie	Vince
Wendy	Wilfred	Wanda	Walter	Whitney

Names used that year.

Disaster Management Information may be obtained from:

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NEMO's Press Releases Archive: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/slunemo/>

Dedicated to Peter Calderon
NEMO Volunteer and believer

He will be missed.