

Waves of Hurricane Omar

Situation Report No.2

Report as of October 20, 2008

Introduction	2
Concept of Operations	3
Levels of Regional Response to Disasters	3
DISTRICT DISASTER COMMITTEES	4
RECOMMENDATIONS	5
Appendix 1:.....	6
Types of Assessment Reports for Emergency Relief and Short-term Restoration.....	6
Appendix 2:.....	7
Levels of Regional Response to Disasters	7

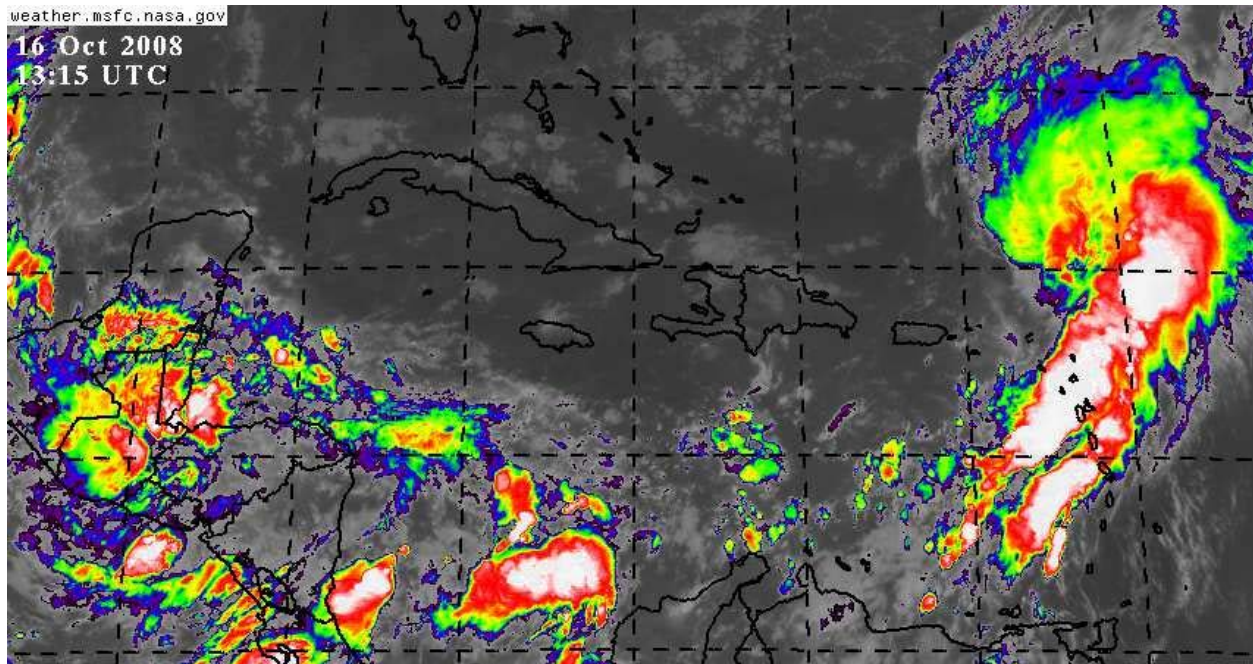
Introduction

Saint Lucia experienced continuous rains commencing Monday October 6, 2008. Upon clearing the island chain the Tropical Wave developed into Hurricane Omar and began on a return path in a northeasterly direction towards the island chain. The Virgin Islands and surrounding islands were placed on Hurricane Watches and Warnings.

On the night of October 15 Hurricane Omar further developed into a category three hurricane. The outer bands of Hurricane Omar, in combination with a tropical wave produced some locally heavy rainfall and strong winds over the region during the following 24 hours.

Omar produced large swells that were forecasted to affect the west and south facing coasts of Saint Lucia. The met office warned residents in coastal regions and areas prone to landslides and flooding to take the necessary precautions against these hazards.

On the morning of October 16, heavy sea action began to occur in Soufriere and Anse la Raye.



Concept of Operations

This Damage Assessment Report is a continuation in a series that commenced with the:

- Heavy Rains of October 6 – 10,
- Tropical Wave of October 11 – 14 and
- Heavy Wave Action of Hurricane Omar on October 15 and 16

Totalling eleven [11] days of continuous rain.

The first DANA report was issued on October 13 the objective being to submit in the process a general overview of the initial damages.

This report (No. 3), while not a final report, outlines and updates qualitative information from previous reports. It seeks to give a preliminary costing of damage, response efforts and proposed recovery recommendations as assessed by the various sector agencies and does not include the reconstruction costs.

Levels of Regional Response to Disasters

The extent of the Caribbean Disaster Response Agency's [CDERA] involvement in disaster response operations in Participating States depends on the severity of the situation and the type of assistance required by affected States. Based on the Preliminary Damage Assessment Report No. 1 CDERA has placed Saint Lucia's condition at Level One.

A Level One Event is defined as:

Local incidents within a Participating State are dealt with in the regular operating mode of the emergency services. The local national focal point is required to submit, on a timely basis, information on the emergency event for the purposes of consolidating regional disaster records.

Though partner agencies do not respond to Level One events, they do monitor the reports as Level One events are recognized to have the ability to escalate into Level Two and Level Three events. [See Appendix 2 for Level Two and Level Three]

DISTRICT DISASTER COMMITTEES

Disaster Committee	Report
Gros- Islet	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jetty at Gros Islet Town damaged.• Yacht washed ashore at Bay Gardens Beach Resort with one other yacht floundering – the Marine Police Responded.
Vieux Fort South	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sea choppy and spectacular.• No damage. The mouth of the river has subsided.
Laborie	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Choppy seas.
Choiseul	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rough seas.
Soufriere	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Persons displaced [4 homes quoted] with some relocated to the Soufriere Town Hall• Soufriere Town Hall opened as a shelter• Sea water onto waterfront.• LUCELEC has turned off power• Homes destroyed [4 homes quoted]• Some parts are impassable• Going into meeting. Police are asked to perform mandatory evacuation.
Canaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Choppy seas bashing sea wall.• Sea coming into village by health centre. Storm surge is getting higher.
Anse la Raye	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sea moved into Front Street to Beau Colleul Street. Town crier sent to asked persons to evacuate.• Au Tabour SDA Church opened as a Shelter for a few hours.• Marigot: Landslide blocked the drains at the bottom of the hill.
Dennery North	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Barre d’Isle main road has begun to crack.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. There will be a need for an island wide mitigation program to reduce the impacts of hazards.
2. There must be a closer working relationship between the Members of Parliament and the Disaster Management Agents [both Governmental and Volunteer] to enhance coordination and prioritization of mitigation and response interventions and to improve the accuracy and efficiency of Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis.
3. There will need for political, managerial and technical enforcement of the Queen's Chain and river buffer zones to reduce vulnerability and impact in these areas.
4. The Government should consider a strategic shift from coastal development to inland development along with enhancing and enforcing development/building codes and practices where coastal development is deemed unavoidable or advantageous/necessary.
5. The Government should consider a long term program of relocating existing public properties from the vulnerable coast to inland sites [e.g. Anse la Raye Infant School and the Anse la Raye Village Council]

Original signed by

A. L. Dawn French

Director National Emergency Management Organisation

Compiled by

A. L. Dawn French

Director National Emergency Management Organisation

AND

Chamberlain Emmanuel

DANA Chairperson

Appendix 1: Types of Assessment Reports for Emergency Relief and Short-term Restoration

Type of assessment	Time Period	Purpose	Responsibility
Initial Situation Overview [ISO]	4 – 8 hours after the disaster has occurred and/or the <i>All Clear</i> given	To provide a “snap shot” of the situation.	District Committee
Initial Damage Assessment [IDA]	12 - 24 hours after the disaster has occurred	To provide information on overall damages and casualties and needs to permit allocation of critical supplies in the first 24 hours after a disaster.	District Committee
Detailed Sector Report [DSR]	24 - 36 hours after disaster occurs	To summarize data on overall damages and casualties by Sector.	Sector Agencies
National Damage Assessment Report #1	48 hours after disaster	Summary of Information provided over time in the ISO, IDA and the DSR. It also provides more details on damages in order to continue the allocation of emergency resources.	DANA Committee
National Damage Assessment Report #2	7 days after disaster	Revision and update on the First DANA Report	DANA Committee
National Damage Assessment Report #3	14 days after disaster	Revision and update on the Second DANA Report. This process can be repeated as needed.	DANA Committee
Macro Socio Economic Report	From 21 days after the disaster has occurred.	Starting with the DANA Reports a sector-by-sector analysis of the impact of the event is produced. Sectors are grouped into four categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social • Productive • Infrastructural and • Environment. 	OECS Secretariat with DANA Committee

Appendix 2: Levels of Regional Response to Disasters

Levels of Regional Response

The extent of CDERA's involvement in disaster response operations in Participating States depends on the severity of the situation and the type of assistance required by affected States. Three levels of regional response have been defined:

Level	Description	Extent of Regional Involvement	Examples
I	Local incidents within a Participating State are dealt with in the regular operating mode of the emergency services. The local national focal point is required to submit, on a timely basis, information on the emergency event for the purposes of consolidating regional disaster records.	No regional response required	Conway Fire [June 2004]
II	Disasters taking place at the national level which does not overwhelm the socio-economic structure or capacity to respond within the affected state. In such cases, the primary assistance at the regional level will be limited to providing technical expertise to National Disaster Organizations or facilitating their access to specific resources which may be required due to the particular disaster event. The whole operation is still managed by the national disaster focal point.	Limited or specialized	Tropical Storm Debby [September 1994] Gros Piton Fire [2002]
III	Disasters which overwhelm the capacity of the affected state(s) to respond. In such instances the Regional Response Mechanism is activated. This includes the activation of the Caribbean Disaster Relief Unit (CDRU) which is the operational arm of the Regional Response Mechanism. The CDRU comprises representatives from the military forces within CARICOM and its main responsibility is logistical support for the receipt and dispatch of relief supplies.	Full activation	Hurricane Ivan [September 2004]