A black and white photograph showing four individuals standing on a damaged road. The road is littered with debris and appears to be a coastal area, with a sea wall and ocean visible in the background. The individuals are wearing safety vests; two women on the left are pointing towards the camera, while a man in a striped shirt and another man in a light-colored shirt stand to their right. The background shows a steep, vegetated hillside and some buildings in the distance.

**Saint Lucia
National Emergency
Management Organisation
Annual Report for 2008**



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

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Flooding from October Rains of 2008
Credit – Lydia Cox/NEMO Volunteer

NEMO Staff List

	NAME	<u>POST</u>	RESPONSIBILITIES
1.	A. L. Dawn French	<u>Director</u>	<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.	Fay Albert	Inventory Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Preparedness• Monitoring of Stocks• Training• Establishment of MOUs
4.	Jocelyn Nelson	Secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Administration• Documentation and Information

5.	Andrew George	Human Resource Development Officer <i>(Seconded from National Printing Corporation)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of Back-Up Guidelines for the Government Service• Review of Continuity of Operations
6.	Anne Noel	Cleaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cleaning
7.	Daniel Ismbert	Driver/ Office Assistant	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collating documents• Delivery of Mail

Part 1
Annual Report of the
Office of the National Emergency
Management Organization
April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009

INTRODUCTION

With citizens gradually recovering from the anxiety caused by the ill effects of the 7.3 earthquake of November 29, 2007, which impacted the entire Eastern Caribbean, the forecast of an above average 2008 Atlantic Hurricane Season kept them disaster management '*sensitized*' for a while longer.

The forecasts proved to be quite accurate and although 2008 was very challenging for the Regions' disaster management fraternity, Saint Lucia was generally spared of the ravages of the hurricanes and storms such as Hurricanes Fay, Gustave and Hanna which relentlessly battered the northern Caribbean Islands.

Notwithstanding, response to the events which did threaten during the year did prove to be challenging. The National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) Secretariat had to coordinate responses to hurricanes which impacted the entire island, flooding which impacted areas such as Gros Islet and Union, landslides which occurred primarily in the Castries area, storm surge which impacted coastal communities along the west coast including Soufriere, Canaries and Anse La Raye and the unique response of a visitor stranded on Petit Piton.

THE ORGANIZATION

The National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) is mandated to have the nation in a state of preparedness 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 eleven (11) National and eighteen (18) District Disaster Management Committees primarily comprising volunteers.

Hazard analysis and experience shows that Saint Lucia is vulnerable to:

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

And although not exhaustive, mitigation of and response to these hazards form the basis for most of our disaster management planning. This planning is guided in great measure by the Hyogo Protocol and the Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy, disaster risk reduction instruments which Saint Lucia have expressed commitment to.

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 Education activities
- Conduct Volunteer Training

ADMINISTRATION

The inadequacy of NEMO's staffing continued to affect its ability to effectively realize its mandate. In addition to the Director and Deputy Director, NEMO has two other technical officers, (an Inventories Officer and an officer [who's on loan from another Government Agency] used as a Corporate Planning Officer); two administrative staff (a Secretary and an Office Assistant/Driver) and a part-time Janitor. As the Agency endeavored to meet the objectives prescribed by the Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy, the need to expand the staffing compliment to include Training Officers, Planning Officers and Safety Officers, became increasingly obvious.

Additionally, as the budgetary allocations from Central Government becomes more limited, the NEMO Secretariat will need to target project funding for its programs from external local, regional and international donor Agencies. In order to effectively do so, Project Development Officers will have to be employed.

A Peace Corps Volunteer was assigned to NEMO for six (6) months ending December. The Volunteer was able to develop and review through two (2) stakeholder consultations a Plan of Action for the implementation of the National Hazard Mitigation Policy and Plan.

PREPAREDNESS

NEMO has been able to develop a compendium of Disaster Management Policies, Plans and Protocols which collectively make up the Saint Lucia Emergency Management Plan. This is available for perusal on the URL: www.stlucia.gov.lc [www.tiny.cc/nemp]. Contingency plans for Avian Influenza and disaster response in the Tourism Sector are being worked on currently.

NEMO also continued work on the Mass Crowd Events Approval Guidelines in collaboration with other Agencies; in the meantime the support legislation is being developed with the support

of the UNDP. A recent review of the process confirmed that the collaboration was necessary; however a number of concerns still needed to be addressed.

A contract was awarded for the printing of the National Emergency Management Plan under the Disaster Management Project – Phase 2 (DMP-II). The non-technical version of the Plan was printed and its distribution within the wider community had commenced. The technical version of the Plan was submitted to the printers and its printing should be completed early in the next program year.

Support from our partners continued as a number of emergency response documents were addressed.

- Under the Technical Assistance Program of USAID/OFDA the draft Recovery Policy and Plan was reviewed,
- UNDP has lent its support to the Mass Crowd Events Legislation
- PAHO has advanced and the draft Bird Flu Communications Strategy
- PAHO is expected to pilot a preparedness strategy for Town and Village Councils in Saint Lucia. The Council chosen is the Laborie Village Council.

Work is to continue on these documents.

The NEMO Secretariat was represented in the planning of a number of events inclusive of:

1. Jounee Kweole,
2. Healthy Lifestyles Program,
3. Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting,
4. Carnival 2008,
5. CARIFTA Games 2009
6. Assou Square 2009,
7. Caribbean Marketplace 2009,
8. 30th Anniversary of Independence,

Simulation Exercises

Support was provided for the organization and/or the execution of a number of simulation exercises inclusive of;

- i. The annual Saint Lucia Air and Seaports Authority Airport Exercise which was held at the Hewanorra International Airport:
- ii. Evacuation drills were conducted and evaluated at five (5) Bank of Saint Lucia Branches around the island.
- iii. Operation 'X' a regional telecommunications exercise involving Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada and Saint Lucia.
- iv. Hess Oil Ltd. oil spill simulation.
- v. SLASPA Cruise ship tabletop exercise.

2009 Saint Lucia and the rest of CDERA shall take part in FA HUM 2009 and Region Rap 2009 both of which shall focus on Bird Flu.

Training

NEMO conducted, supported, facilitated or organized the following training exercises for individuals and its volunteers during the year:

- i. 2 Stress Management in Disasters (SMID) for 60 social workers
- ii. 1 Training for Instructors (TFI) training 30 persons
- iii. 3 Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA) training courses for 40 volunteers
- iv. 1 Organization Administration Skills Capacity Building Workshop
- v. 2 Geographic Information Systems workshops – 24 volunteers trained.
- vi. A ‘Mainstreaming CDM’ workshop for 20 Public Service Officers.

Projects

Saint Lucia continues to benefit from a number of projects:

1. **Schools Safety Program** – The School Safety Program is being promoted by USAID/OFDA a partner in risk management planning. It is focused on the formulation of strategies for addressing school safety and requires broad community participation and involvement in school safety planning, the development of model plans and the replication of best practices. The program was presented to and received the endorsement of the Ministry of Education. A Committee was setup to coordinate and promote the implementation of the program.
2. **Risk Management Benchmarking Tool [BTool]** – First presented by the OECS Secretariat, work continued on the B-Tool, an instrument aimed at providing a platform for the fair assessment of countries disaster management capacity, against which they may benchmark the best practices. The tool is virtually complete and an initial assessment of the CDERA participating States have been conducted. Countries are now expected to utilize the tool to assist with their disaster management decision making and prioritization.
3. **Special Program on Adaptation to Climate Change [SPACC]** – NEMO continued as a partner in GEF-World Bank sponsored SPACC. NEMO collaborated with the Sustainable Development Section on the SPACC by providing a structure, the Castries East Satellite Emergency Supplies Warehouse, for retrofitting to *climate change specifications* under the Project. It now serves as model for information sharing.
4. **Caribbean Disaster Management Project [CADM] Phase 2** – The CADM is a Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) sponsored project which aims at hardening the resilience of the CDERA member states to floods. During the year a Country visit was conducted by the sponsors and consultants and the project contract signed by the Government. Various components of the project are to be implemented during the ensuing year.

5. **Capacity Building for Programming in Comprehensive Disaster Management Project (CAP)** – One Officer was trained under this project in use of the Result-Based Management (RBM) approach for evaluating and reporting on the enhanced CDM Strategy.
6. **Earthquake Readiness Capacity Building Project** – Although not one of the pilot states for this project, Saint Lucia’s earthquake readiness capacity was assessed with interesting preliminary results. A number of recommendations are being made with the aim of building resilience to earthquakes within the Region. The draft assessment was circulated for comments and the final is soon to be released. The expected outcomes under this project are:
 - i. *An Earthquake Preparedness assessment*
 - ii. Improved capacity for Earthquake contingency planning
 - iii. An Earthquake Awareness and Education Initiative.
7. **The Regional Monitoring & Evaluation Framework for Risk Management in the Caribbean Tourism Sector** – Funding for the Regional Monitoring & Evaluation Framework for Risk Management in the Caribbean Tourism Sector, a follow-up project to the Regional Disaster Risk Management for Sustainable Tourism in the Caribbean Project was secured by CDERA from Inter-American development Bank. This project will aim to implement the products developed under the former project. Though approved during this year it is expected to be implemented during the ensuing year.

Other Activities Supported

The NEMO Secretariat participated in or supported the activities and projects of a number of related agencies. These include:

- i. Beverage Containers Bill review activities.
- ii. Forest Policy review.
- iii. Coral Reef Valuation Project.
- iv. The Coastal Zone Management Advisory Council ‘Coastal Habitat Mapping Project’.
- v. The Special Program on Adaptation to Climate Change (SPACC) Project.
- vi. The development of a Management Plan for the Point Sable Management Area.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

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

The internet is also used as a clearing house for the application forms needed to host a Mass Crowd Event. The site <http://www.geocities.com/slumce> hosts application forms and information from agencies such as the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force, Solid Waste Management Authority and the Labour Department to name a few.

In May 2009 NEMO partnered with the Bank of Saint Lucia to organize a series of presentations on Earthquake response. The presentations were facilitated by scientists from the Seismic Research Unit of the University of the West Indies.

A number of disaster awareness and sensitization presentations were conducted for school principals, churches, youth groups, communities and public and private sector agencies over the year.

It is hoped that disaster management information will soon be hosted at www.nemo.gov.lc as the URL previously used (www.geocities.com/slunemo) is no longer operational.

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 [as of February 30, 2009]

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2009	3	6										
2008	4	7	22	10	13	8	11	10	7	11	9	12
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

Additionally, the NEMO Secretariat and the District Committees continued public information sharing and sensitization utilizing TV, Radio, Newspapers as well as Town Hall Meetings. It has been realized that although the citizens do increasingly consider the information imparted, the increase has been much too slow.

RESPONSES

The Disaster Response Mechanism was activated for the following:

1. Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting October 6-8, 2008

A team was mobilized and placed on stand-by for possible response during the hosting of the Commonwealth Ministers Meeting held here from October 6-8, 2008. This activity was held with no major disaster management concerns.

2. Rains of October 2008

Constant heavy rains in October caused some flash flooding and landslides which resulted in a number of houses and other infrastructure being impacted. The National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC) was activated to provide support to impacted communities. A damage assessment was conducted by the National Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA) Committee.

3. Hurricane Omar on October 16, 2009

Heavy Sea Swells generated by a North-Easterly moving Hurricane Omar, which passed to the west of Saint Lucia on the October 16, battered the West Coast. The town of Soufriere suffered the hardest blow with many houses being impacted and much debris being deposited onto the waterfront. One shelter had to be opened for one night to accommodate eight residents of Barons Drive, the community most severely impacted. A damage assessment was conducted by the National Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA) Committee. Immediate response activities were coordinated by the Soufriere Disaster Preparedness Committee; Recovery activities were coordinated by the Poverty Reduction Fund and the Soufriere Development Foundation.

4. Caribbean Marketplace 2009 – January 18-20, 2009

The NEMO EOC was activated for the Caribbean Marketplace 2009, a regional tourism promotions activity held on the Pigeon Point Causeway from January 18-20, 2009. This activity concluded with no major problem.

5. Earthquakes

There were no reports of damage due to earthquakes felt during the period, however the following earthquakes were reported and confirmed by the regional Seismic Monitoring Unit:

- A 3.8 magnitude earthquake was felt in the north on January 19, 2009 (5:51 p.m.).

6. Petit Piton Rescue

On Thursday October 23, 2008 NEMO was alerted about an American college student who fell while on a hike on the Petit Piton and was trapped there holding on to a tree for over 12 hours. He was unable to climb either up or down and had to be evacuated with a helicopter. NEMO facilitated the request for technical assistance from Martinique. The rescue operation was successful.

CONCLUSION

Though challenging at times 2008 was a reasonably good year for disaster management in Saint Lucia. Increasingly, it would seem the likes of the Tourism Industry and the Education sector appear to appreciate the need for considering and acting upon disaster management issues in their daily decision making. It is hoped that over time more agencies and individuals will be converted and thus become more resilient to the negative impacts of hazards.

As NEMO continues with efforts at developing Policies, Plans and Strategies with respect to disaster risk management, capacity and resources for their effective actualization become increasingly and more glaringly acute; increasing NEMO's staff compliment needs to be made a priority.

NEMO's achievements over time however have also accentuated some of the areas that it should address with immediacy and they include:

1. The need to sharpen its focus by developing a well articulated strategic plan.
2. The need to secure a proper URL for hosting its website and relevant disaster management information. Discussions have been held for possible accommodation by the Government of Saint Lucia Web services provider.
3. The need to have the Disaster Management Act No. 30 of 2006 assented to. Notwithstanding having gone through most of its assent stages this Act is yet to go through the final stage which is sign-off by the Minister. This issue needs to be addressed.
4. The need for Saint Lucia to nominate its National Focal Points for:
 - a. The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction; and
 - b. The National Benchmarking Tool
5. The need to review and consider signing the Organization of American States (OAS) *'Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance'* and the *'Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations'*

Original signed by Dawn French

.....
A. L. DAWN FRENCH
Director - NEMO

Part 2

Government Liaison Officers

Disaster Preparedness and Response Act No. 13 of 2000
Part V

Annual reports to Director

Section 12

Every Permanent Secretary and Head of a Department of Government shall supply to the Director in such form and by such date as may be required by the Prime Minister such information as may be requested by the Director for the purposes of sections 4(2)(a) and 8(2)

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

NAME OF REPORTING OFFICER: Beatrice MacDonald,
Deputy Director, Administration

PREPAREDNESS

Training undertook during the year

-  Bird Flu
-  Continuity of Operations

No simulation exercises were conducted.

Public Education

Two (2) office meetings were held

EMERGENCY RESPONSES

Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting

CHALLENGES

-  Limited human resources supplied by NEMO has hindered the completion of the ministry's Disaster Management Plan

WAY FORWARD

-  Liaise with NEMO early in the year for technical assistance.
-  Completion and adoption of Disaster Management Plan for Ministry of Finance
-  Conduct Training sessions with staff

ANNUAL REPORT for the MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE 2008-2009**Name of Reporting Officer: Ann Jean Baptiste****PREPAREDNESS*****Training undertaken during the year***

In 2008 the Ministry's Liaison Officer participated in NEMO's national workshops aimed at reviewing and developing policy at a national level in the following areas:

- National Influenza Pandemic Communication Strategy - Completion of an operational communication strategy for responding to a possible future outbreak in Saint Lucia.
- Mass Crowd Events Planning
- Hazard Mitigation Action Plan and Reconstruction Plan.

Those activities engaged participants in extensive discussion on managing disaster at the national level. In addition, the Liaison Officer attended the 3rd Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management in Barbados. The theme of the Conference was: "Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) A Catalyst for Change."

Simulation Exercises

Simulation exercises were not conducted during 2008. However, the MOE was represented at two meetings coordinated by the National Insurance Corporation (NIC). The main objective of those meetings is to develop a collaborative approach to evacuation among all tenants of the Francis Compton Building in the event of an emergency. The Ministry of Education awaits further progress on this approach.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

To engender a greater thrust towards the development of school plans, the Ministry of Education in collaboration with NEMO, conducted sensitisation meetings for all principals in May 2008. The meetings were aimed specifically at providing principals with knowledge of the structures in place for Disaster Management at the national level and to further reinforce the role of principals in managing disasters/emergencies at their respective schools. Principals were further sensitised through a PowerPoint presentation on practical experiences of disaster stricken areas on the island and the consequences of those events.

A number of schools are in the process of reviewing and developing Disaster Plans. However, the Ministry of Education recognizes the need to provide support to schools in developing school plans. In that regard, the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) as a strong partner and facilitator of the Disaster Management Program in the Caribbean, has offered St. Lucia the unique opportunity to participate in a new initiative entitled the "School Safety Program." The Program will allow schools to formulate comprehensive strategies for addressing school safety within a framework of broad community participation and involvement in school safety planning.

The process commenced on January 15, 2009 with a sensitisation meeting involving key stakeholder participation with representation from the Ministry of Housing, Ministry of Physical Development, Ministry of Works, Ministry of Health, Ministry of the Public Service, NEMO, St. Lucia Red Cross, St. Lucia Teachers' Union, National Principals' Association, Royal St. Lucia Police Force, St. Lucia Fire Service and Ministry of Education.

EMERGENCY RESPONSES

Emergency equipment for schools was procured under the Second Disaster Management Project coordinated by the Ministry of Finance. To date, all public primary and secondary schools have received emergency equipment which includes: emergency flashlight, hurricane oil lamps, water filters/purifiers, emergency thermal blankets, petrol cans, coolers, solar generator battery flashlight with AM/FM radio and First Aid kits. In the mean time, the MOE awaits the delivery of 110 cots/stretchers which will complete the provision of emergency equipment to schools.

CHALLENGES

Resource Limitations

Financial/Material: To reduce vulnerability and mitigate the effects of possible emergencies

Human: To coordinate efforts at enhancing the capacity of school personnel in risk reduction and disaster mitigation at the school level.

WAY FORWARD

The Ministry of Education will in 2009 institute measures to generate greater awareness of disaster preparedness and school safety. In this regard, the Ministry will focus on the following:

- Develop and implement a common framework to ensure consistency in standards among school developed plans.
- Establish SOPs for staff evacuation in the event of an emergency.
- Review and establish minimum safety conditions/standards in all schools.
- Develop protocols for managing/addressing emergencies that occur at the central office or school level.
- Conduct regular emergency drills in all schools.
- Undertake an evaluation of standards, equipment, operating procedures at schools to assess the level of preparedness; and provide the requisite support to achieve minimum standards at all schools in the event of an emergency.
- Finalise MOE Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)
- Conduct school visits in collaboration with NEMO to provide support in the development and finalisation of school plans; to encourage the practice of school safety measures such as, regular fire drills and familiarization of all school personnel to Standard Operating Procedures.
- Develop protocols for mass crowd events, (school rallies, sports meets, calypso competitions, awards/graduation ceremonies).

- Liaise with NIC personnel to organize fire and other emergency drills, as well as walk through the building to familiarize tenants with the safety measures/appliances installed in the building.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LANDS, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

National Emergency Management Organization

REPORT FOR 2009/ 2010

The year April 2008 to March 2009 the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry and Fisheries was an uneventful one. All safety relating to disasters had been put in place.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in its agenda for 2009/ 2010 is still reviewing the plans of 2008/2009 but has also undertaken management of the 30th National Independence Exhibition in the month of February 2009 at the Beausejour Cricket Stadium, Gros Islet .

The Ministry is still looking forward to the cooperation of N.IP.R.O. in facilitating the implementation of disaster readiness drill within the buildings on the Waterfront as well as the labeling of the emergency evacuation exists.

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

By Anthony Thomas
Liaison Officer

Annual Report for the Inland Revenue Department

Name of Reporting Officer: Adria Rose Sonson

PREPAREDNESS

Training your Agency took part in.

Due to budgetary constraints we were unable to undertake training; however we have identified a number of employees who are to undergo training in CPU and first aid with the St. Lucia Red Cross in the New Year.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

- *Office Meeting for sensitization of Managers and Emergency teams members;*
- *Tenants committee meeting – to engage the other tenants of our building;*

CHALLENGES

We are one of multiple tenants of a building, though the other tenants are committed to the cause, their primary agency the Ministry of the Public Service and the Landlord NIPRO are not so committed. The effectiveness of our plan depends on the acceptance and involvement of NIPRO and MOPS.

WAY FORWARD

Team Training and engagement of other tenants

ROYAL SAINT LUCIA POLICE FORCE

NEMO - ANNUAL REPORT

“Head of Police Operations”

A. PREPAREDNESS

1. Training conducted:

During the period under review, the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force focused on three basic training components:

- i. **Disaster Management:** One such training was held at the Police Academy for police supervisors on October 30th 2008. The audience were officers who would be directly involved in any disaster situation on island.
- ii. **Team Work:** This was part of a training session for lower ranking police personnel, throughout the force;
- iii. **Stress Management:** This programme was conducted twice during 2008; at the police Academy. Both classes were held October 28th 2008.

2. Simulations conducted:

Two simulations were conducted during 2008. The police was one of the support agencies at these simulations.

- ◇ Castries Ferry terminal simulations exercise was held in August 2008
- ◇ HIA simulation exercise was held October 2008

B. PUBLIC EDUCATION:

- i. A number of in-house discussions and consultations were held among police personnel, in order to sensitize them of their roles during a national or local situation. These meetings were among all ranks. As a consequent, a Police Disaster Response Plan has been developed.

C. EMMERGENCY RESPONSES:

- i. The police participated in a number of joint exercises during 2008
 - a. Ministerial Conferences in September 2008

- b. Rain and flood in October 2008
- c. Waves of Hurricane Omar
- d. Rescue at Petit Piton in October 23rd 2008
- e. 16 successful Rescues at sea, conducted by the Police Marine Unit in 2008

D. CHALLENGES:

- i. Some of the challenges experienced are beyond our control. Most of which are due to lack of appropriate equipment and finance, so that the police response in time of an emergency can be effective and professional. (eg)
 - a. Heavy duty Chain saws (at least one per station)
 - b. At least three mobile generators, with flood lights (north, south, Soufriere.)

E. WAY FORWARD: 2009

- i. The acquisition of equipment needed successfully respond to emergency situations; see challenges.

Part 3

Reports of the Standing Committees of NEMO



NEMO Volunteers on assessment
duty for Hurricane Omar of 2008

Photo Credit – NEMO Sec

Members of
National Supplies Management Committee | Soufriere Disaster Committee |
Canaries Disaster Committee | NEMO Auxiliary Corps

NATIONAL COMMITTEES

National Oil Spill Committee
Annual Report - 2008
Chairman- Christopher Alexander

PREPAREDNESS

Training Committee/Agency took part in.

- (1) *January 17th, 2008* - Oil Spill Committee meeting was held at the Training Room, Saint Lucia Air & Sea Ports Authority.
 - The committee viewed a video organized by the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA) entitled “Working Together – Effective Oil Spills Contingency Plan.” The video covered the global issues relating to oil spills and the damaging impacts it has on a country natural resources, fisheries and food supply.
- (2) *December 3rd to 6th, 2008*, Mr. Lambert Charles of the Saint Lucia Fire and Ambulance Service attended a workshop in Panama on pre – International Oil Spills Conference (IOSC) – assessment of oil spills response capabilities/use of dispersants and MOBEX 2007.

Simulations

The Chairman participated in a full-scale simulation exercise at the Hewanorra International Airport; where other stakeholders including International representatives were present

PUBLIC EDUCATION

There were no Public outreach education forum during that period; however it is envisage that from April 2009 various schools will be targeted.

EMERGENCY RESPONSES

- The Saint Lucia Fire Service responded to several Vehicular/Road Oil Spills during the period under review.
- Took part in meeting convened to discuss decommissioning of Petrol Stations.
- Review of proposal on sausage booms.

CHALLENGES

- The Marine Police Unit: - Most of the equipment located at the Marine base has been deteriorated due to poor storage and weather condition.
- Non availability of response equipment at the various Fire Service Stations
- Diminishing inventory of Government of Saint Lucia Oil Spill response stock in storage.
- Inadequate First Responders Training
- Lack of Storage space for Oil Spill Equipment
- Co-ordination and communications between committee members

SOLUTIONS

- A second nominee from each agency is needed to ensure consistency in attending meetings and those replacements should be briefed before attending meetings.
- Persons from the Fire Service, SLASPA, Rodney Bay Marina, RSPF, and members of the committee should be trained as first responders and that training should be both theoretical and practical. RAMPETIC or the Oil Spills Secretariat to assist with training
- The Government should establish MOU with Hess Oil and SOL EC for the use of their equipment and the committee should educate Government and policy holders to getting the necessary tier one equipment.
- There should be highly visible public relations to make key persons aware of the damages on the environment from oil spills.
- Storage of equipment - SLASPA and the Department of Fisheries to provide storage space. Access to the equipment must be readily available

WAY FORWARD

- Site inspections are tentatively schedule to commence from March 2009 and will continue every last Tuesday of the quarter; and that Clay Products will be inspected in March, 2009.
- Gas stations within close proximity to the sea will be targeted to examine their Oil Spill Response Plan and equipment from April 2009
- Conduct a community education drive on the effects of Oil Spill; preferably one School monthly, commencing in April 2009. The Ministry of Education will be required to give their input to schedule according to their time table. A proposed teaching module will have to be agreed upon

.....
Christopher Alexander
Chairman-Oil Spill Committee

DISTRICT COMMITTEES

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE CASRIES SOUTH EAST DISASTER PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Name of Reporting Officer: Martha Agnes Blanchard

PREPAREDNESS

Training:

Seventeen (17) Committee members were training in four (4) modules which included the

- Group Dynamics
- Leadership
- Conducting Effective Meetings
- Conflict Resolution

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Committee members as well as Community Response Teams commenced the documentation of their Community Response Plans. Teams are now to present their Plans to the general community for endorsement.

Plans have been established for the following communities:

- Barre Denis
- Coolie Town
- Cul de Sac
- Odsan
- Marc
- Dierre Fond
- Ti Rocher/Guesneau/Four Roads

A Data Collection on areas that were affected by land slides and likely to be affected by landslides was conducted and presented to the Ministry of Communications and Works – MOSAIC Project for possible assistance.

A Project Proposal is also being prepared for submission to CIDA for possible consideration.

A Communications Network has been established for the organization to ensure the smooth flow of information and high level of attendance at monthly meetings.

EMERGENCY RESPONSES

The Committee did not attend any Emergency Response Meetings.

A site visit was conducted throughout the zone following the heavy rains. Reports on affected areas have been presented to the Committee and areas affected have been noted and submitted to relevant bodies for assistance.

CHALLENGES

With Community Leaders having busy schedules it has been difficult in maintaining the level of attendance needed to be able to complete the Work Programme of the Committee. However in 2008 the organization made significant strides in laying the foundation for the continuation of the Committee.

WAY FORWARD

At its Post Strike Meeting in December the Committee prepared its Work Plan for the Year 2009.

ACTIVITY	MONTH	EXECUTING BODY	REMARKS
Conduct Annual Site Visits to	May 2009	Core Committee	Annual check of the status of Centers
Completion of Community Response Plans	January-May 2009	Community Response Teams	Community Response Teams to present to communities for feedback
Training in CPR/First Aid	As per NEMO	All Volunteers	Request to be submitted to NEMO
Training in Shelter Management	As per NEMO	Shelter Management Sub Committee	Request to be submitted to NEMO
Training in Use of Chainsaw	As per NEMO	Interested Volunteers	Request to be submitted to NEMO
Supplies Contracts Established	January-February	NEMO	Information submitted to NEMO. NEMO to draw up contracts
Project Proposal to CIDA	January	Core Committee	Project Proposal to be completed and submitted

January 5, 2009

Babonneau Disaster Preparedness Committee Annual Report for 2008

The Babonneau Disaster Preparedness Committee met regularly last year and was able to execute its outreach programme which is aimed at creating awareness and in some cases reminding persons of their responsibilities to mitigate and or prevent disasters. Avenues used were the churches, schools and communities. The response could have been better but members were encouraged that the exercise was not done in futility. Although the information was slow in coming, some progress was also made in the collecting of data in relation to community resources (trucks, chainsaws and heavy duty equipment). The information has not been collated and this task will be undertaken as part of this year's activities.

The Committee however did fall short in the renewal of contracts and this was mainly due to a misunderstanding of why prices had to be submitted to NEMO. Having clarified this, the renewal of contracts should be timely this year.

As in all communities, there were damages due to the heavy rains in October. Areas like Union, Boguis and Ping Pong (Chassin) experienced heavy flooding. There were a few landslides, the most notable ones in Garrand and Cocoa Girard. No casualties or fatalities were reported.

The Committee took a tour of the Satellite Warehouse and will be meeting to properly label and pack items for ease of retrieving these items when the need arises. These were cleared before the Committee met after the rains.

TRAINING: One member attended a three days SMID workshop
One member attended a one day workshop in mapping out risk areas (GIS mapping)
This information hopefully will be shared with the group during this year's programme of activities.

PUBLIC EDUCATION: School (Secondary school), Church meetings (Baptist, Pentecostal churches) Public meeting (Balata) Health Centre (Babonneau)

EMERGENCY RESPONSE: Building materials were secured for one family who lost their home during Dean. Materials were provided by P.R.F.

CHALLENGES: Turn out at some meetings were low
Some planned meetings did not take place due to inclement weather.
Get all sub communities to be represented on the local committee
All volunteers are working people with families to take care of and can only give limited time to the affairs of the Committee

RECOMMENDED SOLUTIONS: Use text messaging to remind members of meetings

WAY FORWARD: Training in SMID for members
Continue educational programme
Reactivate all sub committees
Complete database of community resources
Social activity for members
Participate in NEMO training exercises

Laborie Disaster Preparedness Committee Report 2008
Reporting Officer: Ulric Alphonse, Chairperson

PREPAREDNESS

- Members participated in training in the following areas: Stress Management, Damage Assessment
- Satellite Warehouse was stocked with emergency supplies
- Executive Committee elections held
- Committees were established in satellite communities of Banse and Augier

PUBLIC EDUCATION

- Executive Committee meetings were held
- Executive & sub- committee meetings were held
- Meeting held with Laborie Village Council to discuss areas of collaboration and to increase efficiency
- Town Hall meeting held to sensitize community about need for preparedness and to discuss plans of Local Committee

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- Committee did not participate in any major activity but was on alert for floods from heavy rains and waves from sea surge

CHALLENGES

- Apathy by the general public. Attendance at public meetings is generally low as concern is shown mainly during the hurricane season. Regular community meetings and public education is recommended. Variety in form of meeting will be considered.
- Issues regarding cutting of trees and neighbor controversies. Public sessions to be held with Village Council, NEMO and other relevant agencies.

WAY FORWARD

- Strengthening of Executive and other Committees
- Regular meetings of all committees
- Public Education
- Participation in organized workshops and activities by NEMO and other Agencies.
- Collaboration with the community of Anse D'Arlet in Martinique in the area of disaster management
- Development /Formulation of a Community Disaster Response Plan

***Annual Report for the Vieux-Fort South Disaster Preparedness
Committee***

Name of Reporting Officer - Kizzie Joseph (Secretary)

Preparedness

Committee members took part in three training workshops for 2007.

- Leadership training that aimed to enhance the administration and management capacity of all committee members. Training was held at the Vieux-Fort Fisheries Complex Conference Room.
- Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis workshop at the Bay Gardens Resort.
- Training for Facilitators workshop at the Coconut Bay Resort.

Public Education

- Dissemination of information on disasters to the students and teachers other Vieux- Fort Technical School.
- Regular public meetings were held.

Emergency Responses

The committee assisted in two house fires in the town of Vieux- Fort by providing building materials to the two families that lost their homes.

Challenges

The major challenge of 2007 was the lack of interest, commitment and poor collaboration that was shown by the committee members and stake holders.

Possible Solutions

- Having all committee members involved in decision making processes
- Give repeated reminders to all members and stake holders for meetings and activities
- Mobilization of new members

Way Forward

For the year 2009 the Vieux- Fort South Committee will be undertaking a major simulation exercise for all stake holders and members of the public to reiterate the fact that disasters come in all different forms and as a result the people of Vieux- Fort South cannot afford to become complacent.

2009 Program of Activities

February & March

- General Meeting
- Inspection and Maintenance of all hand held radios

- Training on the proper use and care for all hand held radios

April & May

- Monthly meeting
- Refreshers course on First aid and CPR for all committee members; in preparation for the hurricane season

June & July

- Monthly meeting
- Site visit to all flood prone areas
- Dissemination of information to members of the public on disasters

August & September

- Simulation exercise for the residents of Bruce Ville. (Proposed disaster – Fire / Landslide)

September & October

- Postmortem of simulation exercise by committee members and participants of the exercise

November & December

- Community meeting to be held in Dierre Morne / La Resource
- Social Activity to end the year.

***Canaries Emergency Management Committee
2009 Report
Submitted: 27 February 2009***

Main Highlights for 2008

1. Meetings
2. Hurricane (Marine) response
3. Deputy Chairman completed OFDA TFI training

Plans for 2009

1. Warehouse Management training
2. Institutional Strengthening

The emphasis is on institutional strengthening and maintaining a high state of preparedness.

Gregory Deterville
CHAIRMAN

Soufriere Disaster Committee
Name of Reporting Officer: Simone Mondesir, Chairlady

Preparedness

Members of the Soufriere Disaster Committee, attended training in Stress Management, Damage Assessment, Disaster Management and Fire Safety.

Public Education

Public education was done at schools with emphasis on disaster plans for schools and business places. Six (6) monthly meetings and two (2) emergency meetings were held with the disaster committee.

Public education was also done before major events e.g. Prince visit, Soufriere Jazz, Carnival, rediscovering Soufriere in collaboration with the fire department.

Emergency Responses

- Prince Charles visit to Soufriere, February 2008. The Canaries Disaster Committee assisted the Soufriere Disaster Committee for this event.
- Rains and floods in October caused damage to roads and road blocks as a result of landslides along the Soufriere Castries road.
- The Soufriere Disaster Committee responded to sea swells of hurricane Omar. The Soufriere water front including Barons Drive was affected by high waves due to hurricane Omar.

Plans for 2009:

- Membership drive.
- Restructure of various sub-committees.
- Review emergency shelters.
- Pre- hurricane season mobilization.
- Public education for residents of Etangs, Belle Fond, Chateau Bellair, Myers Bridge, Bouton, Fond St. Jacques, Zenon.
- Hazard mapping, in collaboration with fire department.
- Organize a simulation activity for the community.

Prepared by: Simone Mondesir
Chairperson
Soufriere Disaster Committee

Part 4 – Appendices

- NEMO Profile
- 2009 Hurricane Names
- 2009 Disaster Diary
- 2008 Disaster Diary
- NEMO Structure

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 [PCDPPP], 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 and summer school talks.

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:

The Director
National Emergency Management Organisation
PO Box 1517
Castries, Saint Lucia
WEST INDIES

Tel: 758-452-3802
Fax: 758-453-2152

eMail [main]: eoc@candw.lc
eMail [alternate]: slunemo@yahoo.com

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

Hurricane Names for 2009



In 1953, women's names were substituted, and in 1979, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the U.S. National Weather Service switched to a list of names that also included men's names. The current list of names recycles every six years, unless a hurricane gets its name retired. Any nation impacted by a severe hurricane can lobby the WMO to have the hurricane's name retired. From 1950 - 2004, 62 hurricanes had their names retired. The list includes one tropical storm, Allison of 2001 that caused billions in damage from its heavy rains.

Source:

<http://www.wunderground.com/hurricane/retired.asp>

Names are recycled every 6 years.

The names of particularly strong and destructive storms are retired to avoid confusion in future years with storms having the same name.

Ana
 Bill
 Claudette
 Danny
 Erika
 Fred
 Grace
 Henri
 Ida
 Joaquin
 Kate
 Larry
 Mindy
 Nicholas
 Odette
 Peter
 Rose
 Sam
 Teresa
 Victor
 Wanda

Saint Lucia 2009 – Disaster Diary



September 9/10, 1994
15 years - Tropical Storm Debbie



October 1999
10 years - GOSL became involved in
the Black Mallet/ Maynard Hill
Landslide



Saint Lucia 2008 – Disaster Diary

NEMO Remembers the 1948 Castries Fire

June 16, 2008 – Thursday marks 60 years since the 1948 Castries Fire devoured 75% of Castries and rendered 2,000 homeless.

From the press of the day...

The fire alarm sounded shortly after 8:00 p.m. and by 8:30 p.m. the fire was out of control; so that for full 10-hours the fire spreading wherever the wind listed. After the first half-hour, hardly less than 4 to 6 buildings were ablaze at the same time and very often traveling in different directions. Even if there was water, there would not have been enough equipment to fight a fire of such magnitude. Of course with water and proper equipment the fire could not have progressed so rapidly and spread so widely. Nevertheless, let no one think for a moment that the fire was not fought, for if it were not fought the fire could not have been checked by the St Joseph's Convent on Micoud Street and at 59 St Louis Street and were it not checked at these points, perhaps not a house would have been left standing in the town.

The Press and people of Castries have long been reminding Government and the Castries Town Board that water was and still is a number one priority. We have written on diverse occasions in the same strain on the unsatisfactory Castries Water Supply, but the war stringency was trotted out each time as an excuse and as a result for Saint Lucia the war has not ended. We are still being blitzed by fire.

NEMO takes this opportunity to remind the public that Saint Lucia is vulnerable to many hazards and though storms are recurrent we need to be prepared for all manner of threats.

Source: Saint Lucia National Archives

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Further Resources:

- Castries City Council: <http://castriescitycouncil.org/fires.htm>
- Saint Lucia National Emergency Management Plan: <http://stlucia.gov.lc/docs/nemo/nrp/index.htm>
- CDERA Media Kit for the Caribbean http://www.cdera.org/doccentre/publications/Media_Kit_Ver06_2004_v3.pdf

NEMO Remembers 1973: Saint Lucia's First Fatal Air Crash

October 28, 2008 – NEMO continues its campaign of education to inform Saint Lucians that we must prepare for not only hurricanes. Tomorrow marks 35 years since a plane crashed at Mount Gimie leaving 3 dead. The following is an EXTRACT from an article by Robert Devaux for the Saint Lucia National Trust:

At 7:30 p.m. Monday, 29th October 1973, Pilot Surage left Vigie Airport for Hewanorra Airport, 15 minutes away, in a SIAS (Sun Island Air Service) twin engine Islander aircraft, registration number M37JA, with three passengers. They were Dutch Engineer Dalman from Trinidad and his two sons, ages 9 and 11 years old. It became obvious by 8:30 p.m. when Surage had not yet requested landing clearance that the plane had probably encountered some misfortune. A search and rescue operation could not be launched until daylight.

At first light on Tuesday morning, an air and sea search was carefully conducted, using the spray plane, the police boat and other small crafts. Julio Valdez, SLBGA pilot, was the first to spot the wreckage from the air, on the south eastern spur of Morne Gimie.

A French helicopter was called in from Martinique to assist in a rescue attempt, but the terrain proved to be much too steep and dangerous to accommodate any such attempt from the air. A ground party including a doctor, with slim hope of finding survivors, was organized by mid-day and set out on foot from Migny. The difficult terrain made it impossible to reach the crash site before night fall and the rescue party had to spend an uncomfortable night in the forest.

The wreck was reached on Wednesday, when four bodies had to be pried from the mangled cabin of the plane. The rescuers wisely decided to bring back only the bodies of the two youths. The bodies of the two adults, 150 lbs. Surage and 250 lbs. Dalman, were injected with formalin to delay the process of decay, placed in body bags and laid on the only bit of non-precipitous ground near the wrecked aircraft. On Thursday, a rescue party from Trinidad arrived in Saint Lucia, at the family's expense, to bring back the body of Dalman. This was only accomplished after the heavy body was cut in half and carried down the precipitous slope in two pieces.

The body of Surage was still on the mountain when a delegation approached the Premier on Friday, making several allegations and bemoaning the fact that people were asking for \$10,000.00 as a rescue fee. The family was seeking Government's assistance to recover the body of Surage.

I did not like the idea and I (called) the Premier and suggested that since the terrain was so difficult and dangerous, the body of Surage should be cremated on the mountain after a short ceremony by a Minister of Religion. The Premier replied that I did not understand the implications, that a delegation had approached him that morning (Friday) accusing government of recovering the bodies of the white passengers while leaving the body of

the black pilot to rot on the mountain. I saw how distorted this accusation was and immediately volunteered. The Premier thanked me and informed me that the police boat would leave from Port Police Station at 4:00 a.m.

The truth is that beside the Premier, about seven policemen and fifteen prisoners, there were really only two volunteers on the rescue mission for the body of Pilot Surage.

NEMO takes this opportunity to remind the public that Saint Lucia is vulnerable to many hazards and though storms are recurrent we need to be prepared for all manner of threats.

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Further Resources:

- Saint Lucia National Emergency Management Plan:
<http://stlucia.gov.lc/docs/nemo/nrp/index.htm>
- Fact Sheets on natural and man-made hazards: Technological
http://www.cdera.org/doccentre/fs_manmade.php
- CDERA Media Kit for the Caribbean
<http://www.cdera.org/doccentre/publication/Media Kit Ver06 2004 v3.pdf>

Past articles on Aviation:

- Aviation sector strengthens capacity via training:
http://stlucia.gov.lc/pr2006/june/aviation_sector_strengthens_capacity_via_training.htm
- Plane Crash Simulation: Testing the Readiness of Airport Officials
http://stlucia.gov.lc/pr2004/august/plane_crash_simulation_testing_the_readiness_of_airport_officials.htm
- Simulation at George FL Charles
http://www.htsstlucia.com/2007_News/November/HTS_News_November_15th_2007.html

NEMO Remembers... the Ravine Poisson Landslide

November 21, 2008 – NEMO continues its campaign of education to inform Saint Lucians that we must prepare for not only hurricanes. Tomorrow marks 70 years since the Ravine Poisson Landslide which left 96 dead

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

In November, 1938, abnormally heavy rainfall brought about much flooding, as well as a large number of landslides in the island. Major avalanches occurred in the neighbourhood of the public highroad between Castries and Dennery, at L'Abbaye, Ravine Poisson, Ravine Chicole and Ravine Ecrivisse. Of these, the most catastrophic took place at Ravine Poisson on the morning of November 21, 1938. On what has been historically termed "The Black Monday in Saint Lucia's History", nearly half of the mountain on the western side of the Ravine collapsed, sending a deluge of liquid clay racing for about three to four hundred yards, burying everything in its path.

The residents of a hamlet situated near the base of the mountain had absolutely no warning of an impending disaster. As one eyewitness described it, the incident occurred as suddenly as lightning. It began first as a rumbling sound, immediately followed by the sight of a huge mass of earth plunging downward, instantaneously engulfing the cluster of homes and their, over one hundred, stunned occupants.

News of the disaster reached the capital, Castries, at about 11:30 a.m., but did not relay the full extent of the damage. Despite the fact that a two lorry rescue squad was dispatched to the scene immediately, its progress was severely impeded by the heavy flooding occurring in the Cul de Sac area at that time.

The first officials who were finally able to reach the scene described it as follows, "The sight all the way to Ravine Poisson was one of death and desolation. The swirling waters racing madly by and every now and again dead bodies were passed on the roadside, brought down by the water. Ravine Poisson itself presented a sight that was most unbelievable. Dead bodies were seen everywhere. Here and there crushed beyond recognition, while sticking up out of the watery clay itself could be seen hands, legs and heads of people caught in the turmoil of the liquid racing clay."

Rescuers worked frantically to search for survivors and treat the injured, ever aware of the possibility that more slides could occur. One of these was Mr. Bertie Cox who worked heroically to help the injured.

The direction of operations was eventually taken over by the colony's Administrator, Mr. A A Wright, who introduced a measure of order and organized workers into gangs so as to dig out the bodies of the victims. A morgue was established near the site and the dead was placed there for identification. By nightfall, nearly fifty bodies had been recovered, with an estimated one hundred more presumed still missing.

The following day, November 22nd, at about 4 a.m., another landslide struck the Ravine Poisson area. This one claimed another two lives, in addition to reburying many of the dead bodies that were unearthed on the previous afternoon. As a result of this second slide, an order was issued by the Administrator to have the entire area evacuated.

Police then proceeded to coordinate the movement of refugees to Castries and adjoining villages. Later, the government dispensed relief to the sufferers from the floods and landslides, and to persons who had to be evacuated from the dangerous areas. The Report of Inquiry into the disaster sited its cause as follows, "it would appear that heavy accretions of rain water on the summit of the watershed percolated through and entered faults in the strata of the hills thus causing what is believed to be a burst in the hillside."

The final death toll was put at 96.

NEMO takes this opportunity to remind the public that Saint Lucia is vulnerable to many hazards and though storms are recurrent we need to be prepared for all manner of threats.

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Further Resources:

- Saint Lucia National Emergency Management Plan:
<http://stlucia.gov.lc/docs/nemo/nrp/index.htm>
- CDERA Media Kit for the Caribbean
http://www.cdera.org/doccentre/publications/Media_Kit_Ver06_2004_v3.pdf
- Fact Sheets on natural and man-made hazards: Landslides
http://www.cdera.org/doccentre/fs_landslides.php

Past articles on landslides:

- Land Owners Urged to take Responsibility for Protecting their Properties from Landslides [November 25, 2005] -
http://stlucia.gov.lc/pr2005/november/land_owners_urged_to_take_responsibility_for_protecting_their_properties_from_landslides.htm

NEMO Remembers... the 2007 November Earthquake

November 28, 2008 – NEMO continues its campaign of education to inform Saint Lucians that we must prepare for not only hurricanes. Tomorrow marks One Year since the 7.3 earthquake off Martinique shook Saint Lucia and the Caribbean Region.

The earthquake was recorded as a 7.3 off Martinique at around 3pm shocking many Saint Lucians and manifesting the "no notice" nature of earthquakes.

The earthquake was not related to the volcanoes in the region. Earthquakes are a tectonic event caused by the movement of plates beneath the Earth's surface. It was unrelated to the region's volcanoes.

Also climate change or hot weather does not cause earthquakes. Earthquakes are caused by processes deep within the Earth while hot weather and climate change are related to the atmosphere.

It must also be noted that Scientists are not able to predict the time and date of when an earthquake will occur, however, the Eastern Caribbean is a seismically active area and as such we will continue to have earthquakes of varying magnitudes.

This was not the largest earthquake to occur in the Caribbean – that took place in 1843. Scientists have estimated that event to have been in the magnitude range 8.1 to 8.5.

The most important thing to do during an earthquake is to stay calm.

- If inside, stay inside and away from windows and mirrors.
- Do not run outside as you may be injured by falling objects.
- Protect your head and face and find cover under a strong desk or doorway.
- After the earthquake, check for structural damage or broken gas lines.

In an article dated Oct.10.2008 the Seismic Research Centre stated --- Doug Copp's recommendation of the 'Triangle of Life' is presented as a definitive strategy for protecting oneself during an earthquake and is often circulated widely on the internet following an earthquake. Scientists at the Seismic Research Centre do not support the 'Triangle of Life' recommendation and is compelled to respond to this article which at the very least can be misleading for our region. The full article may be accessed at

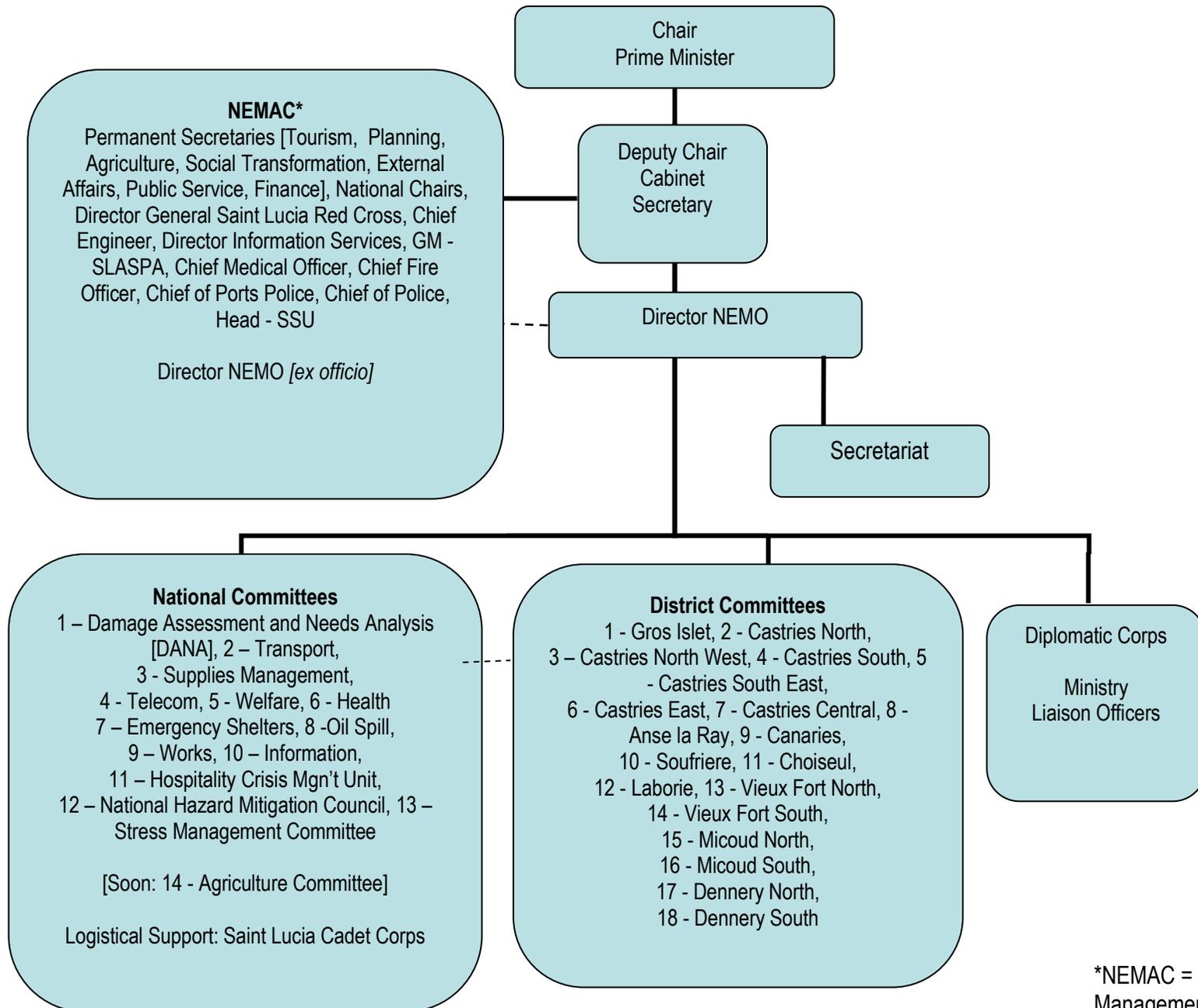
<http://www.uwiseismic.com/NewsDetails.aspx?id=91>

NEMO takes this opportunity to remind the public that Saint Lucia is vulnerable to many hazards and though storms are recurrent we need to be prepared for all manner of threats.

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Further Resources

- Fact Sheet: Earthquakes
http://www.cdera.org/doccentre/fs_earthquakes.php
- Earthquake Safety Checklist
<http://www.uwiseismic.com/General.aspx?id=51>
- Saint Lucia National Emergency Management Plan:
<http://stlucia.gov.lc/docs/nemo/nrp/index.htm>
- CDERA Media Kit for the Caribbean
http://portal.unesco.org/fr/files/29007/11273136399Media_Kit_Ver_06_2004_v3.pdf
[f/Media%2BKit%2B_Ver%2B06_2004_%2Bv3.pdf](http://portal.unesco.org/fr/files/29007/11273136399Media_Kit_Ver_06_2004_v3.pdf)
- The Triangle of Life
<http://www.uwiseismic.com/NewsDetails.aspx?id=91>



*NEMAC = National Emergency Management Advisory Committee

Planning an Event?

<http://www.geocities.com/slumce>

Should be your first stop for information and assistance

Mass Crowd Events can be classified as follows:

<p><u>Entertainment:</u> Sportive, musical, commemorative or tourist events. Those events held with the intention of celebrating some important dates, sportive events, music or folklore festivals, etc: sport matches, (Cricket, football, others), sailboat regattas, Jounen Kweyol, calypso contests, LUCELEC Line-man Rodeo, Carnivals, and Beauty Pageants etc.</p>	<p><u>Social/Political:</u> Those that have a social or a political cause and/or intend to show satisfaction or dissatisfaction with specific political decisions or social situations, political parties, elections' results, price raising, etc., through political meetings and/or demonstrations, block-o-rama, Diplomatic Conferences etc.</p>	<p><u>Religious:</u> Those that have a religious purpose such as worship, rallies, crusades, festivals, weddings, pilgrimages, processions, funerals, etc.</p>	<p><u>Educational:</u> These are event organised for / by schools or Education Authorities or by Students. Events such as Athletic Meets, Rallies, Debating Competitions, Interschool Calypso, SMC TalFest etc.</p>
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A message from:

Ministry of Works - Electrical Department | Ministry of Health - Office of the Chief Medical Officer | Ministry of Health - Department of Environmental Health | Ministry of External Affairs | Eastern Caribbean Collective Organisation for Music Rights [ECCO Formerly HMS] | Saint Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority | Labour Department | Royal Saint Lucia Police Force - Operations | Royal Saint Lucia Police Force - Traffic Department | Insurance Council of Saint Lucia | Saint Lucia Lifesavers Association | St Johns Ambulance Brigade | Saint Lucia Red Cross Society | Saint Lucia Fire Service



Formally HMS