

Tropical Storm Sara

INFORMATION NOTE No. 1

AS OF 8:00 PM (AST) ON 15th, November, 2024

Update on Tropical Storm Sara and Potential Impact on Belize

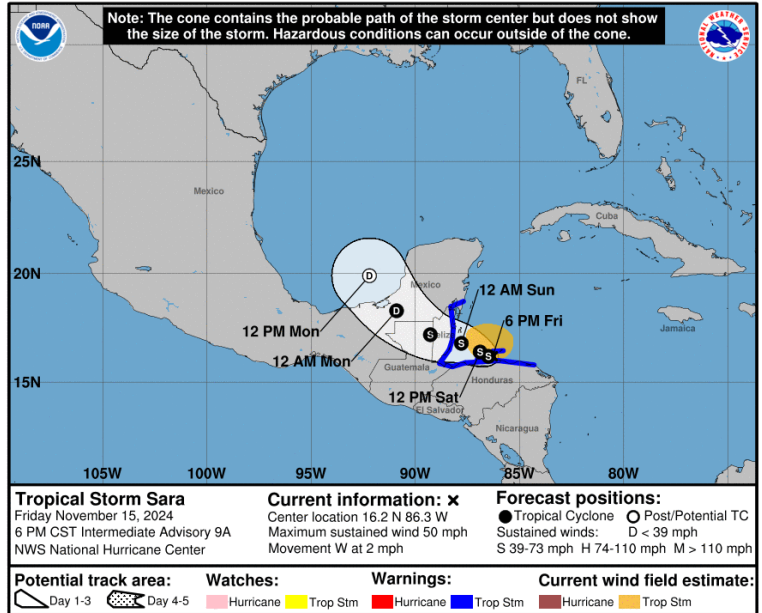
According to the National Hurricane Center (NHC) as at 6:00 PM on November 15th, 2024, TS Sara was...

LOCATED: 16.2N 86.3W or about 175 Miles, ESE of Belize City.

MAXIMUM SUSTAINED WINDS: 50 MPH (85KM/H)

MINIMUM CENTRAL PRESSURE: 997 MB (29.44 INCHES)

PRESENT MOVEMENT: West at 2 MPH (7KM/H)



(Source: [National Hurricane Centre](#))

Severe Weather Update from the Caribbean Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) at 1:00 PM

Disclaimer: *The CIMH provides special weather interpretation of the current and forecasted tropical weather affecting the Caribbean Region and is NOT an official forecasting agency.*

- **Wind:** Tropical storm conditions are expected over Belize on Saturday November 16, 2024.
- **Rainfall outlook:** In Belize, Tropical Storm Sara is expected to produce 5 to 10 inches of rain with localized totals around 15 inches through early next week. This may result in areas of flash flooding, with the potential for mudslides.
- **Marine outlook:** Storm surge is expected to raise water levels by one (1) to three (3) ft above sea level along the coast of Belize, particularly in areas north of the centre of TS Sara..
- **Potential sector Impacts for Belize:**
 - Transportation- Delays in public transport expected due to flooding.
 - Agriculture - Moderate to significant damage to crops due to TS winds.
 - Health - Disruption to first responder operation is likely due to swollen rivers
 - Tourism - Disruption to tourist activities as well as air and seaport delays to the operations.
 - Energy- Reduction in renewable energy production
 - Telecoms- Damage to telecommunications infrastructure likely due to thunder activity.
 - Water- Significant flooding due to swollen rivers and heavy rainfall is expected



Preparedness Updates from the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO), Belize

Monitoring and Current Conditions

- NEMO, in collaboration with the National Meteorological Service, continue to monitor the progress of TS Sara as the system approaches Belize.
- Several areas of the country have been inundated with floodwaters for weeks from previous rain events. Boating support has been provided to assist communities that have been cut off by the floods.
- TS Sara is expected to bring additional flooding, potentially exacerbating the current situation.

Emergency Coordination

- NEMO's Emergency Operations Centre was partially activated on Friday, November 15, 2024, and is set to transition to full activation on Saturday, November 16, 2024.
- National Disaster Committees have convened to discuss evacuation strategies and search and rescue operations.
- NEMO remains in contact with local and regional partners, including the Civil Aviation Department and the Port Authority, to ensure the safe operation of aircraft and vessels.
- The airport remains operational and is expected to operate for limited hours on Saturday, November 16, for as long as conditions permit.
- The storm poses a significant risk to critical sectors, including agriculture and tourism, with anticipated damage and disruption because of extensive flooding.

Public Advisories

- NEMO continues to issue regular advisories to the public, emphasizing the need for vigilance and adherence to safety protocols.
- NEMO has strongly advised event organizers to postpone all public events over the national holiday weekend until the all-clear is issued.



Updates from the Caribbean Development Partners Group (CDPG)

COORDINATION

Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)

- The Regional Coordination Plan was activated at 8:00AM AST, 15 November 2024
 - The CDEMA Chair and the CARICOM Secretariat have been apprised of the situation.
 - CDEMA has established and maintains communication with NEMO Belize.
 - The Regional Response Teams have been placed on ALERT.
 - Joint Coordination efforts among the RRM partners are ongoing:
 - ✓ The COPERNICUS Charter was activated by the EU Representative. CDEMA facilitated communication among key geospatial technical support in NEMO Belize and the region.
 - ✓ A CDPG meeting was convened on Friday, November 15, 2024, at 1:00 PM.
 - ✓ The Northwestern Subregional Focal Point (SRFP) – Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM), Jamaica was briefed, and they have placed the sub-regional system of ALERT.
- Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency. Suite #3, Building #1, Manor Lodge Complex, Lodge Hill, St. Michael Barbados www.cdema.org Tel: (246) 434-4880, email: rcuser@cdema.org



Updates from the Caribbean Development Partners Group (CDPG) – Thematic Groups

COORDINATION

United Nations Emergency Technical Team (UNETT), Belize

- The UNETT has activated its emergency plans, which includes its coordination and emergency communications mechanism.
- UNETT Belize has met to discuss and consolidate the preparedness efforts of all its members.

EMERGENCY SHELTER

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- Continues to monitor the progress of the system and has relief supplies in Panama and rostered members on stand-by if required.

HEALTH

Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)

- PAHO has activated its emergency plan to ensure that all staff members are prepared and ready to respond to any requests made of the team.
- The Communication and Coordination Plan has been activated in conjunction with the Ministry of Health and NEMO.
- PAHO maintains close communication with its emergency departments in the Caribbean and Washington, USA
- Consideration is being given for the reallocation of funds to ensure readiness and response efforts.
- PAHO is prepared to mobilize resources from its warehouse in Panama if required.

Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)

- Continues to monitor the situation and has persons on standby to support deployment of Rapid Needs Assessment Teams (RNAT).

EMERGENCY LOGISTICS

World Food Programme (WFP)

- Two (2) Supply Chain Officers are in transit to Belize to provide surge to the national operations if required.
- Satellite software is being utilized to provide critical data and analysis to support ongoing emergency efforts.
- Coordination efforts with the WFP office in Guatemala to access additional resources, including pre-packed food kits, mobile storage units, and potential activation of cash-transfer programmes, if necessary .



Updates from the Caribbean Development Partners Group (CDPG) – Thematic Groups

EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)

- The CARICOM Emergency Telecommunications Team (CETT) was placed on ALERT and stands ready with kit and equipment for deployment, if needed.

World Food Programme (WFP)

- Emergency telecommunications support is on standby and can be deployed upon request from the Government to enhance communication capabilities in affected areas.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

- Pre-positioned supplies are available, including tarpaulins, recreational kits, two multipurpose tents, and 500 hygiene kits. These resources will be distributed as needed, alongside materials designed to promote health, sanitation, and well-being among displaced families.
- Field colleagues are actively working in Belize to ensure water safety and address critical needs in affected areas.

EARLY RECOVERY

United National Development Programme (UNDP)

- Prepared to provide support for recovery efforts, training needs, and damage assessment activities in collaboration with NEMO.
- Remains on standby and ready to assist as required.

MULTINATIONAL CARIBBEAN COORDINATION CELL (MNCCC)

- Continues to monitor the progress of Tropical Storm Sara and remains prepared to provide assistance, once activated.