



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.



Funded by  
European Union  
Civil Protection and  
Humanitarian Aid

# COMPREHENSIVE DISASTER MANAGEMENT (EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS) REGULATIONS SAINT LUCIA

Statutory Instrument, 20[ ], No.

Arrangement Of Regulations



PRIOR KNOWLEDGE  
AND IDENTIFICATION  
OF RISK



MONITORING AND  
WARNING SYSTEMS



DISSEMINATION AND  
COMMUNICATION



RESPONSE  
CAPACITY

# Regulation

01. Citation\_ **02**
02. Interpretation\_ **02**
03. Purpose\_ **04**
04. Use and activation of the early warning system\_ **05**
05. Hazard alerts and warning products\_ **06**
06. Contents of hazard alerts and warning products\_ **07**
07. Arrangements for the dissemination of hazard alerts and warnings\_ **08**
08. District Disaster Committees\_ **09**
09. Tsunamis\_ **10**
10. Hurricanes\_ **11**
11. Earthquakes and volcanoes\_ **12**
12. Standard for beach safety flags\_ **12**
13. Standard for water safety signs used in workplaces and public places\_ **13**
14. Standard for use of water safety signs and beach safety flags \_ **13**

In exercise of the power conferred under section 27 of the Comprehensive Disaster Management Act, No. 30 of 2006, the Prime Minister, on the recommendation of the NEMAC, makes these Regulations.

## 01. Citation

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Comprehensive Disaster Management (Early Warning Systems) Regulations 20[ ].

## 02. Interpretation

2. In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires—

“Act” means the Comprehensive Disaster Management Act, No. 30 of 2006;

“aquatic environment” means areas, such as coastal and inland beaches and waterways, swimming pools and their facilities, and other bodies of water, slurry, rivers, ponds and other agricultural and industrial liquids storage;

“beach” means an area forming a shoreline or sloping bank at the edge of the sea or a river estuary or lake;

“beach safety flag” means material that gives a particular safety message by means of a combination of one or more colours and a geometric shape and is attached by one end to a pole or rope;

“disaster management agency” means the government agency responsible for disaster management;

“disaster liaison officer” means a person designated a liaison officer under section 14 of the Act;

“Earthquakes Alert SOP” means the standard operating procedures approved by the Government for the issue of a hazard alert in respect of an earthquake in Saint Lucia;

“earthquake information statement” means an alert or warning product issued in respect of an earthquake in Saint Lucia;

“Event Summary”, in relation to a threat of a disaster or an emergency or a disaster means an alert to provide to the public, media, emergency authorities and government summary information that can be used in post-hazard analysis;

“Flood Alert SOP” means the standard operations procedures approved by the Government for the issue of a hazard alert in respect of a flood in Saint Lucia;

“Hazard Warning” means an alert advising people of—

- (a) the existence of a threat of a hazard to Saint Lucia;
- (b) the nature and level of threat to marine or land; and
- (c) the specific actions required to be taken;

“Hazard Warning Summary” means an alert to provide to the public, media and emergency authorities information respecting the status of a Hazard Warning;

“Hazard Watch” means an alert advising of—

- (a) the likely existence of a threat of a hazard to Saint Lucia; and
- (b) the need to await further updates on the developments respecting the threat of a hazard;

“Hazard Watch or Warning Cancellation” means an alert to advise when a threat of a hazard to Saint Lucia has passed or a hazard impact fails to eventuate;

“hurricane” includes a cyclone; with wind speed greater than 74 mph (119 km/h).

“Hurricane Alert SOP” means the standard operations procedures prepared by the Agency for the issue of hazard alerts in respect of hurricanes or threats of a hurricane in Saint Lucia;

“hurricane information statement” means an alert issued in respect of a hurricane or a threat of a hurricane;

“Lead Agency” means an entity within Saint Lucia designated to receive official hazard alerts originating from outside Saint Lucia;

National Tsunami Warning Centre means the Saint Lucia Meteorological Services;

“NEOC Director” means the Director of the National Emergency Operations Centre;

“No Threat Bulletin”, in relation to a threat of a disaster or an emergency or a disaster means an alert to advise people that the information respecting a threat of a hazard or disaster has been assessed and that no threat exists to Saint Lucia; “public alerting tool” includes any sirens, church bells, vehicle loud speakers, automated telephone call system, public address systems or other early warning system;

“safety sign” means a sign which gives a general safety message, obtained by a combination of a colour and geometric shape and which, by the addition of a graphical symbol, gives a particular safety message;

“Seismic Research Centre” means the University of the West Indies Seismic Research Centre situated in Trinidad and Tobago;

Tropical cyclone includes a hurricanes, storms

“Tsunami Alert SOP” means the standard operations procedures approved by the Government for the issue of hazard alerts in respect of a tsunami or a threat of a tsunami in Saint Lucia;

“tsunami information statement” means an alert issued in respect of a tsunami or a threat of a tsunami in Saint Lucia;

“Tsunami National Focal Point” means the National Emergency Management Organization to receive a tsunami notification from the Tsunami Warning Centre.

## 03. Purpose

These Regulations are intended—

- (a) to inform persons residing in Saint Lucia; and
- (b) to facilitate the immediate notification of at-risk communities

of any disaster, threat of a disaster, any significant emergency or dangerous situation in Saint Lucia.,

## 04 Use and activation of the early warning system

- (1) The early warning system shall be used to alert persons, households and businesses of imminent or active threats to persons and property in Saint Lucia or a specific area within Saint Lucia.
- (2) The early warning system shall not be used for the dissemination of any of the following—
  - (a) any message of commercial nature;
  - (b) any message of political nature; or
  - (c) any message relating to unofficial or private safety business.
- (3) The Director is responsible, if possible, for ensuring—
  - (a) that Saint Lucia has adequate monitoring and forecasting capabilities in respect of threats from all hazards;
  - (b) the maintenance of adequate and functioning warning and alerting systems; and
  - (c) arrangements are in place to ensure every community at-risk is aware of the meaning of the hazard alerts and warning products and the accompanying safety messages.
- (4) The Lead Agency shall, in collaboration with the NEOC Director, ensure that—
  - (a) the early warning system is activated only by individuals with proper training and authority to use the early warning system;
  - (b) hazard alerts and warning products are passed on to specified entities.
- (5) Without prejudice to sub-regulation (4), when the NEOC is activated, the NEOC Director is responsible for ensuring that warning products are passed on to—
  - (a) all national disaster committees;

- (b) government managed facilities and other at-risk institutions; and
- (c) any other vulnerable land and marine based element in a community or district.

(6) The NEOC Director shall, in the exercise of his or her functions under this regulation, provide an up-to-date status report to the Director.

## 05. Hazard alerts and warning products

(1) The hazard alerts and warning products in respect of hazard impacts or threats of hazards including storms and other weather conditions likely to endanger life or property shall include—

- (a) a No Threat Bulletin;
- (b) a Hazard Watch;
- (c) a Hazard Warning;
- (d) a Hazard Watch or Warning Cancellation;
- (e) a Hazard Warning Summary; and
- (f) an Event Summary.

(2) The Lead Agency shall, during the period in which the hazard alert is in force, provide to the Director assistance and a status report respecting the hazard or the threat of the hazard.

(3) The NEOC Director shall, after consultation with NEMO, consider using assets, facilities and resources not at risk or within any potentially threatened area, to assist—

- (a) in the transmission of hazard alerts; and
- (b) with response and recovery.

## 06. Contents of hazard alerts and warning products

(1) The extent and nature of the announcement, alert, or notification messages communicated under these Regulations in respect of a threat of a hazard or a hazard impact shall be determined by the severity and imminent threat of a hazard or hazard impact.

(2) Subject to sub-regulation (3), every announcement, alert, or notification messages communicated under these Regulations in respect of a threat of a hazard or hazard impact shall contain information respecting—

- (a) the recorded date and time of the alert notification (time stamped);
- (b) the name or logo of the agency issuing the alert notification;
- (c) the nature of the hazard or hazard impact;
- (d) the location of the hazard or hazard impact;
- (e) the estimated time of the hazard impact; and
- (f) the actions required to be taken by the population at risk.

(3) Where a notice of evacuation is issued with the hazard alert under sub-regulation (2), the notice of evacuation shall contain—

- (a) up-to-date information with respect to the origin, extent and consequences of the threat of a hazard or a hazard impact;
- (b) detailed instructions with respect to the evacuation including procedures for evacuating persons with special needs; and
- (c) such other relevant information with respect to the threat of a hazard or a hazard impact including information relating to mitigation, vulnerability, risks and response issued with the evacuation notice.



# 07. Arrangements for the dissemination of hazard alerts and warnings

(1) Where Saint Lucia is—

(a) likely to be affected by a hazard or a threat of a hazard; or

(b) affected by a hazard impact, the Lead Agency shall ensure that the hazard alert and notification process of Saint Lucia is the appropriate operational response to the hazard impact or threat of the hazard.

(2) Where a Lead Agency receives a hazard alert, the agency shall immediately inform the Director of NEMO of the source, nature and content of the hazard alert.

(3) Where—

(a) the Director is informed of a hazard alert under subregulation (2), the Director shall promptly notify the members of NEMAC, the liaison officers, and the chairperson of each National Disaster Committee and District Disaster Management Committee; and

(b) the members of NEMAC, the liaison officers and the chairperson of each District Disaster Management Committee are notified of a hazard alert under paragraph (a), each person so notified shall inform the personnel in his or her department or office and activate the respective departmental emergency operations plan and respond to the NEOC as directed.

(4) Under the Act every person who has a direct responsibility in any emergency response or recovery shall—

(a) keep and maintain a record of their activities and expenditures relative to the emergency; and

(b) submit a copy of the record to the NEMO Secretariat.

# o8. District Disaster Management Committees

(1) Every District Disaster Management Committee shall—

- (a) identify the areas or elements within the district vulnerable to a threat of a hazard or a hazard impact;
- (b) take account of complementary existing alert warning systems operated by any private sector entity within the district;
- (c) where applicable, encourage community resilience by advocating for the community and private sector entities to make their own arrangements for the receipt of hazard alerts; and
- (d) define the responsibilities of the District Disaster Management Committee and other community organizations within the district and appropriate methods to facilitate delivering on such responsibilities.

(2) Where a District Disaster Management Committee has information that a community within its district—

- (a) is likely to be affected by a hazard or a threat of a hazard; or
- (b) has been affected by a hazard impact, the District Disaster Management Committee shall take measures to inform the community of such effect or, as the case may be, the likelihood of such effects.

(3) The warning measures referred to in sub-regulation (2) include the issuing of alerts to inform the community in the district by various means, including through local radio stations, about the origin, extent and consequences of the threat of the hazard or the hazard impact.

## 09. Tsunamis

- (1) The Tsunami National Focal Point shall rely upon, or reference, information and alerts issued by the National Tsunami Warning Centre as information respecting tsunamis applicable to the coastline of Saint Lucia.
- (2) The Tsunami National Focal Point shall ensure that alerts in respect of tsunamis affecting or likely to affect the coastline of Saint Lucia are issued in accordance with the Tsunami Alerts SOP.
- (3) Where the Tsunami National Focal Point receives a Tsunami Information Statement issued by the National Tsunami Warning Center, the Tsunami National Focal Point shall—
  - (a) review the Tsunami Information Statement; and
  - (b) determine whether the Tsunami Information Statement forecasts the arrival of a tsunami in Saint Lucia.
- (4) Where the Tsunami National Focal Point determines under subregulation (3) that a tsunami is forecast to arrive at Saint Lucia, the Tsunami National Focal Point shall —
  - (a) determine the part of the coastline of Saint Lucia which the tsunami is likely to impact;
  - (b) determine the potential impact of the tsunami;
  - (c) where the tsunami is less than sixty minutes away, make the announcement under section 20(6B) advising residents living in the coastline to evacuate that part of Saint Lucia in the interest of their own personal safety.
- (5) Where the tsunami threatens the coastline of Saint Lucia even if it only has a small potential for destruction, the Tsunami National Focal Point shall—
  - (a) identify the location coordinates on the map displayed for that purpose on the wall of the office of NEMO or the NEOC; and
  - (b) promptly disseminate tsunami warning products to the vulnerable communities in accordance with the Tsunami Alerts SOP.
- (6) Where the tsunami event does not threaten the coastline of Saint Lucia, the Tsunami National Focal Point shall continue to monitor information about the tsunami event; but the Tsunami National Focal Point shall take no further action.

(7) Where Director is alerted to a tsunami threat from an earthquake, the Tsunami National Focal Point shall—

- (a) monitor information about the tsunami event;
- (b) report to the Director any changes in the tsunami alert or status of the tsunami; and
- (c) promptly disseminate tsunami warning products to the vulnerable communities in accordance with the Tsunami Alerts SOP.

(8) Where the Tsunami Warning Center notifies Saint Lucia of the issue of a Tsunami Information Statement about earthquakes with no potential for a tsunami, the Tsunami National Focal Point shall—

- (a) initiate the tsunami alert procedures in accordance with the Tsunami Warning SOP; and
- (b) promptly activate all public alerting tools in the vulnerable areas.

## 10. Hurricanes

(1) NEMO shall rely upon, or reference, information and alerts issued by the Saint Lucia Meteorological Services as information applicable to Saint Lucia.

(2) The Meteorological Services shall ensure that alerts in respect of hurricanes are issued in accordance with international standards.

(3) Where a hurricane information statement is issued by the Saint Lucia Meteorological Services, the Meteorological Services shall—

- (a) initiate the hurricanes alert procedures in accordance with international standards; and
- (b) promptly activate all public alerting tools in the vulnerable areas.

# 11. Earthquakes and volcanoes

- (1) The Seismic Research Centre is the official source of information for earthquakes and volcanoes in Saint Lucia.
- (2) NEMO shall rely upon, or reference, information, volcanoes note and alerts issued by the Seismic Research Centre as information applicable to Saint Lucia.
- (3) The Director shall ensure that alerts in respect of earthquakes are issued in accordance with international standards.
- (4) Where the Seismic Research Centre notifies Saint Lucia of the issue of a seismic information statement about earthquakes, NEMO shall—
  - (a) initiate the earthquakes alert procedures in accordance international standards; and
  - (b) promptly activate all public alerting tools in the vulnerable areas.

# 12. Standard for beach safety flags

The shape and colour of beach safety flags for the management of activities on coastal and inland beaches, to be used for giving information on wind and water conditions and other hazardous conditions, and to indicate the location of swimming and other aquatic activity zones extending from the beach into the water, the colorimetric and photometric properties and the physical properties, including strength and colour fastness, of the materials from which beach safety flags are to be made shall comply with the latest edition of SLNS/ISO 20712: Water Safety Signs and Beach Safety Flags: Colour, Shape, Meaning and Performance

