St.Kitts-Nevis Disaster Risk Reduction Initiatives

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) was established in 1995 and is responsible for the coordination of pre and post disaster management activities. The Agency is a department in the Ministry of National Security, Immigration and Labour.

**Vision Statement**

An agency which functions efficiently in mobilizing all communities, government and non government entities, to be pro-active in reducing vulnerability to various hazards and provides an effective, coordinated, national post impact response.

**Mission Statement**

To coordinate and facilitate pre and post disaster management activities at the community and national levels, in order to minimize vulnerability and mitigate against the impact of disaster on life, property and the well being of residents of St. Kitts and Nevis.

**Legislation**

The National Disaster Management Act, St. Christopher and Nevis, No. of 1998 establishes the legal framework for disaster Management.

**Disaster Plan**

A National Disaster Plan is in place.

**Community Involvement**

St. Kitts/St. Christopher is sub-divided into eight (8) districts, while on Nevis there are five (5) districts. The districts consist of several hundred volunteers, who provide invaluable support to the Agency. Each district is managed by a small group of volunteers, chosen from among their peers.

**Mitigation**

The St. Kitts-Nevis National Disaster Mitigation Council was established in 1999. It is chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Sam Condor, and is comprised of Permanent Secretaries, Heads of key response agencies and Non Governmental Organisations. The Council provides general oversight and related policy guidance.

A National Disaster Mitigation Plan and policy document was established in 2001.

**Safe Construction**
Following the devastating impact of hurricane Georges 1998, the Government of St.Kitts-
Nevis enacted the Development Control and Planning Act in 2000. This document
provides the legislative framework for the regulation of the construction sector and for
the orderly undertaking of physical development activities.

In support of the Act, the St.Kitts-Nevis Building Code was upgraded and the Building
Inspectorate was increased. Impact Resistant Windows are placed in government
buildings subsequent to the impact of Hurricane Georges in 1998.

**Emergency Shelters**

Building constructed for community use (i.e. Community Centers) are designed to
incorporate emergency sheltering.

**Early Warning**

Early Warning for meteorological events are provided by the local Meteorological Office
at the Robert L. Bradshaw International Airport on St.Kitts.

The Seismic Research Unit (SRU) of the University of the West Indies, St.Augustine
Campus, Trinidad and Tobago, provides warnings and alerts for volcanic and
earthquake related events.

**Training**

In pursuit of a high level of community and national preparedness, the Agency organizes
training for volunteers, discipline forces and other personnel, in such areas as Shelter
Management, Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis, Hazardous Materials, Mass
Casualty Management and Land Search and Rescue. Where necessary, individuals also
travel overseas for training.

**Public Education and Awareness**

In considering a Comprehensive Disaster Management approach, our public awareness
interventions are undertaken via radio, television, print and exhibitions.

A combination of hazards specific brochures produced either by this Agency or by the
Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) are distributed within
communities.

A Disaster Management Documentation Center that was recently established, will
provide opportunities for residents and visitors to undertake research on various topics.
Challenges

- The Agency needs on staff technical expertise to address various interventions.
- The volunteers within the various communities are not equipped with personal safety items (e.g. water boots, hard hats etc.) which has a negative impact on their morale.
- Limited funds impedes the extent of the Agency’s programme.
- Insufficient equipment (e.g computers) and other technologically up to date implements, impacts training and emergency operations.

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Report

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reporting organization</th>
<th>National Emergency Management Agency</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scope of organization’s mandate (e.g. national authority for disaster, NGO network)</td>
<td>The Agency is a department in the Ministry of National Security and is responsible to coordinate pre and post disaster management activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country, region, or other area being reported on</td>
<td>St. Kitts - Nevis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reporting on own organization or on behalf of others – please state</td>
<td>Agency Report</td>
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<td>Contact officer</td>
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