



BELIZE

**DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE ACT
CHAPTER 145**

REVISED EDITION 2003

SHOWING THE SUBSIDIARY LAWS AS AT 31ST OCTOBER, 2003

This is a revised edition of the Subsidiary Laws, prepared by the Law Revision Commissioner under the authority of the Law Revision Act, Chapter 3 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000.

ARRANGEMENT OF SUBSIDIARY LAWS



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This edition contains a consolidation of the following laws-

Page

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 1. DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE ACT (COMMENCEMENT) ORDER. | 4-5 |
| 2. DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE (THREATENED DISASTER ALERT MOBILISATION) REGULATIONS. | 6-9 |
| 3. DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE (SHELTER) BY-LAWS. | 10-17 |

	Page
4. DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE (SHELTER) REGULATIONS.	18-20
5. DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE (HAZARD INSPECTION) (PROCEDURE) REGULATIONS.	21-24
6. DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE (NATIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE) (RULES OF PROCEDURE) REGULATIONS.	25-26

CHAPTER 145**DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE ACT**
(COMMENCEMENT) ORDER
ARRANGEMENT OF PARAGRAPHS

1. Short title.
2. Commencement of Chapter 145.

CHAPTER 145

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE ACT
(COMMENCEMENT) ORDER

(Section 37)

79 of 2000.
Act 10 of 2000.

[2nd September, 2000.]

1. This Order may be cited as the

Short title.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE ACT
(COMMENCEMENT) ORDER.

2. In exercise of the powers conferred upon me by section 37 of the Disaster Preparedness and Response Act and all other powers thereunto me enabling, **I, SAID W. MUSA**, Prime Minister, do hereby appoint the 28th day of August, 2000, as the day on which the said Act shall come into force.

Commencement
of Chapter 145.

MADE this 21st day of August, 2000.

(SAID W. MUSA)

*Prime Minister and Minister Responsible
for Disaster Preparedness*

CHAPTER 145**DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE
(THREATENED DISASTER ALERT MOBILISATION) REGULATIONS****ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS**

1. Short title.
2. Duties of the National Coordinator in the event of a threatened disaster alert.
3. Duties of liaison officers in the event of a threatened disaster alert.
4. Prime Minister to be kept informed.
5. Functions of Public Officers.
6. Commencement.

CHAPTER 145

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE
(THREATENED DISASTER ALERT MOBILISATION)
REGULATIONS

80 of 2000.
Act 10 of 2000.

(Section 31(1))

[2nd September, 2000.]

1. These Regulations may be cited as the

Short title.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE
(THREATENED DISASTER ALERT MOBILISATION)
REGULATIONS.

2. In the event of a threatened disaster alert under section 27 of the Act, the National Coordinator shall coordinate urgently the implementation of the Provisions of the National Disaster Preparedness Response Plan to meet the threatened disaster and in particular shall -

Duties of the
National Coordinator
in the event of a
threatened disaster
alert.

- (a) request the Chairman to convene the meeting of the National Advisory Committee required by Rule 1 (2) of that Committee's Rules of Procedure;
- (b) set in motion the procedures for informing the public of the state of threatened disaster alert and of the steps recommended to be taken by the public to meet the threatened disaster;
- (c) coordinate the preparations for meeting the threatened disaster of -

- (i) Ministries and Departments of

Government, statutory bodies, local government units and other public bodies.

- (ii) persons or organisations who or which volunteer to perform functions related to the mitigation of, preparedness for, response to and recovery from emergencies and disasters in Belize;
- (iii) persons or organisations who or which volunteer to perform functions related to the mitigation of, preparedness for, response to and recovery from emergencies and disasters in Belize;
- (d) set in motion the procedures for the manning of Emergency Operations Centres to meet the threatened disaster, including procedures for the protection of the family and property of persons required for the purpose of manning such centers or required otherwise to perform other duties of protecting the public;
- (e) set in motion the procedures for the release, distribution and replenishment of emergency stores of supplies of food, water, clothing and medical supplies to meet the threatened disaster; and
- (f) set in motion the procedures for the provision of shelter during the threatened disaster alert.

Duties of liaison officers in the event of a threatened disaster alert.

3. The liaison officer under section 11 of the Act for every Ministry and Department of Government shall in the event of the threatened disaster alert provide the National Coordinator promptly with such information as the

National Coordinator requests on the state of preparedness of the Ministry or Department, as the case may be, to meet the threatened disaster.

4. (1) The National Coordinator shall for the duration of the threatened disaster alert - Prime Minister to be kept informed.

(a) keep the Prime Minister provided with current reports on the state of implementation of the National Disaster Preparedness Response Plan to meet the threatened disaster; and

(b) monitor the progress of the disaster threat so as to provide the Prime Minister with the earliest possible recommendation that the conditions have escalated to the point where a declaration of a disaster emergency was appropriate or that the alert should be ended as the case may be.

(2) A recommendation in subregulation (1) (b) is not binding on the Prime Minister.

5. Every public officer shall co-operate with the National Coordinator in the discharge of any responsibilities assigned to that officer under the National Disaster Preparedness Response Plan and in the implementation of the procedures under that plan for the Ministry or Department of Government in which that public officer serves. Functions of Public Officers.

6. These Regulations shall come into force on the 28th day of August, 2000. Commencement.

MADE by the Minister responsible for Disaster Preparedness this 22nd day of August, 2000.

(SAID W. MUSA)

Prime Minister and Minister

Responsible for Disaster Preparedness

CHAPTER 145**DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE**
(SHELTER) BY-LAWS**ARRANGEMENT OF BY-LAWS**

1. Short title.
2. Registration.
3. Overcrowding of shelters.
4. Pets and animals.
5. Weapons and hazardous materials.
6. Limits on the quantity of accompanying luggage.
7. Limitation of liability for property damage.
8. Search of luggage and property.
9. Space allocation.
10. Regulation of musical instruments.
11. Regulation of consumption of alcoholic drinks.
12. Regulation of smoking.
13. Sanitation requirements.
14. Fire prevention.
15. Decency.
16. Cleanliness and tidiness.
17. Breaches of the peace.
18. Harassment.
19. Expulsion and suspension.
20. Commencement.

CHAPTER 145

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE
(SHELTER) BY-LAWS
(Section 31(3))

81 of 2000.
Act 10 of 2000.

[2nd September, 2000.]

1. These By-Laws may be cited as the

Short title.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE
(SHELTER) BY-LAWS.

2. A person seeking admission to a shelter shall provide information in such form as the National Coordinator may require under the Disaster Preparedness and Response Shelter Regulations 2000.

Registration.

3. A person seeking admission to a shelter may be refused admission:-

Overcrowding of shelters.

(a) where the number of persons already admitted to the shelter is equal to any maximum number of persons for which the shelter is approved under conditions indicated by the National Coordinator under section, 10(2)(d) of the Act; or

(b) where, in the opinion of the shelter manager or, in the absence of the shelter manager, a shelter officer in temporary charge of the shelter, the shelter is already being used by such a number of persons that the admission of more persons to the shelter may result in undesirable overcrowding.

4. (1) No person may bring any pet or other animal into the shelter or

Pets and animals.

permit a pet or other animal in that person's control to remain in the shelter except with the prior approval of the shelter manager or in the absence of the shelter manager, a shelter officer in temporary charge of the shelter.

(2) The shelter manager may require a person who has brought a pet or other animal into the shelter or who controls a pet or other animal to remove the same from the shelter notwithstanding that the pet or other animal was brought or otherwise came into the shelter with the approval of the shelter manager or a shelter officer.

Weapons and
hazardous
materials.

5. (1) No person may bring any weapon or hazardous material or any other article likely to cause injury into the shelter except with the prior approval of a shelter officer or the shelter manager.

(2) The shelter manager may require a person who has brought a weapon or hazardous material or other article likely to cause injury into the shelter to remove the same from the shelter notwithstanding that the weapon or hazardous material was brought into the shelter with approval of the shelter manager or a shelter officer.

(3) Where a person admitted or seeking admission to the shelter desires, for the purpose of treatment of an illness or other physical condition of that person or of another person for whom the person admitted or seeking admission is responsible, to bring into the shelter a syringe or other instrument capable of being used as a weapon or a prescribed drug which may have hazardous characteristics or another article likely to cause injury, the person may bring the instrument or drug or other article into the shelter, but must comply with any requirements of a shelter manager or shelter officer:

(a) that the instrument or drug be placed by that person in the custody of the shelter manager or shelter officer when that person is not using that instrument or drug for such treatment; or

(b) where another person with medical, nursing or other similar qualifications is available, that the instrument or drug should be placed by the person admitted or seeking admission in the custody of the shelter manager or shelter officer or such qualified person.

6. (1) Luggage or other property may not be brought into the shelter exceeding twenty kilogrammes per person in weight or exceeding one third of a cubic metre per person in volume except with the prior approval of a shelter officer or the shelter manager.

Limits on the quantity of accompanying luggage.

(2) Where a person seeking shelter is carrying luggage in excess of a limit imposed under sub-by-law (1), the person shall have the right to choose, within the limits imposed under these By-laws, which items of luggage or other property to leave behind on taking shelter.

7. (1) The Government of Belize, its shelter managers, shelter officers or any other Government employees or agent shall not be liable for accidental or negligent loss or damage to luggage or other property brought into the shelter by a person seeking shelter.

Limitation of liability for property damage.

(2) The shelter manager shall have a notice containing the terms of sub-by-law (1) affixed to the shelter in a place where it can be seen by persons entering the shelter premises, and shall take such other steps as may be necessary to ensure that persons entering the shelter are aware of the provisions of that sub-by-law.

(3) Where the limitation of liability under sub-by-law (1) has not been brought to the notice of a person who has been admitted to the shelter until after such admission, the limitation of liability under that sub-by-law applies with effect from twenty-four hours (not including any time falling within a period of a disaster emergency) after the notice has been brought to the attention of that person.

- (4) Nothing in these By-laws creates liability on the Government of Belize, any shelter manager or officer or owner or occupier of a shelter which would not exist at common law.
- Search of luggage and property. 8. (1) Any person seeking admission to the shelter must submit, as a condition for the grant of such admission, to any requirement of the shelter manager or a shelter officer that any luggage or other property to be brought into the shelter shall be subjected to search before or after admission.
- (2) Where the person seeking admission refuses to submit to a search under sub-by-law (1), the shelter manager or shelter officer may exclude the persons from entry to or expel the person from the shelter.
- Space allocation. 9. (1) A person using a shelter shall observe the allocation of space within the shelter made by the shelter manager or, in the absence of the shelter manager, a shelter officer in temporary charge of the shelter.
- (2) No fee is chargeable to persons seeking shelter in a shelter merely for the use of physical space.
- Regulation of musical instruments. 10. (1) No musical equipment or other noisy equipment shall be used during the period from eight o'clock in the evening to seven o'clock in the morning except with the prior approval of a shelter officer or the shelter manager.
- (2) Any person in a shelter shall comply with any instruction from the shelter manager or, in the absence of the shelter manager, a shelter officer in temporary charge of the shelter to desist from any activity causing noisy disturbance in the shelter.
- Regulation of consumption of alcoholic drinks. 11. No alcoholic drink may be consumed in the shelter.
- Regulation of smoking. 12. Smoking is not permitted in the shelter.

13. Persons admitted to the shelter must comply with procedures specified by the shelter manager or a shelter officer relating to – Sanitation requirements.

- (a) the disposal of waste of any kind; or
- (b) the cleaning and disinfecting or sterilization of shared facilities before or after use.

14. Persons in the shelter must comply with procedures specified by the shelter manager or a shelter officer for the purpose of preventing injury or damage from fire, including: Fire prevention.

- (a) restrictions on the time and place where cooking or ironing is permitted;
- (b) restrictions on the equipment and facilities to be used for the purposes of cooking or ironing;
- (c) procedures for the storage or disposal of flammable items; and
- (d) training exercises for evacuation of the shelter in the event of fire.

15. (1) No person in the shelter shall engage in obscene or indecent speech or behaviour of any kind. Decency.

(2) Persons admitted to the shelter shall comply with the requirements of the shelter manager relating to:-

- (a) minimum standards of dress, which may vary in relation to categories of persons, to time and to places within the shelter, to be maintained by persons using the shelter; and

- (b) restrictions on audio, video or print material which may be used by persons on the shelter premises in circumstances where such material may be seen or heard by other persons.
- Cleanliness and tidiness. 16. (1) Persons admitted to the shelter shall comply with the requirements of the shelter manager relating to minimum standards of cleanliness and tidiness to be observed by persons using the shelter.
- (2) Persons admitted to the shelter shall clean the areas within the shelter allocated to those persons at such reasonable intervals as the shelter manager or a shelter officer may require.
- Breaches of the peace. 17. No person shall commit a breach of the peace in or within a distance of fifty yards from the shelter.
- Harassment. 18. No person shall in or within a distance of fifty yards from the shelter harass any other person lawfully using the shelter by:
- (a) accosting or following that other person about without lawful excuse;
- (b) using abusive language to that other person;
- (c) importuning that other person;
- (d) persistently begging from that other person; or
- (e) importuning that other person to buy goods or services.
- Expulsion and suspension. 19. The shelter manager may suspend or expel from the shelter any person who commits a serious breach of or persistently breaches any of these By-laws,

and may enforce the suspension or expulsion by the use of reasonable force.

20. These By-laws shall come into force on the 28th day of August, 2000. Commencement.

MADE by the Minister responsible for Disaster Preparedness this 22nd day of August, 2000.

(SAID W. MUSA)
*Prime Minister and Minister
Responsible for Disaster Preparedness*

CHAPTER 145**DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND
RESPONSE (SHELTER) REGULATIONS****ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS**

1. Short title.
2. Register to be kept of persons in shelters.
3. Commencement.

CHAPTER 145

**DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND
RESPONSE (SHELTER) REGULATIONS.**

(Section 31(1))

82 of 2000.
Act 10 of 2000.

[2nd September, 2000.]

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Short title.

**DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND
RESPONSE (SHELTER) REGULATIONS.**

2. (1) Every shelter manager or, in the absence of the shelter manager, a shelter officer in temporary charge of a shelter under section 10(1) of the Act shall keep, in such form as the National Coordinator may require, a register of persons admitted to that shelter. Register to be kept of persons in shelters.

(2) The register under this Regulation shall contain information relating to -

- (a) (i) the identity;
- (ii) the age;
- (iii) the usual address; and
- (iv) any infirmity, disability or illness requiring special care, medication or treatment,

of the person seeking admission and of dependents of that person accompanying that person; and

- (b) persons to be notified in case of accidental death

or injury of that person.

Commencement. 3. These Regulations shall come into force on the 28th day of August, 2000.

MADE by the Minister responsible for Disaster Preparedness this 22nd day of August, 2000.

(SAID W. MUSA)
*Prime Minister and Minister
Responsible for Disaster Preparedness*

CHAPTER 145

**DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE
(HAZARD INSPECTION) (PROCEDURE) REGULATIONS.**

ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS

1. Short title.
 2. Searches to ascertain the occupier's identity in the case of inspected premises.
 3. Notice of report availability by Advertisement.
 4. Commencement.
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CHAPTER 145

83 of 2000.
Act 10 of 2000.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE
(HAZARD INSPECTION) (PROCEDURE) REGULATIONS.

(Section 31(1))

[2nd September, 2000.]

Short title.

1. These Regulations may be cited as the

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE
(HAZARD INSPECTION) (PROCEDURE) REGULATIONS.

Searches to ascertain the occupier's identity in the case of inspected premises.

2. (1) Where a hazard inspector is in reasonable doubt as to the identity of the occupier of any premises for the purposes of supplying that occupier with the information related to a hazard inspector's report under section 30(7) and (8) of the Act, the hazard inspector shall pursue the following inquiries as long as the reasonable doubt remains -

- (a) seeking from any person who was in control of the premises under section 30(5) information as to the identity of the occupier;
- (b) seeking from any person whose name appears on any plaque or sign on the premises as a person carrying on business at the premises information as to the identity of the occupier;
- (c) seeking from the post office or post office branch which serves the premises information as to the identity of the occupier;
- (d) seeking from the police headquarters or police post serving the area in which the premises are located

information as to the identity of the occupier;

- (e) seeking from the Commissioner of Lands and Surveys information as to the identity of the occupier;
- (f) seeking from the suppliers of water, telephone and electricity services to the premises information as to the identity of the occupier;
- (g) searching any directory of addresses published in Belize or maintained in electronic form by the Government of Belize or advertised as a facility for Belize, for information as to the identity of the occupier.

(2) The hazard inspector may discontinue the searches in sub-regulation (1) where they have been diligently pursued for a period of five weeks after the completion of the hazard inspector's inspection under section 30 of the Act.

(3) The hazard inspector may be authorised by the National Coordinator to discontinue any of the searches in sub-regulation (1) where the National Coordinator considers that the cost of continuing the search would exceed the limit of reasonable expenditure within the budget available to the National Coordinator.

3. Where a hazard inspector remains in reasonable doubt as to the identity of the occupier of the premises after compliance with Regulation 2, the notice of the availability of the report under section 30(7) and (8) of the Act may be given by advertisement in the *Gazette* and in at least one newspaper which is published in Belize at intervals not exceeding one week.

Notice of report
availability by
Advertisement.

4. These Regulations shall come into force on the 28th day of August,

Commencement.

2000.

MADE by the Minister responsible for Disaster Preparedness this
22nd day of August, 2000.

(SAID W. MUSA)
*Prime Minister and Minister
Responsible for Disaster Preparedness*

CHAPTER 145

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE
(NATIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE) (RULES OF PROCEDURE) REGULATIONS

ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS

1. Short title.
2. Rules of Procedure of the National Advisory Committee.
3. Commencement.

CHAPTER 145

84 of 2000.
Act 10 of 2000.

**DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE (NATIONAL
DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE) (RULES OF PROCEDURE)
REGULATIONS**
(Section 31(1))

[2nd September, 2000.]

Short title.

1. These Regulations may be cited as the

**DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE
(NATIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND
RESPONSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE) (RULES
OF PROCEDURE) REGULATIONS.**

Rules of Procedure
of the National
Advisory
Committee.

2. The Schedule to these Regulations shall have effect until further notice as the Rules of Procedure of the National Disaster Preparedness and Response Advisory Committee.

Commencement.

3. These Regulations shall come into force on the 28th day of August, 2000.

MADE by the Minister responsible for Disaster Preparedness this 22nd day of August, 2000.

(SAID W. MUSA)

*Prime Minister and Minister
Responsible for Disaster Preparedness*