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ODM NEWSLETTER

DISASTER FACTS AND TIDBITS

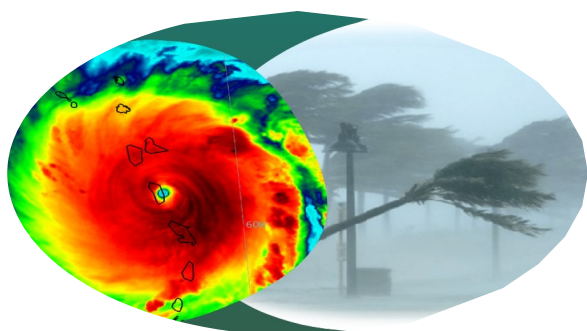
OFFICE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT

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APRIL—JUNE

2021 HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK



The Office of Disaster Management (ODM) observes Hurricane Preparedness Week in the final week of May. This is an annual event when the ODM, in collaboration with key stakeholders, focuses on increasing public awareness on hydro-meteorological hazards in preparation for the upcoming hurricane season.

Following the devastation of Dominica by Category 5 Hurricane Maria in 2017 and the projection for the development of

more intense tropical cyclones due to Climate Variability and Change, the need to ensure that the public is regularly sensitized about hurricane hazards and preparedness remains paramount.

This year, as part of the activities for Hurricane Preparedness Week from May 24 to 30, the ODM gave centre stage to the work and support of Regional Specialist Organizations in the fields of Weather Forecasting, Climate Change and Disaster Management. The organizations that supported this initiative were The Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and the National Hurricane Centre (NHC).

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The NHC is the organization responsible for tropical cyclone monitoring, forecast and warning for the Caribbean in collaboration with regional meteorological and hydrological services. Mr. Graham believes that *"...It's all about the mission of protecting lives and property. I'm excited to participate in all these pre-season activities, because I know we are helping people get ready for whatever the next hurricane season might bring"*.



Ken Graham, Director of NHC

Principal of CIMH, Dr. David Farrell, in his presentation noted that *"collaboration among key stakeholders, including the Media, Disaster Managers and Met Services is critical, speaking with one voice to ensure that the right message reaches the public and to build trust of warning agencies by the public"*.



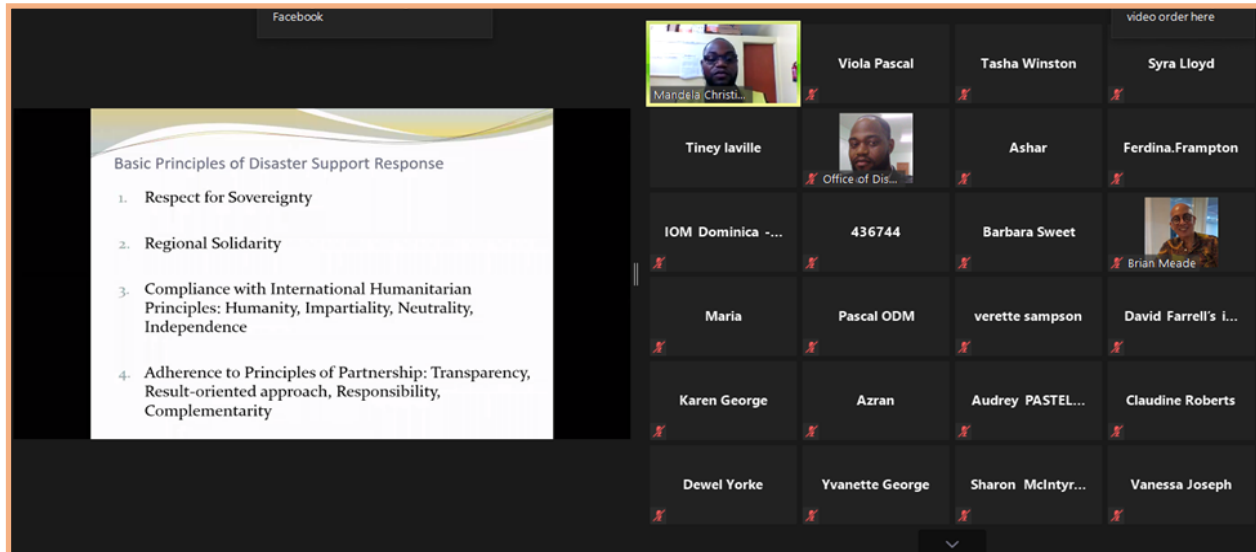
Dr. David Farrell, Principal of CIMH

Building disaster risk knowledge is essential to an effective early warning system

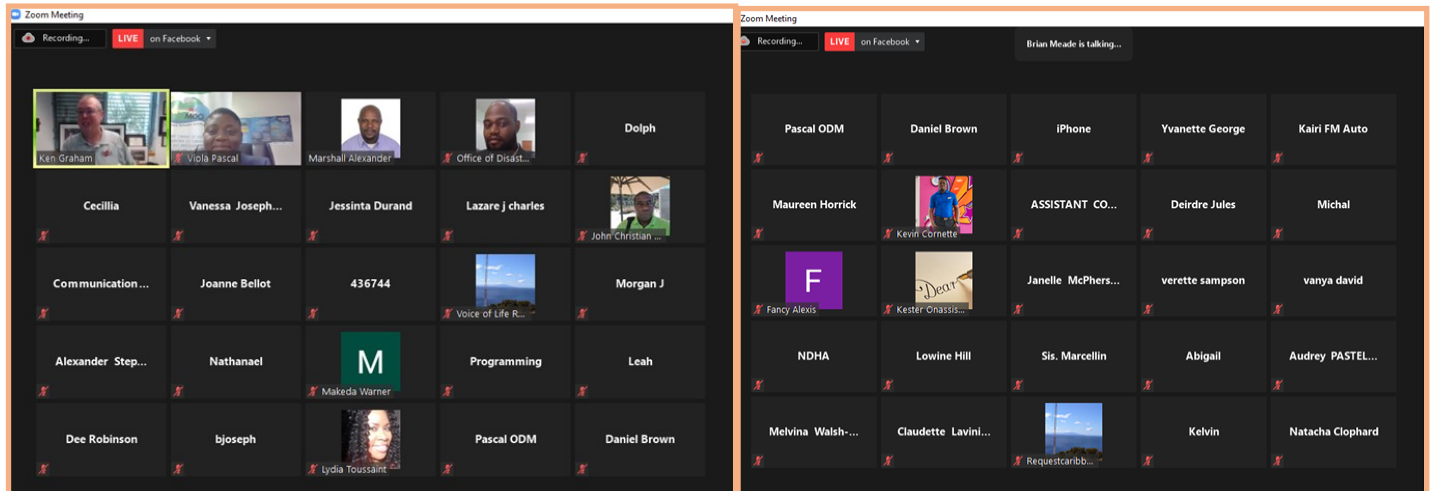


HIGHLIGHTS OF PARTICIPANTS DURING HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK

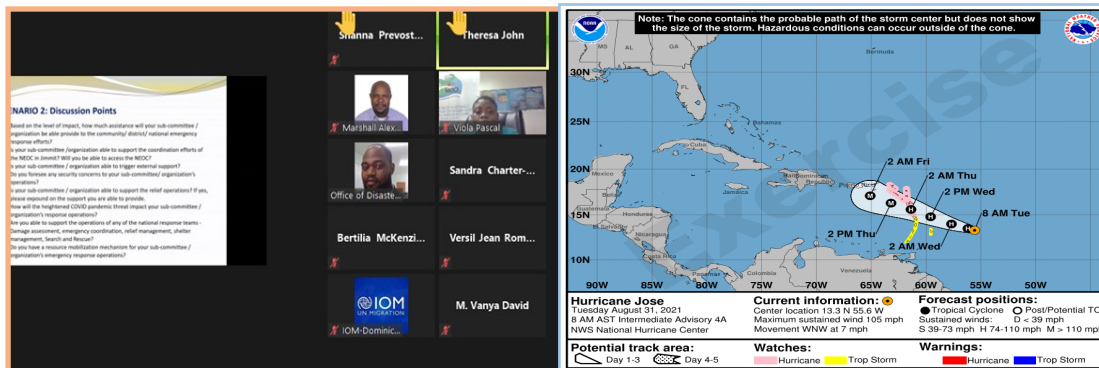
Given that we are operating in the COVID 19 Pandemic environment, most of the engagements for the week took on a virtual format. Presentations were well supported by the public who expressed appreciation for the wealth of knowledge and preparedness information provided by the facilitators. A cross section of the participants are highlighted below.



Mandela Christian, Programme Officer at the ODM, facilitated a presentation on the Regional Response Mechanism through CDEMA.



Ken Graham, Director of the National Hurricane Centre (NHC) facilitated a presentation on hurricane monitoring, forecast, warning and preparedness on May 26, 2021.



Exercise Stormy Weather 2021 - A virtual Hurricane Simulation was executed on May 27. One of the Objectives was to test the protocols of the NEPO sub-committees in preparation for and response to a hurricane impact amid the pandemic environment



United States Strengthens Dominica's Disaster Response through Donation of Medical Field Hospital and Training

The United States donated a field hospital valued at approximately US\$640,000 to the Government of Dominica. As a part of the donation, the U.S. manufacturer of the field hospital trained personnel from Dominica's Ministry of Health, the Office of Disaster Management (ODM), the Dominica Fire and Ambulance Services and the Dominica Cadet Corps on the setup and use of the field hospital at the Dominica Botanic Gardens.

The hospital was purchased by U.S. Southern Command through the Humanitarian Assistance Program (USSOUTHCOM HAP). The field hospital includes five medical tents and one administration tent that can be connected, a 70 KVA generator, an air conditioning system, sinks, a water purification and distribution system, and 40 hospital beds.



Interior view of the 40 bed field hospital.

"The field hospital will provide additional capacity to Dominica's health system in the event of a natural disaster and is part of the U.S. government's ongoing assistance to nations responding to the pandemic," said U.S. Embassy Bridgetown's Chief of Security Cooperation, Lt Col Shane Moran.

Mr. Fitzroy Pascal, the National Disaster Coordinator, noted that "This initiative is in-keeping with the ODM's goal to integrate Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) in our key sectors. The Health Sector will benefit tremendously from this donation as it provides redundancy and additional capacity to our health infrastructure. We are grateful to the US Government for this generous donation, and to the instructor and participants of this training programme".

Twenty-three (23) participants benefitted from this training programme. Mr. Matthew Prosper, Station Officer of the Dominica Fire and Ambulance Services, who was a participant at the training in his remarks indicated that "The workshop is a great programme. After the instructor leaves, the onus is on us to setup and maintain the facility. We are grateful for this training, it is interesting, fun and we are learning a lot".

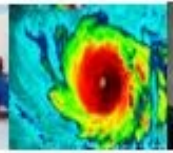
This donation builds on the longstanding partnership between the United States and Dominica. Through regional workshops, best practice exchanges and the ongoing construction of emergency operations centers and disaster relief warehouses in Castle Bruce and Portsmouth, the United States is committed to Dominica's hurricane preparedness and supporting a coordinated emergency response.



Aerial view of the field hospital assembled at the Botanic Gardens during training



Participants who were trained in assembling and disassembling of the field hospital.



Standing in Solidarity with St Vincent—Dominica's support during the La Soufriere Eruption



Caribbean people are known to support our sister islands whenever a distress call is sounded. Dominica is no stranger to hazard impact having suffered devastating impacts from major Hurricane Maria in 2017. Therefore, it was only natural that when the La Soufriere Volcano began explosive eruption on April 8, 2021, the Government and people of Dominica stood ready to provide support to the people of St Vincent and the Grenadines.

The ODM, through the National Emergency Planning Organization (NEPO), supported coordination of the relief operations. A Dominica/St. Vincent Evacuees and Relief Management Plan was drafted by the ODM intended to guide the process. Dominicans showed an outpouring of support exemplified through numerous calls to the hotline that was established to provide assistance to potential evacuees from St. Vincent to Dominica. Along with the pledges, public and private sector organizations, disaster committees, faith based organizations and individuals rallied to send food, water and other necessities to assist in meeting the needs of Vincentians. On April 12, 2021, the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica shipped 14 pallets- seven hundred (700) cases of bottled water to St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Another three hundred and fifty-two (352) cases of water was shipped on April 13 and 40,000 gallons on April 15 in partnership with DOWASCO.

The ODM appreciates the support provided by partner agencies and volunteers to man the then 24-hour hotline at the ODM including IOM and CARITAS (humanitarian arm of the Catholic Church) and the Fire and Ambulance Services.

Dominicans are reminded that they should also have plans in place to respond should the island experience significant volcanic activity, given that Dominica has nine (9) live volcanoes. Visit the ODMs website: www.odm.gov.dm for volcanic hazard preparedness information.



Supplies such as water and food items shipped from Dominica to St Vincent during the La Soufriere Eruption in April 2021. (Source of images-ODM)



DOMINICA'S SUPPORT TO ST VINCENT



Supplies packed and shipped to St Vincent during the La Soufriere Eruption in April 2021. (Source of images-ODM)



Volcano hazard alert Levels

GREEN

Volcano is quiet, seismicity and fumarolic (steam) activity are at or below historical level at this volcano.

YELLOW

Volcano is restless, seismicity and/or fumarolic activity are above historical level at this volcano.

ORANGE

High or elevated level of seismicity and/or fumarolic activity. Eruption may occur with less than 24 hours notice.

RED

Eruption is in progress or may occur without further warning.



Reminder of the Volcano Alert Levels

*Dominica has nine (9) potentially active volcanoes. The Alert Level for Dominica at this time is **GREEN**.*

Volcano Alert Level Chart.
Source UWI-SRC



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Emergency Communications Training for the Northern Disaster District

The Office of Disaster Management conducted Emergency Communications Training Workshops for the Northern Disaster District. The training covered the four day period from June 21 – 24, 2021 for 2 groups of participants at the Cabrits National Park Conference Facility. On June 21-22 training targeted participants from Savanne Pille/ Tantan, Portsmouth, Capuchin and Cottage. On June 23-24 training targeted participants from Penville, Vielle Case, Bense, Borne, Paix Bouche, Dublanc, and Bioche.



Participants from Day 1 Training in Emergency Radio Communications

The training workshop was funded by the Government of Canada—Global Affairs Canada (GAC), under the project titled “Establishment of a Community Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) in Capuchin and a Communications System to link Capuchin and other West Coast Communities to the national EOCs.

The training workshop was facilitated by Sergeant Joseph Raymond of the Commonwealth of Dominica Police Force and the staff of the ODM. Topics covered in the training included Emergency communication protocols, Regulations and License conditions, Components of the radio equipment and Basic radio operations

This activity is in-keeping with the Dominica Country Work Programme (CWP) 2021- 2025, Outcome 1.3: *Improved Operational Readiness*, Output 1.3.2: *The emergency response communications system is resilient and redundant*. It is also in-keeping with the Dominica Climate Resilience and Recovery Plan (CRRP) 2020-2030 Climate Resilience.

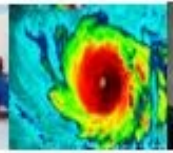


Participants engrossed in demonstration by Sergeant Joseph Raymond (trainer)

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Northern District Disaster Committee members trained in Emergency Communication



Group 1 participants (Savanne Pille/ Tantan, Portsmouth, Capuchin and Cottage) received their certificates in Emergency Radio Communication



Group 2 participants (Penville, Vielle Case, Bense, Borne, Paix Bouche, Dublanc, and Bioche) received their certificates in Emergency Radio Communication



Emergency Communication Training facilitators
L-R— Craig Fabien and Malcom Christian—Logistics support;
Sergeant Raymond Joseph—Trainer.

Inadequate emergency communications are inconvenient at best and catastrophic at worst (Techwholesale)



ODM's Gallery– Building Capacity



ODM facilitated workshop for the Portsmouth (North) District Disaster Committee



Personnel from the UWI Seismic Research Centre (SRC) effecting repair works to the seismic station at Scotts Head.



Left: District Disaster Management Committee Chair, Ms. Frances Alexis

Centre: Deputy, Mrs. Caryl Baron

Right: Secretary, Ms. Eliane Gussie

Building District Disaster Management Committees — Portsmouth (North District) Executive Committee



Maintenance Work at the La Plaine Seismic Station

Source of images: ODM

Contact the Office of Disaster Management for your preparedness support



Website: odm.gov.dm

Email: odm@dominica.gov.dm

Tel: (767) 448-7777 / 618 – 4412

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