



A FORTIS COMPANY

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BEL Takes Safety Precautions as Flooding Continues to Affect Much of the Country

Belize Electricity Limited advises the public that it has temporarily disconnected power supply to a portion of the Southern Zone due to electrical safety hazards caused by flooding in the Stann Creek District.

Earlier this morning, power supply was disconnected to the area from Mile 1 to Mile 35 along the Southern Highway including the villages of Hopkins, Silk Grass, Sittee River and Riversdale; and the entire Stann Creek Valley area including the villages of Hope Creek, Pomona, Melinda, Alta Vista, Steadfast and Middlesex, also Sibun River and Santa Martha.

Rising water levels in these areas have resulted in submerged meters and indoor electrical infrastructure, which pose a threat to the lives of residents.

The Company is also working to restore power to two areas in the Belize District. Repair works are being conducted to damaged insulators on the 22kV distribution line between Mile 1 and Mile 8 on the Western Highway. This area has been without power supply since 5:00 a.m. today.

A damaged switch in North Side Belize City resulted in a power outage at 10:05 a.m. to Mapp Street, Slaughterhouse Road, Freetown Road, St. Thomas Street, 12th Street, K Street, Baymen Avenue and a portion of Princess Margaret Drive. Restoration works in both areas are expected to be completed shortly after midday.

Customers in San Pedro are advised that a power outage has been scheduled for 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. tomorrow to facilitate repair of a damaged switch on the San Pedro Feeder. The entire town will be affected.

BEL takes this opportunity to remind the public of the following electrical safety tips during times of flooding:

- Turn off the main circuit breaker and all appliances if water is rising and can enter your premises.
- Do not walk into any area or water that may be connected to an electrical source.
- Keep away from fallen power lines. Assume all wires on the ground are electrically charged. This includes cable TV feeds.
- Do not go to any of BEL's power stations or substations.
- Remove standing water, wet carpets and furnishings. Air-dry your home before restoring power.
- Equipment located in flooded areas pose a potentially deadly threat and should be inspected by a licensed electrician as it may have been affected by moisture.

For more information call 0800-BEL-CARE or 0-800-235-2273.

END