



A FORTIS COMPANY

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### **BEL Prepares for Approaching Hurricane Felix and Advises the Public to Remain Aware of Safety Hazards**

With the imminent threat of Hurricane Felix on Belize, Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) advises customers that power supply to Caye Caulker may be shut off sometime on Tuesday if employees who man the isolated diesel generating unit in Caye Caulker need to evacuate.

During the passage of Hurricane Felix, BEL will continue to transmit power to other areas of the country as long as safely possible. However, a power outage could result from damages to power lines.

The general public is also advised that all BEL Branch Offices will be closed at 12:00 noon today until further notice.

In the meantime, the Company has suspended service restoration efforts in the Corozal District to allow employees to prepare for the storm. All main power lines in the Corozal and Orange Walk Districts have been restored. Of the 21,000 customers that had lost power supply due to Dean, less than 100 are still without power, requiring repairs to their service entrances.

As Hurricane Felix approaches Belize, BEL reminds the public to take note of the following important electrical safety tips:

#### **Before a storm:**

- Turn off the main circuit breaker and all appliances when leaving home or during a power outage.

- Do not touch fallen power lines.
- Remember water is a conductor of electricity.
- Always have batteries for your radio so you can listen to hurricane advisories.
- If someone in your home is dependent on medical equipment requiring electricity, arrange for an alternative power source before severe weather strikes.
- Make sure you have candles, lamps and battery operated lights for emergency lighting.

**During a storm:**

- Avoid using a corded telephone or any electrical appliance.
- Unplug sensitive equipment during lightening storms.
- 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.

**After a Storm:**

- 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 (0800-235-2273).

**END**