



A FORTIS COMPANY

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BEL Advises the Public to Remain Aware of Safety Hazards with the Approach of Hurricane Dean

With the imminent landfall of Hurricane Dean just north of Belize, Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) advises customers that power supply to Caye Caulker may be shut off anytime after 2:00 p.m. today. This is necessary to ensure the safety of the employees who man the isolated diesel generating unit in Caye Caulker as well as the power supply equipment.

BEL Branch Offices in San Pedro, Caye Caulker, Corozal and Orange Walk are closed until further notice while all other BEL offices in the remainder of the country will be closed for business at 12:00 noon today until further notice.

While BEL will continue to transmit power to other areas of the country via the National Electricity Grid, a power outage could result from damages to the transmission line. If transmission line damages result only in loss of power supply from Comisión Federal de Electricidad (CFE) and not in Belize, there is sufficient in-country generating sources, namely the Chalillo and Mollejon hydroelectric facilities, Hydro Maya and the Gas Turbine, to meet Belize's demand.

BEL reminds the public to take note of important electrical safety tips such as the following:

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.
- 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