



1.0 OCCURRENCE

Gros Piton Fire

2.0 DATE OF OCCURRENCE

June 2002

3.0 AREAS AFFECTED

Morne la Croix, Soufriere

4.0 IMPACT

4.1 Housing

There was the threat of damage to housing due to the rock fall.

5.0 RESPONSE ACTIONS

June 21st the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency had been alerted and were on stand-by to assist with:

- Tents for evacuees.
- US assistance with a response to the fire.

On June 22nd a team was deployed in a helicopter to conduct an aerial review of the impacted area. The team comprised of the Chief Fire Officer, Chief Engineer, Director – NEMO, Deputy Chair – National Transport Committee, Geologist from the Seismic Research Center and a Cameraman of the Government Information Service.

On July 16th, there was a stand down regarding the Fire at Gros Piton with



the following remaining in effect:

- Contingency plans for the night use of Emergency Shelters
- A planned climb up the mountain to ascertain if boulders should be pushed down the mountain.

6.0 CONCERNS

Spread of the fire.
Continuous rock falls.
Evacuation of house holds.

7.0 NATIONAL DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

None taken

8.0 NEEDS

8.1 Priority Action List

NEMO together with the Soufriere and Choiseul Disaster Committees and with the assistance of the deputy Chief Forestry Office put in place a strategy where if needed an immediate evacuation was possible. It was also agreed with the community that the shelter needs were only for nighttime and as such a full activation of the shelter mechanism would not be required.

9.0 FUTURE ACTION

A possible need for evacuation of house holds.



10.0 ASSISTANCE SOUGHT FROM DONOR AGENCIES

To and through the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency an alert for:

- Tents for evacuees.
- US assistance with a response to the fire.

11.0 SUMMARY

On June 10th 2002 the National Emergency Management Office and the Saint Lucia Fire Service received a report of a fire at Gros Piton. The Fire Service commenced monitoring of the situation.

On June 22nd a team was deployed in a helicopter to conduct an aerial review of the impacted area.

The reconnaissance revealed that the rains had put the fire out and based on the weather conditions it was unlikely that there would be a re-ignition. The Geologist explained that the phenomenon of the falling rocks would, however continue, as this was the cycle of the mountain. That this was the normal erosion pattern of the Twin Mountains. The inner core is solid however the outer skin is still in a state of settlement. As a result rocks continually fall, and will continue to fall. The communities around the base of the twin peaks have been built in a danger zone.

Summarized by: A. L. Dawn French

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