



# Early Childhood Care and Education Authority

## Protocols for cyclones and Heavy rain/Torrential rain

### A. Cyclones

#### A.1 Preliminary preparations under normal (no cyclone) conditions

- a) The Manager of school will ensure that for each child the School Records contain the written instructions of the parent in case a Cyclone Warning Class II is issued during a school day.
- b) The Manager will ensure the regular maintenance of the buildings, equipment, outdoor equipment/games etc.

#### A.2 Cyclone Warning Class I or Class II

- a) The Manager will ensure that all openings/fencing etc. of the buildings are secure.
- b) If a Class II warning is issued well before classes begin,
  - b.1 Children and teaching staff should not report to school.
  - b.2 The Manager of the school and other support staff should call at the school to ensure that premises have been secured and that all electrical equipment and appliances are safely kept.
- c) If a Class II warning is issued during a school day,
  - c.1 The Manager should ensure safe release of all children as soon as possible according to parent's written instructions in the School Records **or** immediately contact the parents by phone and initiate actions according to their instructions.
  - c.2 The Manager should ensure that all children leave under the responsibility of the parent or any adult designated by the parent.
  - c.3 In case a pre-primary school is not closing at the normal time because a child/children has/have not yet left, the Manager will inform the ECCEA Regional Office by

phone at the normal time of closure of the number of children still at school, and also just after the last child has left. The ECCEA Regional Office will inform its Headquarters about the schools which are still operating beyond their normal working hours and the number of children in each.

c.4 The Manager should be the last person to leave the school.

### **A.3 Post Cyclone**

#### **a) Post Cyclone Warning Class IV**

a.1 All educational institutions including private pre-primary schools should be closed on the day following the night a Cyclone Warning Class IV is in force.

a.2 The Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research (MoE) will issue a communiqué.

a.3 The Manager should inform as soon as possible the ECCEA Regional Office by mail or fax or phone or SMS about the state of the school and its premises and confirm whether school can resume the next school day or the reason(s) why it cannot resume.

a.4 The Manager should ensure that all hazards including water accumulation have been removed from the school yard and electricity and water are available before deciding to re-open the school and welcome the children.

a.5 ECCEA will submit to MoE a list of schools which cannot open the next school day and the reason for each. This list will be included in the communiqué the Ministry normally issues after all schools have been surveyed.

a.6 The Manager of a school which has not opened will daily submit to ECCEA a status report until the school resumes.

#### **b) Post Cyclone Warning Class III**

b.1 The Manager should be attentive to the communiqué which MoE issues after the warning has been removed. If Class III is removed during the day, the Manager is expected on the same day to survey his school building, premises and equipment.

b.2 The Manager should inform as soon as possible the ECCEA Regional Office by mail or fax or phone or SMS about the state of the school building, premises and equipment and confirm whether school can resume the next school day or the reason(s) why it cannot resume.

b.3 The Manager should ensure that all hazards including water accumulation have been removed from the school yard and electricity and water are available before deciding to re-open the school and welcome the children.

b.4 ECCEA will submit to MoE a list of schools which cannot open the next school day and the reason for each. This list will be included in the communiqué the Ministry normally issues after all schools have been surveyed.

b.5 The Manager of a school which has not opened will daily submit to ECCEA a status report until the school resumes. ECCEA will in turn inform MoE.

## **B. Heavy /Torrential Rain**

### **B.1 Preliminary preparations under normal (no heavy rain) conditions**

- a) The Manager of the school will ensure that for each child the school records contain the written instructions of the parent in case a Heavy Rain Warning is issued during a school day.
- b) The Manager will keep a record of rivers, canals etc. which are in the vicinity of the school as well as areas which are likely to be flooded in case of heavy rain. He will also identify reliable sources of information in the neighbourhood, their names and phone numbers, (apart from the Police) which can advise him on the state of these under heavy rain conditions.
- c) The Manager should plan and organize sensitization campaigns at school level on action to be taken by parents and children in the event of heavy/torrential rain and flood warning.

### **B.2 In periods of Heavy/Torrential Rain**

- a) As soon as climatic conditions prevailing over Mauritius or Rodrigues or Agalega produce 100 mm of widespread rains in less than 12 hours and that this heavy rain is likely to continue for several hours, the Mauritius Meteorological Services will issue warnings at

regular intervals through public and private radio stations and the Police to keep public informed of the situation.

- b) For the purposes of deciding whether to open or close a pre-primary school in cases of localized flooding, the Manager is vested with the discretion which he will judiciously exercise to interrupt classes for the day. He will exercise that discretion in favour of caution rather than in favour of risk, subject to his making a report forthwith to the ECCEA.
- c) The Manager should bear in mind that sometimes the school may be the safest place for the child and should not seek to systematically close down. He will regularly seek information on the state of rivers, canals etc. which are in the vicinity of the school as well as areas which are likely to be flooded [the information may be obtained from the Police or the reliable sources referred to in B.1 b) above].
- d) The Manager may contact the parents and whenever this is the safest action for children, ensure their release until the last child has left school.
- e) The Manager should inform the respective parents in the event that the school population is not in a position to leave school premises for home and also inform the Police as well as the ECCEA Regional Office which will inform the ECCEA Headquarters, which in turn will inform the MoE of those schools which are still open beyond the normal school time because of children who are still at school and the number of children still at school.
- f) The Manager and other staff should remain in schools until the last child has left the premises in the company of his parents or any adult designated by the parent.
- g) The school should not be closed when children are being released.
- h) After having released all children, the Manager will inform the ECCEA Regional Office that the school has been closed. The ECCEA Regional Office will inform its Headquarters which will in turn inform the MoE.

- i) The Manager will also inform the ECCEA Regional Office by mail or fax or phone or SMS about the state of the school and confirm whether school can resume the next school day or the reason(s) why it cannot resume.
- j) The Manager should ensure that all hazards including water accumulation have been removed from the school yard and the school, electricity and water are available before deciding to re-open the school and welcome the children
- k) The ECCEA Regional Office will inform its Headquarters which in turn will inform the MoE of the list of schools which cannot resume on the next school day and the reason for each.
- l) This list will be included in the communiqué the Ministry normally issues after all schools have been surveyed.
- m) The Manager should be the last person to leave the school.
- n) The Manager of a school which has not opened will daily submit to ECCEA a status report until the school resumes. ECCEA will in turn inform MoE.

### **B.3 Post Heavy/Torrential Rain period**

- a) The Manager will send a written report to the ECCEA Regional Office
- b) The Manager will proceed with repairs, if any, of the school building, premises or equipment.