



Office of Disaster Preparedness and  
Management  
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## **CDEMA Situation Report August 23, 2018 as at 1500 hrs**

NEOC Activation Status	<b>Level 2</b>
Initiator	<b>Magnitude 6.9 earthquake at 1731 hrs; August 21, 2018</b> <b>Magnitude 6.0 aftershock at 0928 hrs; August 22, 2018</b>
Activation Time:	<b>August 21, 2018 at 1900hrs</b>

The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) made contact with the National Disaster Coordinator in Trinidad and Tobago following the 6.9 magnitude earthquake felt across Trinidad and Tobago on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2018 at 5:31 p.m.**

CDEMA Coordinating Unit (CU) indicated that the following CDEMA Participating States also reported tremors around the same time: Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname.

The National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) is currently coordinating primarily assessments of all critical infrastructure, government buildings, and roadways, subsequent to the 6.9 magnitude earthquake felt across Trinidad and Tobago a 6.0 magnitude aftershock was also felt on **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2018 at 9:28 a.m.**

Further to the earthquake event there were 32 aftershocks. These were evenly distributed from 21<sup>st</sup> August 2018 into 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2018. Aftershocks will continue and some may be at a magnitude large enough to be felt. **There were no reports of loss of life and serious injury.**

A breakdown of the details of Initial Damage Assessments of critical facilities within Trinidad and Tobago was conducted across the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government (MRDLG) Regional Corporations and National Sectors. Priority has been given to the completion of the Initial Damage Assessment (IDA) and Damage and Needs Analysis (DANA) across all sectors, with the focus being directed to governmental/ government-use, critical facilities and building stock. They are as follows:

### **Essential Government Services**

- The Ministry of Works and Transport (MOWT) has prepared a list of government facilities that to be assessed. Request were made for inspections on **sixty-five (65) buildings which includes twenty (20) schools**. Of the sixty-five (65), twenty-two (22) inspections were completed with thirty (30) ongoing. All facilities inspected were found to be suitable for occupation. **MOWT inspections are scheduled for completion today**.
  - Inspections were completed on Immigration Building Fredrick Street, Port of Spain, which was found to be safe.
  - Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs Headquarters, Abrocomby Street, Port of Spain was also found to be suitable.
  - Jean Pierre Complex and Hasely Crawford Stadium remains closed and are scheduled to be inspected tomorrow.
  
- The Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government (MRDLG) **has reported that Damage Assessments were completed in Arima, Sangre Grande and Mayaro/Rio Claro; assessments for other eleven (11) Corporations are ongoing**. One hundred and ninety-three (193) reports were received, one hundred and sixteen (116) assessment were completed as at 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2018. Information on completion of additional assessment to be submitted.
  
- Tobago Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) **has informed that damage assessments in Tobago is now at eighty percent (80%) completed, further updates will be provided accordingly**. There are no reports of significant damage to critical infrastructure in Tobago at this time. TEMA is currently conducting assessments on the following buildings:
  - Victor E. Bruce Financial Complex
  - Milshirv Building
  - Meteorological Building
  - Central Administrative Services and Registry
  - Tobago Information Technology

- TEMA confirmed several minor cracks were visible on the VE Bruce Building and the report has been forwarded to the Division of Infrastructure Quarries and the Environment for further action.
  
- Housing Development Corporation (HDC) buildings inspected showed no major damage except isolated instances of hair line cracks and a collapse staircase at Mora Heights apartments, Rio Claro. Structural Engineers were dispatched to conduct an assessment. Assessments of all high rise structures are underway. No specific details of same available at this time:
  - *Port-of-Spain and environs*: Some HDC sites were visited; these include; Dorata and Leon Street, Morvant; Trou Macaque, Laventille; Paradise Heights, Morvant; Almond Drive, Morvant; Las Alturas, Morvant; Mango Rose, Port of Spain; Harpe Place, Port of Spain; Bath Street, Port of Spain and Old St Joseph, Laventille.
  
  - *East Trinidad*: HDC developments were visited: Maloney Gardens; Oropune Gardens, Piarco; Greenvale, La Horquetta; Peas Tree, La Goya and Bazillion Court, El Dorado; Breezy Heights and Mountain View, Mt Hope; East Grove, Curepe and Fidelis Heights, St Augustine. Along the West, Chaconia Crescent, Diego Martin; Victoria Keyes, Diego Martin and Vieux Fort, St James were also visited.
  
  - *South Trinidad*: Olera Heights, Cane Street, Lady Hailes, Embacadere, Orchid Gardens, Pleasantville, Mon Repos, Corinth Hills, Corinth Close and Cypress Hills were visited. Mora Heights, Rio Claro was also visited as there were multiple reports of structural damage to some units at this housing development. The HDC's team is preparing reports on, all units assessed and liaising with residents who may have expressed concerns.
  
- The Trinidad and Tobago Fire Service (TTFS) personnel inspected the following facilities in San Fernando, the findings were as follows:
  - The Judiciary/Industrial Court; cracks were visible around the skirting of the building.
  - Legal Affairs had no visible damage.
  - Southern Academy for the Performing Arts (SAPA) hairline cracks were seen throughout the building. This was referred to MOWT who indicated that the building is structurally safe.
  - All City Corporation buildings were found to be unaffected.
  - TTFS inspections are continuing today on government/government-used facilities in Trinidad.

- The following facilities in Port of Spain were inspected:
  - SSA Building, Sackville Street, Port of Spain - Elevator not functional, the walls on the staircase were found to be compromised and the building was deemed unsafe and evacuated.
  - National Lotteries Control Board (NLCB) Office, Duke Street Port of Spain - No major Structural damage, only ceiling and lighting fixtures were disturbed.
  - MNS Temple Court 1 – Cracks visible on front staircase.
  - MNS Temple Court 2 – No structural damage only ceiling tiles were disrupted.
  - Industrial Court Port of Spain – Minor cracks were identified on walls, ceiling tiles on areas of the third floor were disrupted causing doors to jamb.
  - Election and Boundaries Commission building – No significant impact identified.
  - St Anns Hospital (Ward 1 and 4) – Damage to rafters supporting roof, the situation was referred to Port of Spain City Engineer for follow-up inspection.
  - Port Authority Main Administration Building – Significant damage to its beams and columns. The TTFS has proposed that the building be evacuated. Management decision is pending.
  
- Eric Williams Financial Complex Elevator shaft was found to be affected, as such staff has been directed to use the staircase only.
  
- A visual inspection of nineteen (19) bridges belonging to the Mayaro / Rio Claro Regional Corporation were inspected. The bridges inspected appeared to be intact and were not compromised by the earthquake.

### **Public Health**

- The top two levels (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Floor) of the Central Block of the Port-of-Spain General Hospital (PSGH) was decanted due to structural deficiencies. Movement from the other floors will continue on a phased basis. Information has been requested as to quantity and medical condition of patients at Block C and those moved to the Caura Hospital.
  
- Ministry of Health indicated at 1350 hrs today that the Carenage Health Facility was inspected and deemed safe.
  
- TTFS inspected twenty-three (23) government buildings in South Trinidad: San Fernando General Hospital and San Fernando Teaching Hospital were inspected; hairline cracks were found and the information was submitted to the San Fernando City Engineer. The facility remains open.

### **Electricity Supply**

- The Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC) has confirmed that Mt Catharine, Erthig Road Belmont, POS and Pashley Street Laventille, POS are still experiencing power (electrical) outages. Please note that the cause of the outages are undetermined (i.e. impact-related to the earthquake incident). Crews are presently working on these areas.

### **Information, Communications and Technology**

- The Telecommunications Services of Trinidad and Tobago (TSTT) has confirmed that six (6) communities were initially affected, service to these with the exception of Toco Main Road, Rampanalgas was addressed.
- The TTFS personnel inspected the TSTT facility at St James Street, San Fernando; hairline cracks were found, however services at the facility were not affected.

### **Public Safety**

- Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) reported that structural damage was identified at Toco and Sangre Grande Police Stations, no major damage was identified at the other Police facilities.
- The Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service reported no significant damage.
- The Mayaro Fire Station was reported to be affected by the earthquake. The MOWT has inspected the facility and the building was found to be safe.
- The TTDF reported that there were no major damage to Regiment facilities. Inspections on the other Defence Force Formations are ongoing and will be provided on completion.

### **Energy Sector**

- Preliminary reports indicate that there are no structural damage to energy sector facilities. The Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries (MEEI) continue to indicate that there are no reported incidents. BP Trinidad and Tobago indicated that there were superficial (dry walls) damage to their facility. The MEEI offices (POS and La Romain, San Fernando) that were closed yesterday, are open for business today.

- Petrotrin Indicated some offshore installations have been minimally impacted, the most serious being structural damage to the Block Station bridge on Platform 4 in the Main Soldado Field. Engineers have since examined the damage with the aim of developing measures to address the situation. As at 0800hrs today teams were mobilized to conduct remedial activities with the intention to stabilize all areas, to normalcy. Incident Command Team continues to monitor the situation.

### **Water Supply**

- The Water sector facility assessment are ongoing; there has been no compromise to water quality.

### **Food Supply**

- Major landslide on Agriculture access road at Beach Road, Los Iros Erin. Approximately sixty (60) acres of land affected from movement resulting in depressions of 10-15 feet below original level. Ministry of Agriculture and MRDLG is working to address the situation.
- No reports of food supply disruptions.

### **Transportation**

- Independence Square between Duncan Street and Nelson Street was closed off due to structural weakness of the steeple at the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception. The steeple was removed and the road has been reopened.
- The TTFS personnel inspected PTSC buildings at Lady Hales Avenue San Fernando. The main facility was found to only have hairline cracks.

### **Initial Damage Assessments (IDA) and Damage and Needs Assessments (DANA) continues, for the subsequent conduct of Damage and Loss Assessments (DALA).**

Citizens impacted (private properties) that require assistance with conducting inspections following the development of cracks or signs of damage have been advised to contact their respective Municipal Corporation or TEMA through its toll-free hotline number (please see the attached contact listing).

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