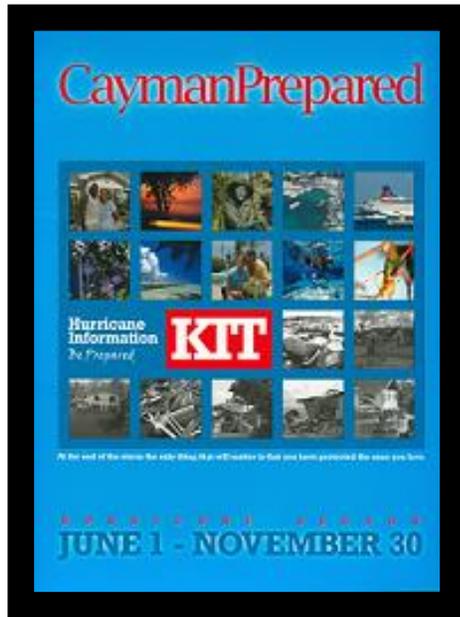


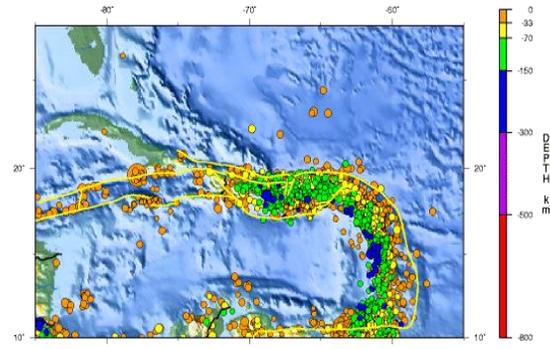
HMCI VISION STATEMENT

A comprehensive approach to hazard management: To facilitate and coordinate the development and implementation of a comprehensive disaster-management program through mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.



HMCI MISSION STATEMENT

Building the disaster resiliency of the Cayman Islands with full community participation in the national approach to hazard management through mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery, thereby ensuring the preservation of human life, property and economic recovery.



Seismicity of the Caribbean, 1990 - 2000

Hazard Management Cayman Islands (HMCI)

HMCI acts as the coordinating focal point for all hazards which threaten the Cayman Islands. The mandate of the agency is in keeping with the global approach to disaster management which recognizes the importance of a comprehensive approach. Accordingly, the agency is responsible for coordination of preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery activities.

FUNCTIONS OF THE AGENCY:

HMCI promotes prevention and mitigation as national priorities in managing risk. It acts as a coordinating point for disaster risk management, including prevention, preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery.

Preparedness - Preparedness involves increasing awareness of threats and putting in place strategies to reduce the potential risks. We cannot always expect to eliminate the threat to our lives and property from hazards, but by preparing in advance, we can usually reduce stress, minimize loss and respond appropriately.

Mitigation - When prevention is not practical or possible, mitigation represents an alternative. Mitigation reduces the vulnerability of the population and developments, and as such reduces the impact of the hazard.

Response - For response the agency will become involved when there is a perceived national threat, or when there is need for a coordinated national response.

Recovery - Recovery activities include both short and medium to long term post-impact activities.



RESPONSIBILITIES

Some major responsibilities of the agency include:

- 1) The development of the national risk management strategic framework and the national risk management programme.
- 2) Developing and implementing a national public awareness programme aimed at all sectors of the country
- 3) Establishing and maintaining a fully equipped and functioning National Emergency Operations Centre
- 4) Coordinating the response to national threats and events
- 5) Guiding the recovery process to ensure increased resilience is incorporated into recovery
- 6) Overall management over sight of shelters
- 7) National plan development (Hurricane plan, Relief plan etc.)
- 8) Community preparedness through CERTs
- 9) Public education to include schools businesses civil servants
- 10) Drills & simulation exercise



Official Launch of HMCI Department January 17, 2007

National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC)

The NEOC is located at the Airport Fire Station and provides centralized coordination and control for disasters and national emergencies. Response and relief operations are also coordinated through the NEOC. It is equipped with radios, telephones, computers, satellite phones, maps, and charts to assist in the response process. Government agencies, NGO's, private entities and personnel that are involved in the national response mechanism assemble at the NEOC to coordinate and direct the response efforts.



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