



MULTI-HAZARD

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Information and Guidance for Tourists



Introduction

Natural or manmade hazards triggering disasters can happen at any moment whether you are at home, in your work place or on holiday at any tourist destination including Seychelles.

Knowing how to react, what one must or must not do as precautionary measures is extremely important for your own safety.

The guidance below are for visitors to follow whilst they are on holiday in Seychelles.

N.B

To facilitate the work of the search and rescue team during any localised or national hazards, before leaving your accommodation for your routine leisure activities, always inform the management of your accommodation of your whereabouts and your expected time of return. If you cannot find someone before leaving always leave a note in your room. It should be pinned or place in a conspicuous location that should be easy to find.

Ensure that you charge your mobile phone for emergency calls before you leave your accommodation.

If you intend to go for any nature walks or on nature trails in forest areas, please avoid going off trail or in places without mobile network, Should you find yourself off trail and without network retrace your steps to your original point of departure.

STORM AND STORM SURGES

Storms and storm surges can cause the following:-

Heavy rains causing floods/flashfloods, Strong Winds, thunder, lighting, tidal/wave surges triggering coastal inundation.

Floods or flash floods can cause outages, disrupt transportation, damage buildings and create land and rock slides. Flash floods may happen without warning

Others

Collapse or overflows of dams and other water systems can also cause floods/flashfloods

If the local meteorological authority issues a warning alert regarding storms/storm surges, take note of these dos and don't's

FLOODS/FLASH FLOODS

DOS

- Listen to national radio for the alert message or if you have internet connection verify for any news alert on credible official social media network or check for alert received via SMS, WhatsApp etc.
- Once you are informed of the alert, if you are at your accommodation establishment contact the manager immediately for guidance on what to do
- If you are not at your accommodation, follow instructions provided by the national/ local authorities and if you are told to evacuate your present location other than your accommodation, do so immediately.

Instructions will be given by the national/local authorities for you to move to a flood/flash flood safe location away from any danger

DOS

- Move to only area(s)/location(s) indicated by the local authorities
- Take routes/roads that have been instructed by the local authorities
- Stay off bridges over fast-moving water. Fast-moving water can wash bridges away without warning.
- In case you do not have contact with the national/local authorities, move to higher grounds or if you are in a multi storey-building move to higher floors away from the flood.
- If you are stuck in a car and water is entering the car try to go on top of the car roof and shout for help.
- Stay away from ravines or cliffs as during floods/ flash floods these areas are prone to land or rock slides.
- Stay away from forest areas as floods/flash floods can provoke fallen trees and other debris

DON'T'S

- Do NOT leave your accommodation during any storm/storm surges without informing the management of your accommodation of your whereabouts
- Do NOT take any other routes or roads that have NOT been declared safe by the national/local authorities.
- Do NOT walk, swim or drive through floodwaters.

HEAVY RAIN

Heavy rain can cause floods/flashfloods (see above), land and rockslides, fallen trees etc. It also can cause fogs in mountainous and forest areas, creating poor visibility in certain areas.

If the local meteorological authority issues a warning alert regarding heavy rains:-

DOS

- Listen to national radio for the alert message or if you have internet connection verify for any news alert on credible official social media network or check for alert received via SMS, WhatsApp etc.
- Once you are informed of the alert, if you are at your accommodation establishment contact the manager immediately for instructions on what to do
- Stay indoors as much as possible.
- If you are not at your accommodation, follow instructions provided by the local authorities and if you are told to evacuate your present location other than your accommodation, do so immediately.

Instructions will be given by the national/local authorities for you to move away from areas/locations affected by heavy rains

DOS

- If you are not indoors, do avoid flooding areas, and areas with poor visibility especially if you are driving.
- Avoid wet, slippery and muddy areas as you may slip and fall causing injury to your person.

DON'T'S

- Do not leave your accommodation establishment during heavy rains without informing the management of your whereabouts.
- Do NOT go on nature trails or hiking when it is raining.
- Do NOT go on top of granite boulders/rocks and cliffs, or near ravines as you may lose your footing, slip and fall

TSUNAMI

Tsunami is a series of large are giant waves caused by earthquakes or volcanic eruptions in the ocean floor. They are different from normal waves. As they travel in land they build up higher and higher heights as the depth of the Ocean decreases. They have an incomparable power of destruction.

One of the early warning signals of a tsunami is that the seawater recedes several metres, exposing fish on shallow waters or on the beaches.

DOS

- Listen to national radio for the alert message or if you have internet connection search for and be attentive to any news alert on credible official social media network or check for alert received via SMS, WhatsApp etc or on national radio or television
- Once you are informed of the alert, if you are at your accommodation establishment contact the manager immediately for guidance on what to do
- If you are not at your accommodation, follow instructions provided by the local authorities and if you are told to evacuate your present location, do so immediately.
- If you are at the beach, coastal zones or in the sea and noticed that the sea water is receding, you must immediately leave the sea and beach and go to higher grounds far away from the beach and coastal zones.

DON'T'S

- Stay away from coastal areas and beaches. Never go down to the beach to watch a tsunami come or approaching the shoreline as the waves travel extremely fast and you may be caught in them.
- Do not assume that after one wave the danger is over. The next wave may be larger than the first one. Therefore, avoid going back to the beach and other coastal shorelines.
- Avoid tsunami disaster areas. Your presence might interfere with emergency response operations and put you at further risk from the residual effects of floods.

COASTAL INUNDATION CAUSED BY STRONG TIDAL WAVE SURGES/SEA SWELL

▷ Coastal inundation can damage road infrastructures, building structures, jetties, road network and disrupt transportation, cause bridges and other similar structures to collapse.

If the local meteorological authority issues a warning alert regarding strong tidal wave surges:-

DOS

- Listen to national radio for the alert message or if you have internet connection verify for any news alert on credible official social media network or check for alert received via SMS, WhatsApp etc.
- Once you are informed of the alert, if you are at your accommodation establishment contact the manager immediately for guidance on what to do
- If you are not at your accommodation, follow instructions provided by the national/local authorities and if you are told to evacuate your present location other than your accommodation, do so immediately.
- If you are not indoors, do avoid inundated coastal areas
- Stay away from damaged road infrastructures including bridges
- If you are stranded in an inundated area, seek for assistance from local/national authorities

DONT'S

- Do NOT go to any areas or locations especially touristic attractions (beaches) where there are strong tidal wave surges.
- Do NOT stand near any rock ledge or cliff located at the seaside as you may be swept away by strong tidal wave surges and washed out at sea by strong rip currents.
- DO not stand on slippery rocks and or cliffs as you may slip and fall into the sea and be dragged away by strong rip currents.

STRONG WINDS

▷ Strong winds are mostly associated with storms, storms surges or effects of cyclones in various cyclonic regions e.g. cyclones affecting the Indian Ocean region. Strong winds can cause fallen trees, broken branches, fallen electricity polls, flying objects of all sorts, damage roofs and windows of buildings etc.

If the local meteorological authority issues an warning alert regarding strong winds:-
DOS

- Listen to national radio for the alert message or if you have internet connection verify for any news alert on CREDIBLE official social media network or check for alert received via SMS, WhatsApp etc.
- Once you are informed of the alert, if you are at your accommodation establishment contact the management immediately for instructions on what to do.
- As much as possible avoid going outdoors.
- Close all your doors and windows.

- If you are already outdoor, stay away from mountainous and forest areas as fallen trees or branches may hit you.

DON'T'S

- Do NOT leave your accommodation establishment when there are strong winds without informing the management of your establishment of your whereabouts.
- Do NOT go to forests or mountainous areas where there has been warning of fallen trees/branches or flying objects.
- Do not go on nature trails when there are strong winds as fallen branches and other similar debris can fall on you and cause serious to fatal injuries to your person.

THUNDER AND LIGHTNING

Thunder and lightning are caused by storm or storm surges, and can cause fire inside buildings or bush fires.

If there is a warning alert issued by the national meteorological authority regarding storm/storm surges followed by thunder and lightning:-

DOS

- Listen to national radio for the alert message or if you have internet connection verify for any news alert on CREDIBLE government official social media network or check for alert received via SMS, WhatsApp etc.
- Once you are informed of the alert, if you are at your accommodation establishment contact the management immediately for guidance on what to do.

- As much as possible avoid going outdoors
- Close all your doors and windows
- If you are already outdoor, avoid going underneath a tree or an open shed.

DON'T'S

- Do not go on nature trails when warning alert has been issued by the meteorological authority.

FIRE INSIDE BUILDINGS

There are multiple causes for a fire outbreak inside a building, some may be accidental, others can be due lighting, arson etc.

DOS

If you discover a fire

- Sound the nearest fire alarm
- Leave the accommodation promptly together with all members of your family or group by closing the doors behind you but DO NOT lock them.
- Exit the building by following the fire exit and escape route signs.
- Report to the specific Fire Assembly Point as demarcated in the fire action notice
- Provide useful information to the management or staff of your accommodation or the fire officers on site i.e. the location of the fire, any members of your family or group unaccounted for.

If you hear the fire alarm

- Unless it is a pre-arranged test, treat all fire alarms as an indication of a fire in the building.

- Upon hearing the fire alarm, leave the accommodation promptly together with all members of your family or group and close the doors behind you but DO NOT lock them.
- Report to the specified Fire Assembly point as demarcated in the fire action notice.

If the escape routes cannot be used

- Protect yourself against fire and smoke – **stay in the room where fire and smoke have not spread.**
- Close the door, but **Do Not Lock it**. If possible, block the openings below and around the door with (wet) clothing.
- Signal your location by using your mobile phone through SMS, or WhatsApp to the manager of your accommodation or contact rescuers at **(+248) 999/111**. If possible, go to the window or balcony and show yourself and shout for assistance. If it is during the night, use the flashlight from your mobile phone if possible. It is the only way; the rescuers will see or hear where you are.

DON'T'S

WHAT YOU MUST NOT DO

- Do not stop to collect your personal belongings.
- Do not use the lift (if your building has one).
- If it is not possible to exit the building, do not open any doors where there is an accumulation of heat and smoke.
- Do not break windows.
- Do not hide should there is the possibility to exit the building.
- Do not enter the building again until authorized by the Fire Officer.

BUSH/WILDLIFE FIRES

- Causes of bushfires are threefold: natural, unintentional human activity, and intentional human behaviour. The most common natural cause of bushfires is lightning, with the wind being a natural spreader of a fire that has already started. Improperly attended campfires are a common form of unintentional human activity leading to bushfires, and arson is a common form of intentionally set bushfires.

DOS

- In case there is a fire in the area where you are located, please local emergency number 999/111 or 4289999/4323242
- Remain vigilant.
- Keep your entire family together and remain calm.
- Evacuate the area to a safe distance.
- Seek protection.

DON'T'S

How to prevent bush/wildfires

- Obey local laws regarding open fires.
- Keep all flammable objects away from fire.
- If you are having a barbeque, ensure you have a portable fire extinguisher nearby.
- Never leave the fire unattended.
- Carefully dispose of hot charcoal.
- Carefully dispose of all smoking materials.
- Keep a close eye on candles if being used.

DON'T'S

What you must not do

- If the fire is spreading rapidly, do not return for personal items.
- Do not try to extinguish the fire without appropriate fire equipment.
- Do not expose yourselves to the fire.

HAZE

Particulate matters can cause haze from many sources including smoke from bush fires, fire from landfills, road dusts, and other particles emitted directly into the atmosphere, as well as particulate matters formed when gaseous pollutants react in the atmosphere etc. These particles often grow in size as humidity increases, further impairing visibility.

DOS

- Listen to national radio for the alert message or if you have internet connection verify for any news alert on CREDIBLE official social media network or check for alert received via SMS, WhatsApp or national television etc.
- If you are at your accommodation establishment, please follow all instructions given by the management of your establishment.
- If you are not at your accommodation during a haze, please follow all instruction given by the local authorities.
- If you are in a vehicle close all windows and use the A/C.
- Avoid areas where haze has been announced by the local authorities.

- If you are caught in haze, cover your nose and mouth with a clean cloth and if you have facemasks make sure that they are well fitted over your nose and mouth at all times to reduce the effect of the smoke in your airways.
- If you are experiencing burning eyes, wash your eyes with clean running water immediately.
- If you are experiencing difficulty to breath, if possible go to the nearest medical centre, if not contact hospital emergency on 151 for assistance.

DON'TS

- Do not purposely go to haze-prone areas after the authorities have given an alert warning.



COLOUR CODE ALERT

Colours			
	Level of Destruction Disaster	Level of Risk	Level of warning
Green	Very small possibility of a destructive effect	Low	Advisory Warning
Yellow	Slight possibility of a destructive effect	Low to Medium	Advisory Warning
Orange	Risk of destructive effect	Medium to High	Alert Warning
Red	Very high possibility of destructive effect	Very High	Evauation Warning

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES AGENCY
HOSPITAL EMERGENCY
DISEASE OUTBREAK
POLICE EMERGENCY

999/111
151
141
999/112



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