

Risk reduction, disaster preparedness, and resilience “small Island Scale”

St. Eustatius 2026





Risk reduction, disaster preparedness, and resilience “small Island Scale” *St. Eustatius 2026*

Welcome



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Please scan to join the
quiz about St. Eustatius



History of St. Eustatius

Google: *First salute Statia*



Points



- General information disaster management
Crisis structure
- Impact global warming / Climate change
- Risk, Disaster management & resilience
- Medical and emergency evacuation plan
- Public order & Safety, mandatory evacuation
(Curfew)
- Questions



General information Disaster Management structure



- The first crisis plan, based on the Safety Act. BES, was adopted in 2012.
- Crisis Plan describes; multidisciplinary disaster management organization
- Generic cooperation; public and private safety partners before, during and after an incident or disaster in response phase.
- Revision Crisis & Policy plan, every 4 years

Role & responsibilities Island Governor



- ❑ Response and recovery phase
- ❑ Based on the Safety Act. BES, ART. 53, the ***Governor is commander and chief during and after (the threat of) any crisis or Disasters***
- ❑ The Governor also has emergency powers Such as; Curfew & mandatory evacuation ect.



Organization Structure



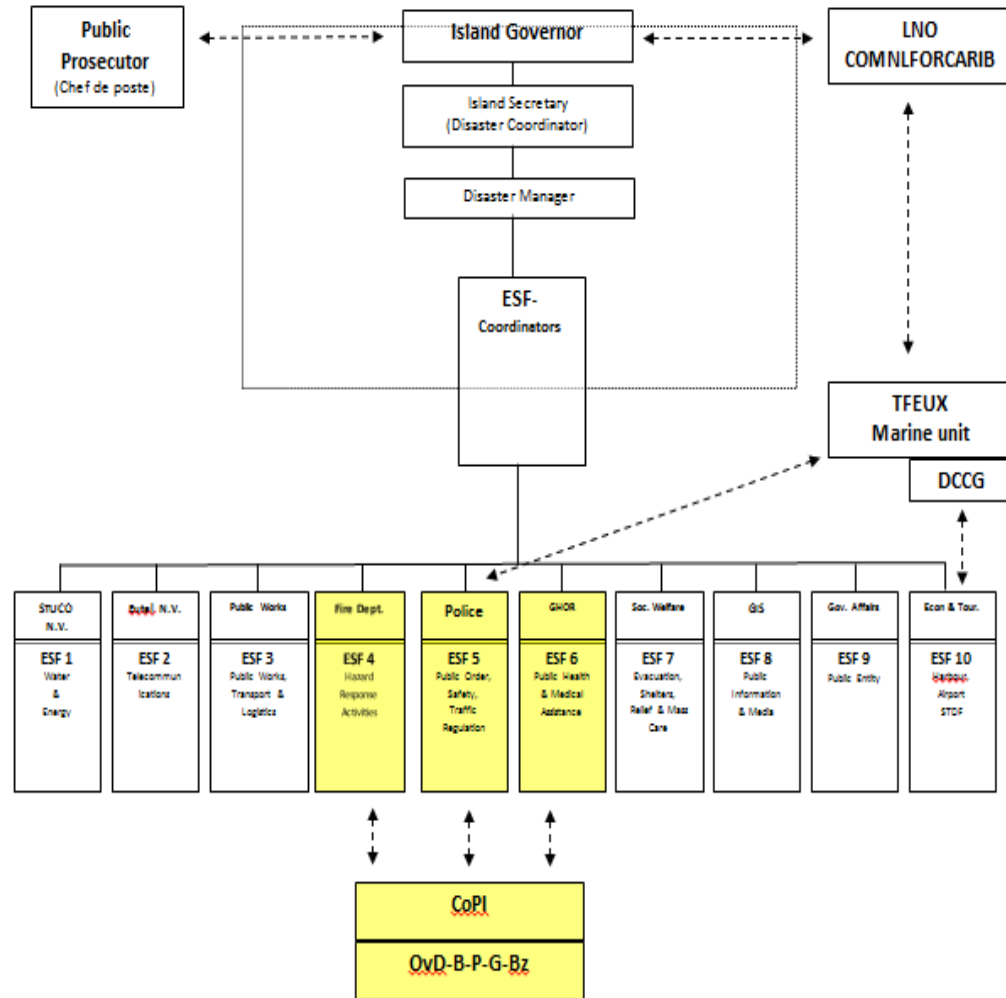
09-10-2018

Strategic
(Disaster Management)
= SEOC

Tactical

Operational

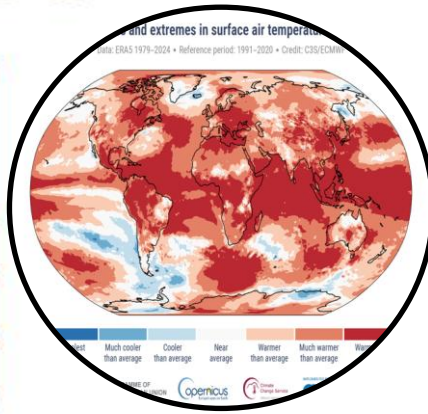
ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE DISASTER MANAGEMENT SINT EUSTATIUS



COPI meeting

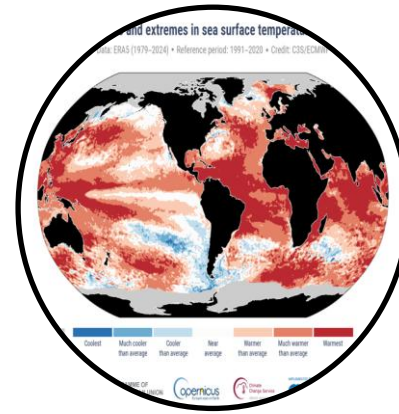


Impact Global warming & Climate change



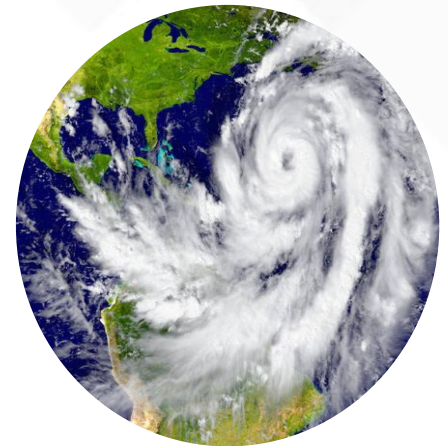
*hotter surface
Temperatures*

+



*Hotter
Sea surface*

=



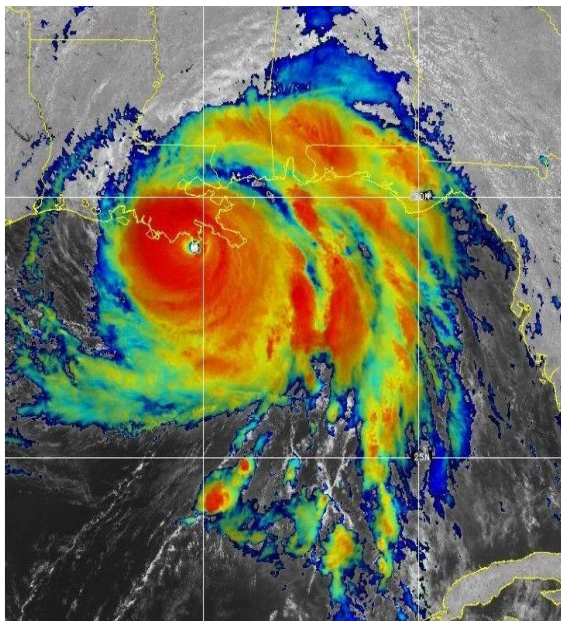
*More
Intense
Hurricanes*

Impact Global warming & Climate change



Hurricane Activity

Forecast for 2025 Hurricane Activity



| Forecast Parameters | CSU Forecast for 2025* | Average for 1991-2020 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Named Storms | 17 | 14.4 |
| Named Storm Days | 85 | 69.4 |
| Hurricanes | 9 | 7.2 |
| Hurricane Days | 35 | 27.0 |
| Major Hurricanes | 4 | 3.2 |
| Major Hurricane Days | 9 | 7.4 |
| Accumulated Cyclone Energy (ACE)+ | 155 | 123 |
| ACE West of 60 degrees longitude | 93 | 73 |

<https://tropical.colostate.edu/forecasting.html>

*CSU released its first seasonal forecast for 2025 on Thursday, April 3th, with updated forecasts on June 11, July 9th, and Aug 6.

+A measure of a named storm's potential for wind and storm surge destruction defined as the sum of the square of a named storm's maximum wind speed (in 10^4 knots²) for each 6-hour period of its existence.

Impact Global warming & Climate change



Hurricane Activity;

- (ODM) “Islands & countries” need to be better Prepared
- (ODM) early up- Scaling for outside assistance
- Preparations for Hurricane and **animal shelters**



Impact Global warming & Climate change



Transportation & Supply Chain Vulnerability

- Import dependence on **St. Maarten** and **Miami** for food, fuel, building and medical supplies, etc., make the island highly vulnerable to supply chain disruptions.
- Limited accessibility and connectivity, restricting mobility, tourism, trade and emergency and disaster response.
- Hurricane-related flight cancellations, restricting medical evacuations and emergency aid.



Risk reduction, disaster preparedness, and resilience “small Island Scale”

St. Eustatius



Food security;

- Assessment on the Island
- Assessment in the region
- Assessments international



Resilience

“Small Island scale”

Waste water & run off sediment filtration pond



Resilience

“Small Island scale”

Severe land and cliff erosion



Collaboration & Entities



- ❑ Satellite monitoring program funded by the European Commission.
- ❑ Operational execution lies with the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA).
- ❑ For the Caribbean region, the Copernicus Program is used
- ❑ *The Netherlands is as an EU Member State of this program, and its implementation is assigned to Water works & water management*

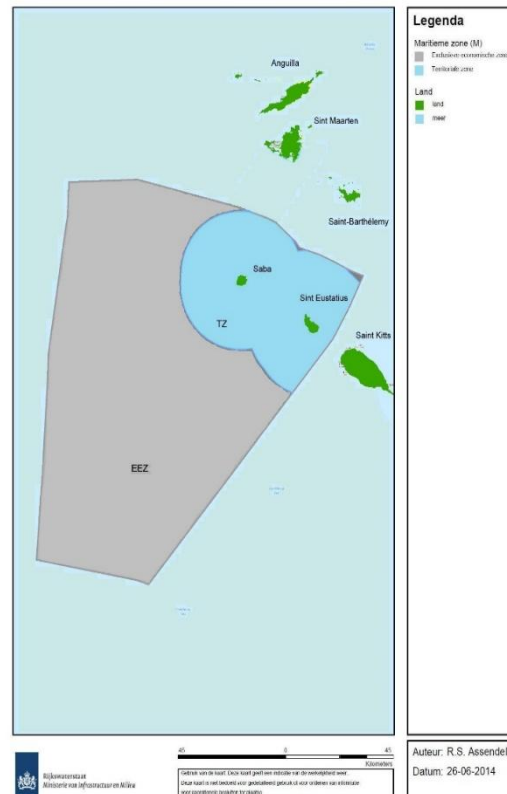


Experiences



Monitoring Oil spills (Dutch Caribbean) RWS

Maritieme Zones Saba en Sint Eustatius



Risk reduction, disaster preparedness & resilience “ small island Scale “



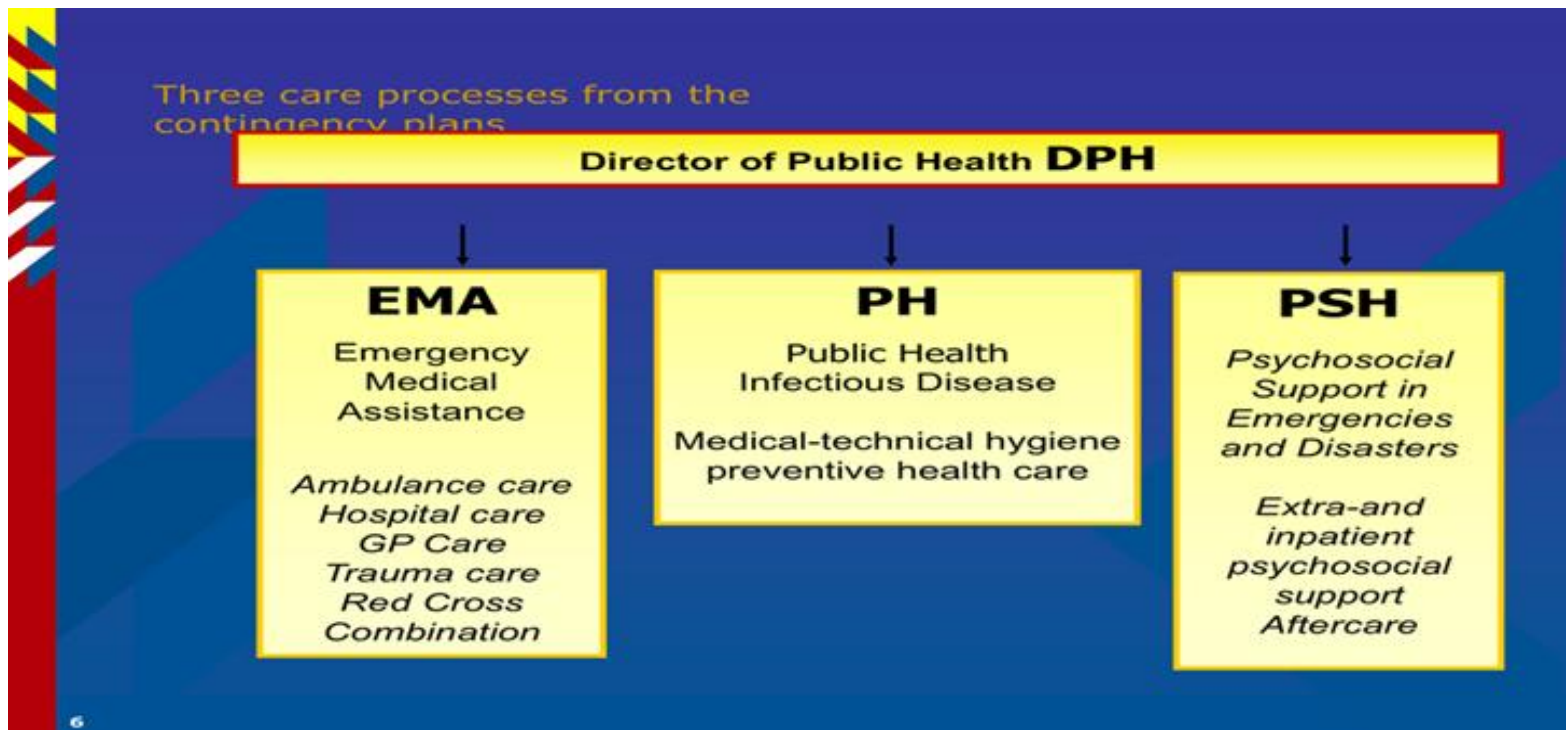
Objectives

- Provide a clear roadmap to build the island’s environmental, social, and economic resilience - now and into the future;
- Support greater self-sufficiency and reduce dependence on external resources;
- Identify the support, resources, and collaboration needed
- Help the island not just cope with Climate Change, but thrive in the face of it.

ESF 6 Medical Relief & Public Health.



- **Core function:** To ensure that all aspects of the response to a crisis (hurricane, disease outbreaks and other disasters) are planned for and that designated organizations within ESF 6 are prepared to carry out appropriate actions.



Support agencies (GHOR).



ST. EUSTATIUS
HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION

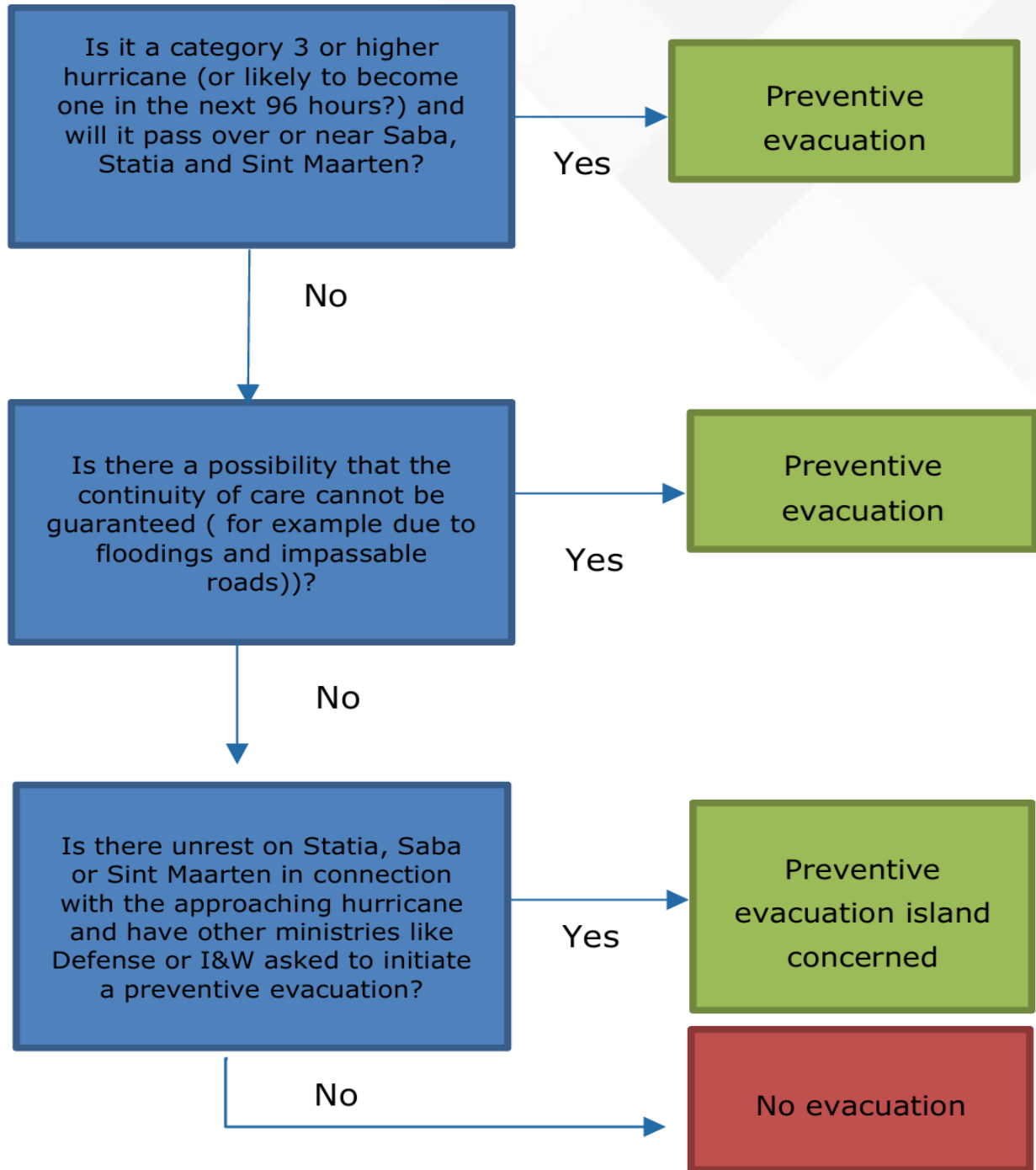




Crisis manual 2025

Medical (pre-)evacuation in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom





Challenges and opportunities.

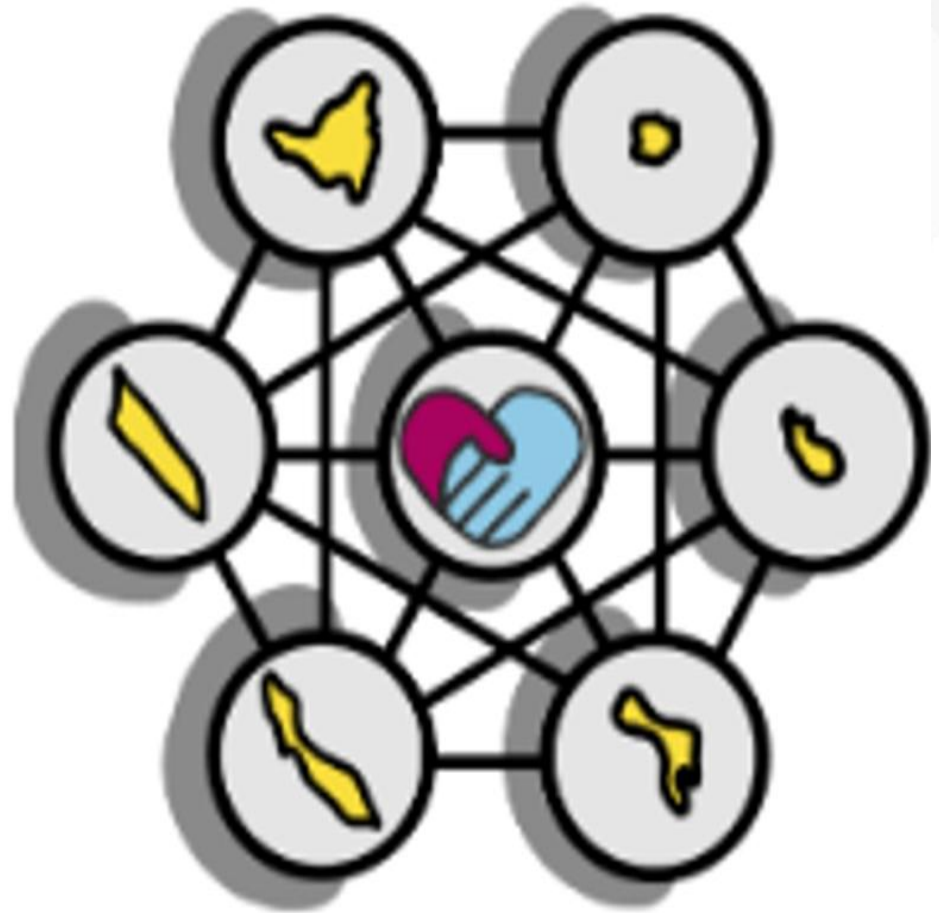


Challenges

- Small scale
- Dependency

Opportunities

- Interisland knowledge exchange and support(DUCAPHEN).





Thank you.

Public order & safety



Police department:



DUTCH CARIBEN POLICE CORPS

(KPCN)

LOCATION: ST. EUSTATIUS

(STATIA)



The federal jurisdiction of the KPCN encompasses three distinct islands. They are all special overseas municipalities of the Netherlands



Population according to the CBS as per January 1st, 2025:

Bonaire

pproximately **26,552** (Size: 113 sq. ml.)

St. Eustatius

approximately **3270** (Size; 8.1 sq. ml.)

Saba

approximately **2158** (Size: 5 sq. ml.)



Strategic , and tactical, and operation management levels



The strategic, and tactical managers are based (headquarter) on Bonaire

Management structure at the strategic level:

- Chief Commissioner of Police
- Acting Chief Commissioner of Police
- Head of Police Operations



Tactical management

Tactical management level

Three (3) Chief Inspectors, stationed on Bonaire

- -Head of Basic Police Services
- -Head of Investigations
- -Head of Intake, Information, and Operational Support



Operational level



Five (5) Inspectors, distributed across Bonaire, Saba, and Sint Eustatius

- -Three (3) on Bonaire
- -One (1) on Saba
- -One (1) on St. Eustatius



collectively referred to as the BES islands or Caribbean Netherlands, becoming part of the country of the Netherlands in 2010.

State structure of the Dutch Kingdom



- The Netherlands
- Bonaire, Saba, Sint Eustatius: Three special overseas municipality of the Netherlands (Public Entities) Collectively these three islands are referred to as the BES islands or Caribbean Netherlands, becoming part of the country of the Netherlands on 10-10-2010
- Sint Maarten, Curacao (both since 10-10-2010), and Aruba (since 1986) are three separate constituent countries (a self-governing or autonomous territory) within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, operating as democratic countries with full autonomy over internal affairs, while the Netherlands handles defense and foreign affairs.



Operational considerations

- Mutual distance from St. Eustatius and Saba to Bonaire:
Approximately 560 miles.
- Saba and Statia are located in the so called “hurricane belt”.
- Operational capacity Statia : 14 police officers (staffing challenges)



Spoken language's



The official language is Dutch

Other spoken language's: Papiamentu, and English

Papiamentu is predominantly spoken on Bonaire, Curacao, and Aruba

English is predominantly spoken on Maarten, Sint Eustatius, and Saba



Regional cooperation:



- In case of a crisis the police department on the BES islands get reinforcement from the police departments within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The governor makes that call, in consultation with the chief commissioners of the various islands.
- In crisis situations the governor can also utilize the support of the military, via the Kingdom Representative to assist the police in the execution of the police tasks
- **National Police Act of Curaçao, of Sint Maarten and of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba)**



Primary responsibilities during crisis



- 1) Traffic circulation (source area/ground zero)
- 2) Traffic circulation impact area
- 3) Cordoning off
- 4) Shielding off
- 5) Criminal investigation
- 6) Evacuation (registration/assembly)
- 7) Escort
- 8) Identification/Victims involved





Command structure:

External:

In the event of major public disorder or major threat to public safety, the police falls under the direct command of the Governor.

The Governor serves as the chairperson of the crisis management team.

The chief prosecutor issues directives to the police when there is a crisis of the legal order.





Command structure:

Internal:

- The strategic and tactical managers based on Bonaire come together on Bonaire in the event of a (pending) major crisis on any of the BES islands to form the SGBO (Staff for Large-scale and Special Operations)
- This command structure manages the local police operation on Statia and Saba together with the local police chiefs on Statia and Saba.





SGBO

Staff for Large-scale and Special Operations



- The SGBO serves as a crucial source of information for consultations between the Governor, the Chief Commissioner of Police, and the Chief Public Prosecutor (the so-called “Quarterly Tripartite Conference”).
- An important internal police policy as it relates to major hurricanes in particular, stipulates that, in the event of a **threat posed by a Category 3 hurricane or higher, a specialized team of police officers** shall be flown into the islands from Bonaire within 72 hours of the forecasted hurricane strike to support the local team. Transport for this support can be provided by a commercial flight, Coast Guard, or Military.



Department policy Hurricane threat:



Update the internal police hurricane contingency plan before the beginning of the yearly hurricane season

- Activate contingency plan 72 hours of a hurricane threat
- Operational briefings regarding the predicted impact and the safety concerns for the officers and the police operations
- Do an inventory of personnel capacity and availability
- Reinspect generators, vehicles, hurricane (crisis) kits etc.
- Equipment check (satellite phones, potable vehicle battery chargers, rations etc.)
- Adjustment of duty roster to 24-hour active shifts



The police is a **core member** of the crisis team and the incident command post (BES Safety Act)

The authority to order a mandatory **evacuation or curfew** is the prerogative of the governor.

The governor issues the order for a (mandatory) evacuation after consulting with the members of the incident command post (COPI)

In the case of a threat of a major hurricane strike consideration to order a curfew is based on:

- 1: The forecasted intensity of the weather;
- 2: Low lying areas along the coast prone to storm surge,
- 3: Other interisland flood prone areas;
- 4: Compromised buildings and structures,
- 5: Areas prone to mudslides;

Methods: public broadcast via radio, social media, television, door to door, Public shelter is made available for evacuees'.

Those possibly affected: Hotel guests and staff, island water and electricity company, restaurants, dive centers, harbor personnel, private homes





The governor issues the order to initiate a curfew after consulting with members of the incident command post.

The following facts are considered:

Experience and knowledge related to risk to public order and safety.

High risks for looting;

live downed electrical power lines stemming from household generators:

Thrill seekers and curios residents who delay and obstruct the clean up in the aftermath

Methods use: public broadcast ahead of pending (threat) of disaster via radio, social media, television, door to door,



The most important point of attention at the moment the hurricane strikes the island



Shelter in place





Priorities after the island is struck by hurricane:



Several External Processes:

Forming a reconnaissance Team (Police / Military / Fire Department / Health Services)

The joint priority is to immediately clear the main routes connecting:

The Hospital and the sea port

The Hospital and the Airport

The accessibility road to the tank distributing water



Questions

