

16 November 2024

## *Tropical Storms in Belize!*

Thanks to the world's second largest barrier reef, Belize receives some natural advantages in storm protection that other parts of the Caribbean do not. But, as with current TS Sara, we are still affected by these tropical systems to varying degrees.

The most common effect is flooding. Whereas coastal flooding usually recedes quickly, inland flooding in low-lying areas can last for long periods and impact utilities, commerce and shipping.

Emergency preparedness plans for RVers are similar to any household in the tropics. Have sufficient canned goods, drinking water and fuel for generators on hand. However, we have the unique advantage of being fully mobile in the rare instance a serious storm hits!



## What's up with Belize *ELECTRICITY* ?

Speaking of generators ...

'OFFICIALLY' 50% of Belize's power comes from in-country hydroelectric and biomass, 40% from Mexico and 10% from recently installed gas turbines and diesel generators. However, power distribution throughout the country is handled solely by BEL – which is owned by the Belize government.

Here on the peninsula, we do benefit from fairly reliable response time to actual equipment failure but, power availability throughout the country is simply overtaxed. Overdevelopment in tourist areas and huge demand during busy season leads to plenty of opportunities to fire up your RV's generator. We recommend keeping them well maintained and fully fueled at all times.



## *Green Parrot Migration Season!*

Every morning for a few weeks in fall, you're awakened by the unique screech of dozens of green parakeets flying overhead and landing in nearby trees.

Not much information can be found about these birds except that they are 'supposedly' NON-migratory. In my short experience here in Belize, this seems entirely untrue.

It is possible this overwhelming influx of bright green aviators is due solely to eating and mating habits, but either way, it makes for a delightful and fascinating bird-watching experience in the fall.

Bring your binoculars!

