

- Maps or information that identify areas that have suffered massive landslides in the past
- An evaluation and rating of the landslide hazard in the various areas.

### THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

In areas where the land is steep, the minimum size for a residential lot is 1012 sq. metres or 1/4 acre.

In the hills of St. Andrew, in areas where multi-family (apartments and townhouses) developments are being contemplated, NEPA recommends the minimum of 0.8 hectares or 2 acres.

Much of the hilly regions of Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA) contains slopes that may be susceptible to land slippage during an earthquake.

Check maps that show areas that are susceptible to slope failures. Scientists have uncovered many places where earlier slope failures have been almost completely concealed by re-vegetation.

Maps mentioned in this brochure can be found at the Lands Department, NEPA and Mines and Geology Division.

For Earthquake maps contact: Department of Geology, University of the West Indies or the WI Caribbean Disaster Mitigation Project, a USAID funded project.

### Vision

**That Jamaica's Natural Resources are used in a sustainable way and that there is broad understanding of environment, planning and development issues, with extensive participation amongst citizens and a high level of compliance with Relevant Legislation**

### Mission

**To promote Sustainable Development by ensuring protection of the environment and orderly development in Jamaica through highly motivated staff performing at the highest standard**

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For further information on Planning and Hazards:

The National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA).  
 10 & 11 Caledonia Avenue, Kingston 5  
 Telephone: 754-7540  
 Fax: 754-7595/6  
 Email: [pubed@nepa.gov.jm](mailto:pubed@nepa.gov.jm)  
 Hotline: 1-888-991-5005  
 Website: <http://www.nepa.gov.jm>

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Create an Environment  
for Clean Living.

## NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING AGENCY



### PLANNING AND HAZARDS



*Managing and protecting  
Jamaica's land, wood and water*

## PLANNING AND NATURAL HAZARDS

Jamaica is no stranger to natural disasters, so before you build or engage in any form of development, make sure that your investment will be safe.



MAKE SURE YOU HAVE APPROVAL BEFORE YOU BUILD IN CERTAIN AREAS OF THE ISLAND THAT ARE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TO NATURAL HAZARDS SUCH AS FLOODING AND LANDSLIDES.

Earthquakes, floods, hurricanes and landslides are natural disasters over which we have little or no control, but proper planning can minimise the damage.

- Under the **Local Improvement Act**, all applications for the subdivision of land should show the existence of water bodies such as springs, gullies, streams, rivers,

wells, ponds and sink holes etc.

- If the property is located along the coast, the coastline should be shown on the plan.
- Depressions, cliffs or any other outstanding physical features should also be indicated on the plan.

Sub-division approvals in these areas **MAY carry restrictions for YOUR safety.**

Please note that applications for sub-division in these areas are forwarded to the [Geological Survey Division](#) for its comments.

### FLOOD-PRONE AREAS

When NEPA receives sub-division or planning applications for flood-prone areas, the Agency solicits the comments of the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) and the Agency also seeks the guidance of the National Works Agency.

Sub-division applications for areas with streams and gullies, and those along the coastline are



also sent to the Environmental Control Division of the Ministry of Health and Environment for comments.

### EARTHQUAKES

Applications within Kingston and St. Andrew must conform to the National Building Code in relation to earthquake hazards.

### HURRICANES

The use of hurricane straps is being actively promoted, and plans submitted are required to show the use of hurricane straps in roofing, where applicable.

AT PRESENT THERE ARE NO SPECIFIC GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPMENT IN LANDSLIDE PRONE AREAS. DEVELOPERS SHOULD SEEK GUIDANCE BY WAY OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) STUDY.

### LANDSLIDE RISKS

Landslides are a common occurrence in Jamaica particularly during flooding. Earthquakes can also trigger massive landslides.

If you are building in a landslide-prone area, **Here is what you need**

- Maps that show landslide prone areas