

EVACUATION PLANS KEY TO...

BECOMING DISASTER READY

On Tuesday (March 21), Tobago marked the National Emergency Exercise Day (NEED) by testing its emergency plans, communications and response to a tsunami threat in Charlotteville.

In addition to the Tobago Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) and other emergency agencies, some community members in Charlotteville participated

in the exercise.

But the public is being asked to participate in another way: by being prepared and having a plan of action if a real threat should occur. TEMA director Allan Stewart said it's a crucial part of being disaster ready.

"Persons need to have an evacuation plan in your homes," Stewart said.

"For example there are a number of

special needs persons. If you know you have a special need in your community or in your home, you need to ensure that that person is registered with TEMA."

According to Stewart, the exercise also provided a way for young emergency officers to become exposed to a scenario where there are mass casualties, so they can become acquainted with responding to an emergency.



GETTING 'SOCIAL': Former president of the Trinidad and Tobago Social Work Association, left, and Jalil Aziz, second from left, appear on the Tobago Channel 5 morning show "Rise and Shine" yesterday (March 23) to highlight the challenges of social workers as Tobago marked World Social Work Day, which is observed every year on March 21. Also in photo are presenters Yolande Clarke and Deryck "Brother B" Brathwaite, right.

FOOTBALL SCREENING ON FOR TOBAGO GIRLS

Footballers seeking to make the national girls Under-17 and Under-20 football teams are being invited to attend an upcoming screening session. The session is scheduled for the Dwight Yorke Stadium Training Ground, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Players who are interested in participating in the session are asked to walk with full football equipment.

No club affiliation is required.

SOCIAL WORKERS 'GLUE FOR BROKEN FAMILIES'

Social workers in Tobago are being encouraged to stay committed to their work despite the challenges their face.

President of the Trinidad and Tobago Social Work Association's Tobago Chapter Afi London reminded the social workers that their jobs are important, and make an impact on people's lives. She was speaking yesterday (March 23) at a lecture to mark World Social Work Day, which

was celebrated on Tuesday (March 21).

Also at the event, Haniff Benjamin, a former president of the Association, said social workers can only meet the needs of the families they serve if they work as a team. He said this is even more important due to the multidisciplinary nature of social work.

Benjamin added that social workers are often the glue that keeps broken families together, and encouraged all social

workers to take pride in their jobs.

He also urged them to keep improving their skills by furthering their education, and by operating in the island's communities. He said this is the best way for them to acquire knowledge.

Yesterday's lecture, themed "Promoting Community and Environmental Sustainability" in line with World Social Work Day, was held at the Lecture Room of the Scarborough General Hospital.