

# Manatee rescue, contacts in Belize City

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Tonight as soon as the last flights from Maya and Tropic left the Municipality Airport, we did a sweep of the new runway in progress, looking for any signs of a young manatee seen too close to shore last week, by airport employees. (expecting to find a dead body, but didn't) If ever anyone sees a baby manatee (3 to 4ft long) without a mum, treat it as an emergency and contact: 911 and ask for coastal zone management, or Jamal Galves,(6075038) Zoe Walker at wildtracks(6506578), or BWCN Hotline (6058888), Gillian or Gordon. (6306737, 6306738).If you can, put these numbers in your phones for futures reference. (Please don't use them for cats or dogs enquiries, contact AMC (2233781) or Belize Humane Society). Sad thing, having walked the new runway, the edges of the runway drop off quite steeply, it used to be a gentle slope to the edge, now its an almost instant 2 to 3ft drop, meaning baby manatees will be bashed quite heavily against this new sea wall. (which often causes spinal or shoulder injuries causing the babies to drown, as they can't keep their heads up). I guess it's too much to ask developers to consider sea mammals when they make their designs, don't think there is much we can do in retrospect.

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