

## **Heavy rains cause blockages in St. Mary and Portland**

Persistent rains in the Northeastern parishes of St. Mary and Portland have left several roadways impassable since Sunday, February 8, 2009.

In St. Mary, sections of the town of Port Maria is now under water and motorists are being advised to use Cox Street, if they are traveling between Annotto Bay and Ocho Rios, St. Ann, as Main Street is flooded. The roadway from Martins to Rosend is also blocked in the community of Albany. Flood waters have also blocked the corridors from Port Maria to Islington and Fort George to Camberwell. The roadway from Fort George to Cumsee is also impassable, due to heavy siltation and landslides.

Manager of Communication and Customer Services at the National Works Agency, Stephen Shaw says motorists are also being advised to exercise caution in the vicinity of the Llanrumney Bridge leading to Highgate, as the river has breached its banks. Water is now on the roadway.

In Portland, the roadway from Balcarress to Wakefield is now impassable, resulting from flooding and landslides. Motorists are also being advised not to use the roadway from Orange Bay to Hope Bay in the vicinity of the Swift River Bridge, as floodwaters are now impacting the area.

Mr. Shaw says teams from the NWA are now out in the two parishes assessing the damage and assisting in getting the affected roadways reopened.