

Hurricane Season (June through November) Safety and Preparedness

As healthcare professionals and support staff, if a major hurricane strikes Hawaii, you may be required to remain at work.

Please do what is necessary so that you are confident your loved ones remain safe and are prepared to care for themselves. Doing so will allow you to concentrate on your work; caring for our beneficiaries during a disaster situation.

Information is widely available on the internet and in print about the general and unique dangers of hurricanes in Hawaii. The [Hawaiian Telcom White Pages](#) telephone directory, for example, has maps of low-lying coastal areas that may be flooded due to hurricane storm surges. By downloading such publications you have access for future reference. Below are links to helpful government websites.

As the world's most remote location for an urban economy, Hawaii is vulnerable to disasters like hurricanes, earthquakes, tsunamis and virulent pandemics. You may be without services we take for granted, like water, power and transportation for many days.

1. Prepare and maintain a family disaster supply kit.

Disaster kits, ready to quickly take with you, should include enough supplies for 7+ days for all household members. Items should include:

- Emergency and prescription medicine
- First aid supplies
- Water and non-perishable food
- Battery-powered radios and flashlights
- Bedding and extra clothes
- Copies of important documents and cash
- Household tools, including pocket tools
- Special items for infants, pets and elderly/disabled family members.

2. Prepare a personal evacuation plan and escape routes.

- Choose two places, one inside and one outside your neighborhood.
- Learn areas and routes to avoid (flood and tsunami/storm surge zones, low-lying areas, roads that may be blocked by mudslides, fallen trees, downed power lines).

- Learn your local community's disaster shelter location.
- Listen to local media broadcasts for latest storm conditions and civil defense announcements.
- Make advanced preparations for pets and people with special health needs.

3. Establish a family communication plan.

- Ensure all family members know how to reconnect with other members, if separated.
- Keep each person's contact information on a card you can keep in your wallet or purse, including out-of-state contact numbers. Use attached Family Data fill-in sheet.
- Register yourself with the Red Cross' *Safe and Well* program at www.redcross.org, tel. 866-GET-INFO, so family and friends can learn where you are and how to reach you after a hurricane.

Hurricane Readiness Websites

Army/DOD

www.ready.army.mil

Hawaii State Civil Defense Disaster Preparedness:

<http://www.scd.state.hi.us/preparedness.html>

Ready.Gov website is user-friendly to help you make a family plan for disasters like a hurricane, including video games for children: <http://www.ready.gov/>
Making a plan: <http://www.ready.gov/america/makeaplan/index.html>

FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) Hurricane Preparedness website <http://www.fema.gov/hazard/hurricane/index.shtm> has information on Hurricane hazards: <http://www.fema.gov/hazard/hurricane/index.shtm>

What to do:

Before a hurricane: http://www.fema.gov/hazard/hurricane/hu_before.shtm

During a hurricane: http://www.fema.gov/hazard/hurricane/hu_during.shtm

After a hurricane: <http://www.fema.gov/rebuild/recover/after.shtm>

Check local network television news and radio stations broadcasts and websites for current information of the storm and readiness preparations.

Hurricane Weather technical information

Pacific Disaster Center

http://www.pdc.org/PDCNewsWebArticles/2009/HurricaneSeason/hurricane_season.htm

Includes detailed scientific information on hurricanes

Current satellite weather map for Hawaiian Islands

<http://www.prh.noaa.gov/cphc/>

