

HAWAI'I COUNTY CIVIL DEFENSE AGENCY

**HURRICANE
PREPAREDNESS
GUIDE**



Tropical Cyclone Guide

The information in this pamphlet will help you decide which actions you may take to safeguard yourself, your family, and your property from a **Tropical Cyclone, also known as a hurricane or tropical storm.**

- All actions you take must be done before the hazards impact your area.
- Despite advances in storm modeling and forecasting, it is impossible to precisely predict the movements and strengths of Tropical Cyclones. Therefore, you must stay alert, informed, and prepared for the duration of the Tropical Cyclone threat.
- Information on tropical cyclones from the National Weather Service is available on NOAA Weather Radio and on the internet at the Central Pacific Hurricane Center (CPHC) website: <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/index.shtml>
- The Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency will provide information pertaining to Hawai'i Island via commercial radio stations and social media (Twitter: @CivilDefenseHI and Facebook: @HawaiiCountyCivilDefense) and if you sign-up for Civil Defense messages, via telephone, text, and email.
- Tropical Cyclone hazards include damaging winds, storm surge and high surf, and flooding rain.
- Tropical Cyclone hazards can affect Hawai'i Island even when the storm is several hundred miles away.

To protect yourself and your property, familiarize yourself with the following definitions.

Hurricane Watch

48
hours

Issued whenever there is a good possibility of hurricane conditions of damaging winds, surf, and flooding rains occurring anytime within **48** hours. Take this time to take action and commence preparations for your family, business, and property.

Hurricane Warning

36
hours

Issued whenever there is a high probability of hurricane force winds occurring anytime within **36** hours. **Advance warnings may not be possible for specific areas of the island.** You must stay on the alert and complete all safety precautions once a Hurricane Warning is issued. Keep in mind that a hurricane warning may not always be preceded by a hurricane watch.

Tropical Cyclone Preparedness

The time to take action and prepare for your family, business, and property is before tropical cyclone hazards affect your area.



Develop a family emergency plan

- Know how to receive emergency alerts and warnings?
- What is my shelter plan?
- What is my evacuation route?
- What is my family/household communication plan?
- Do I need to update my emergency preparedness kit?



Prepare a home survival kit (page 5)

Be ready when a tropical cyclone impacts you. All utilities can be affected; prepare for the loss of water, electricity, gas, and telephone services.



Prepare an evacuation kit (page 6)

Know your area. Prepare an evacuation plan ahead of time should your home, business, or property be in danger of damaging winds, surf, and flooding rains. **Be prepared to evacuate before danger arrives.**



Who should evacuate?

- Residents in low lying coastal areas subject to storm surge
- Residents along ridge lines and exposed to strong winds
- Residents in low lying areas subject to flooding
- Residents of lightly constructed and single-walled buildings

Note: Evacuation shelter locations and opening times will be announced on local Hawai'i Island radio stations and social media.



If you own a boat or small aircraft

Take action to safeguard your property before damaging winds, surf, and flooding rains arrive. **All coastal area access will be closed during the storm.**



Stay calm, stay alert, and stay informed

Receive official alerts from your Hawai'i County Civil Defense Agency.

Sign-up to receive these alerts at <https://bit.ly/HCCDAalerts>

Securing Items Inside Your Home or Workplace



Recommended Guidelines

- Tape windows from the inside with a large “X” to minimize glass shattering. Taping of windows will not prevent them from breaking but it will lessen the hazard of flying glass. If windows have not been boarded or taped, attach a cloth over the inside of the windows to protect from glass shattering. Draw curtains and blinds for added protection.
- Find an interior secure room in your house to shelter in for the duration of the storm.
- Wedge sliding glass doors with a stick or broom handle to prevent them from being lifted from their tracks or from being ripped loose by the wind.
- Unplug all unnecessary appliances.
- To help if you lose power, turn refrigerator and freezer to the coldest setting. Do not open unless necessary to keep food cold longer. Freeze water.
- **If you decide to evacuate, shut off utilities.** Package your valuables such as jewelry, titles, deeds, insurance papers, licenses, stocks, bonds, inventory, etc. for safe keeping in waterproof bags or containers. Take those valuables with you when you evacuate.

NOTE: You should complete your securement well before the hazardous conditions arrive.

Securing Items Outside Your Home or Workplace



Recommended Guidelines

- Keep trees around your home trimmed well before a storm to prevent damage from broken branches.
- Take down and secure canopies, tarps, and outdoor umbrellas.
- Board up windows with plywood.
- Check door locks to assure that they will not blow open.
- Identify outdoor items that might get blown away, be torn loose and damaged. Secure these items or consider taking them indoors.
- Store home cleaning chemicals, fertilizers, and other hazardous materials in a safe section or secure area of the premises.

NOTE: You should complete your securement well before the hazardous conditions arrive.

Recommended Home Survival Kit

- Battery or solar powered AM/FM radio
- Flashlights
- Extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Prescriptions and over-the-counter medication
- At least **5-7** days supply of non-perishable foods
- Grill with charcoal and/or camping stove with fuel
- Manual can opener
- Matches or lighter
- Disposable plates and kitchen utensils
- At least one (1) gallon of water per person, per day for drinking, cooking, and hygiene. It is important to have available containers for water should service be interrupted. Ensure water containers are readily available.
 - To store water, use bathtub, rubbish containers, and washing machines for hygiene.
- Pet food if you have animals
- Generator and fuel



NOTE: The time to prepare your home survival kit is before you need it!



Recommended Evacuation Kit

- Bedding (pillows, blankets, sleeping bag, sleeping mat, etc.)
- Change of clothes. Rain clothes should be included
- Prescriptions, medications, and special dietary foods
- Important papers and documents (licenses, titles, etc.)
- Infant necessities (formula, diapers, baby food, etc.)
- Personal toiletries and sanitary articles
- Non-perishable food and snacks for at least **3** days
- Battery powered AM/FM radio
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Multi-tool
- Cell phone, wall charger, and portable charger
- Water - One (1) gallon per person per day for drinking
- Pet food, kennel, collar, leash, bowls
- Cash
- Disinfectant supplies (anti-viral cleaners, wipes, hand sanitizer, face mask, etc.)
- A backpack or container to hold all of your supplies

If you evacuate, inform your family/friends, leave a note at your house stating time, destination, and a telephone number or method of contact.

NOTE: The time to prepare your evacuation kit is before you need it!



Terms to Know

Tropical Cyclone: A rotating, organized system of clouds and thunderstorms that originates over tropical or subtropical waters and has a closed low-level circulation. They are classified as either a tropical depression, tropical storm, or hurricane.

Tropical Disturbance: A moving area of thunderstorms in the tropics that maintains its identity for **24** hours or more.

Tropical Depression: A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of **38** mph (**33** knots) or less.

Tropical Storm: A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of **39 to 73** mph (**34 to 63** knots).

Hurricane: A tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of **74** mph (**64** knots) or higher.

Tornado: A violently rotating column of air that may be deadly and destructive. Tropical cyclones can spawn tornadoes.

Flood Watch: Flooding is possible. Prepare to take action.

Flood Advisory: Minor flooding that is not a substantial threat to life and property is imminent or is occurring.

Flood Warning: Flooding that is a serious threat to life or property is imminent or is occurring. **Take Action!**

When disaster strikes, how can I be informed?

HAWAI'I COUNTY PUBLIC ALERTS



Scan the QR code to sign up to receive important Hawai'i County Civil Defense public safety alerts.

EMERGENCY & WIRELESS ALERTS



Scan the QR code to learn how your radio, TV, and mobile phone can receive additional critical public safety alerts.

HAWAI'I COUNTY HAZARD MAP

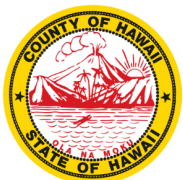


Scan the QR code to see real-time hazards, such as wildfires, severe weather, road closures, and more.

OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS



Scan the QR code to learn about Hawai'i's 400+ all-hazard outdoor warning sirens, including those on Hawai'i Island.



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