



TCA Disaster Preparedness Information

On a typical sunny day, we often forget that Hawaii has many hazards. According to State Civil Defense, the most dangerous disaster threats in Hawaii are hurricanes, tsunamis and flash floods. These disasters could also have cascading effects – for example flash flooding could cause landslides, downed trees blocking the road, failure of your catchment system and power outages. It is important to note which hazards affect you directly or indirectly where you live, work or play and make a plan for you and your family on where you will seek shelter, what items you will need to see you through and how you will communicate and reconnect following a disaster. Additionally there are ways you can prepare your home and property that may mitigate damage, or provide a safe haven should you need to stay put. Tantalus has its own special set of issues. We hope the following information will answer questions, provide action plans and share additional resources for your further exploration.

Tsunami

Hawaii is vulnerable to distant and locally generated tsunamis. In Tantalus, we are well outside of the evacuation zone. When the sirens sound, if you are home you should stay put and not go out on the road. Even though Tantalus is not a point that is designated as a tsunami refuge area, people will come and park alongside the road. Most likely there will be a low police presence in Tantalus during a tsunami evacuation because their services will be needed providing life-saving assistance with evacuating coastal areas. The closest county run Tsunami Refuge Area is Makiki District Park. For a full listing of Oahu's tsunami refuge areas and evacuation maps, please see <http://www1.honolulu.gov/dem/maps.htm>

Hurricanes

Since Tantalus is at a higher elevation, our neighborhood is vulnerable to higher wind gusts or maximum strength winds during a storm. If your home meets any of the following criteria, you will be advised to evacuate your home: single wall construction, built before 1980 (when building codes were upgraded), light wood construction, facing an exposed ridgeline, within a storm surge or flood zone (none of the TCA community should meet that designation) or if people within your home are dependent upon electricity and you do not have a generator for their needs or need medical attention that cannot be provided by your household/family.

The nearest designated public hurricane evacuation shelters to Tantalus are Makiki District Park, Roosevelt High School, Stevenson Middle School and Lincoln Elementary School. The full listing is located at <http://www.scd.hawaii.gov>. Roosevelt and Stevenson schools also have the capability to shelter pets. Stay tuned to radio and television during the emergency for up to date evacuation information; many times not all designated shelters are opened. Remember – Hurricane Evacuation Shelters will have limited space and amenities. You will need to bring your supplies with you to include food, water and bedding. Most likely shelters will lose electricity and water and sewer services with the advent of high winds and depending on the scope and level of damages, it may take weeks to restore these services. http://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA_CustomProductCatalog/m13240313_2010HurricaneShelters042310.pdf

Another option is to try to retrofit your home to be able to withstand high winds. Information about how to construct a safe room is located on the FEMA website <http://www.fema.gov/library> search "Safe Room". Resources listed include design considerations and how-to videos. There is also the Hawaii Hazards Handbook published by UH SeaGrant that has more information to include protecting your whole home located at http://seagrant.soest.hawaii.edu/sites/seagrant.soest.hawaii.edu/files/publications/homeowners_handbook_to_prepare_for_natural_hazards.pdf

Keeping Informed

One of the best ways to stay informed about weather hazards and road closures is to subscribe to NIXLE, a text and e-mail based notification system made available through the City and County of Honolulu. Registration is free though text message charges may apply depending on your wireless carrier and plan. If you register your cellular device, make sure it is capable of receiving e-mail generated text messages. For additional information, please go to <http://www.nixle.com>

If you are seeking more detailed weather information and alerts, there is a new free Disaster Aware app for iPhone, iPad and Android devices available through the Pacific Disaster Center that provides users with instant access to worldwide hazards information, current and real time incidents – via maps and lists with links to other useful information about the events and their potential impacts. For additional information, please go to <http://www.pdc.org>



During an emergency, updates will also be provided through Facebook and Twitter by the American Red Cross, City and County of Honolulu and State Civil Defense in addition to newspaper, radio and television.

Emergency Supplies and Travel Kit

The second step is to pull together your home or shelter emergency kit. This kit should be in a wheeled suitcase or other container and be portable, so if you need to evacuate you can bring it with you. Due to Hawaii's isolation and vulnerability, Red Cross and Civil Defense recommend that people prepare their emergency kits for 7 days and bring their emergency supplies with them to shelters because airports and ports may be damaged by the storm and slow down the resupply process for local stores. This has been increased beyond 72 hours due to our fragile logistics bridge to the islands and our isolation.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 gallon of water per person per day (at least 7 gallons) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sanitation and personal hygiene items |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 21 easy to prepare no perishable meals per person (do not require electricity to prepare) | <input type="checkbox"/> Change of clothes, towel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water—one gallon per person, per day (7-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home) | <input type="checkbox"/> Blankets or sleeping bags |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food—non-perishable, easy-to-prepare items (7-day supply for evacuation, 2-week supply for home) | <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-purpose tool |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight | <input type="checkbox"/> Manual can opener |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible) | <input type="checkbox"/> Dishes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extra batteries | <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit | <input type="checkbox"/> Family and emergency contact information |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medications (7-day supply) and medical items | <input type="checkbox"/> Map(s) of the area |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Cell phone with chargers |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Extra cash |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Tools/supplies for securing your home |

You may need these additional items:

- Medical supplies (hearing aids with extra batteries, glasses, contact lenses, syringes, etc)
- Baby supplies (bottles, formula, baby food, diapers)
- Games and activities for children
- Pet supplies (collar, leash, ID, food, carrier, bowl)

Smaller kits should be kept in your car and at your school/workplace.

http://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA_CustomProductCatalog/m13240316_getkit.pdf

Household Evacuation and Communications Plan

With this information, you should be able to better formulate a personal plan for your family. One of the first steps, done now-before a disaster situation, is to develop a Family Communications Plan that includes every member of your household, no matter how young or old they are. It is sometimes rare that all our household and family members are at home all day long. A communications plan, meeting location and emergency kit needs to be ready before an emergency. All members of your household should have this information with them in case of emergency.

It is important to meet with your family or household members to discuss how to prepare and respond to emergencies that are most likely to happen where you live, learn, work and play. Identify responsibilities for each member of your household and plan to work together as a team. If a family member is in the military, plan how you would respond if they were deployed. Specifically discuss and decide the following:

- Plan what to do in case you are separated during an emergency
- Plan what to do if you have to evacuate
- Emergency Contact Cards for All Household Members
- Let Your Family Know You're Safe

Your household will need to agree to 3 ways to reunite prior or following a disaster. Most people record this information on a card that can be kept in their wallet.



- Assign an out-of-state contact whom family members can check-in with and inform of their whereabouts. It is often easier to call long distance than within your county following a disaster.
- A meeting place within your neighborhood
- A meeting place outside of your neighborhood in case your neighborhood becomes isolated or cut off.

For more about making a family plan

http://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA_CustomProductCatalog/m13240315_familyplan.pdf

Special Planning for Pets

The island humane societies have developed a list of designated shelters in partnership with their local civil defense agencies that will welcome pets. Animals will not be admitted to a pet-friendly emergency shelter without a crate or carrier (one per pet only) that's large enough to accommodate the pet comfortably. Pets need an ID tag, collar and a leash, as well as a week supply of the following: water, food, medications and litter for cats.

Pet shelters are in separate rooms or buildings on public school campuses where emergency shelters for people are. Humane Society volunteers will watch your pets through the duration of the storm. Owners assume responsibility for their pet's care during their stay, which will offer visiting hours. It's critical that pets are micro-chipped and up-to-date on their vaccinations.

Here is a checklist for a complete Pet Disaster Preparedness Kit

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| <input type="checkbox"/> 7-10 day supply of food and water | <input type="checkbox"/> Food and water bowls; can opener |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crate or carrier for each pet in which he can stand up and turn around in with ID card attached | <input type="checkbox"/> Medications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leash, collar with updated ID and license tags | <input type="checkbox"/> Grooming supplies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bedding, towels and toys | <input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning supplies for crates and litter boxes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dry or canned food in sealed containers | <input type="checkbox"/> Cat litter in sealed containers with litter pan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fresh water in sealed containers | <input type="checkbox"/> Vaccine records and other paperwork |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treats | <input type="checkbox"/> Veterinary information |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Photographs of your pet |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Pet First Aid Kit |

Disaster readiness offers you and your pet peace of mind. It is estimated that half of the human deaths during Hurricane Katrina were due to those who refused to leave their pets behind.

- Agree on a meeting location for your family and include your pet in that plan.
- Plan to bring your pet indoors well ahead of a natural disaster. Never leave a dog tied up.
- Identify a safe indoor area that's protected from breaking glass, wind and noise. If your pet becomes frightened, consider a crate or carrier.
- Tune in to radio and television reports for your nearest shelter and instructions from local emergency officials.
- Know where your nearest pet-friendly shelter is. As a back-up plan, arrange a safe haven with friends or family and designate a pet caregiver.

Additional information about Evacuation Shelters

Oahu is vulnerable to hurricanes, flooding, tsunamis and earthquakes. If your home isn't safe for you, it's not safe for your pet/s. Shelters will have limited space and amenities. You will need to bring your supplies with you including food, water and bedding. Most likely shelters will lose electricity, water and sewer services with the advent of high winds and depending on the scope and level of damages, it may take weeks to restore these basic services. These shelters may also be crowded and noisy. Though we hope sheltering in these conditions would be just to ride out the storm, roads may not be cleared quickly to be able to return home (especially for our neighborhood).

Tsunami Refuge Areas will be opened by the county for distant tsunami threats and possibly for local tsunami threats. At these sites, you should be able to park your car and have access to a bathroom and drinking fountain. No other services will be provided at these locations. A full list of Tsunami Refuge Area locations is listed on the Oahu Department of Emergency Management's website at <http://www1.honolulu.gov/dem/tsunamirefugearealistoct11.pdf>



For other kinds of disasters like fires, floods and civil disturbances, evacuation shelters, Red Cross will open nearby county or private facilities. This information will be broadcasted through local media channels. Depending on the event, it may take a couple of hours for cots, food and water to be in place.

Helping our Neighbors

There has been some discussion about developing and conducting a survey to help identify those in our community that may need help during a disaster situation. We might develop a plan that utilizes our existing Neighborhood Watch communication plan. In lieu of that please be aware of your neighbors that may need help – or reach out if you feel you may need help. These sort of arrangements could be part of your written disaster communication and action plan. Some of us may have homes that can withstand high winds. If you have an interior room within your home that can accommodate more than your family, please think about inviting some of your neighbors to join you. Following any local disaster event we can all help by checking on our neighbors to make sure that everyone is okay and that their immediate emergency needs are met. Our neighborhood can become easily isolated and we may even need to share food, water and other supplies with our neighbors.

How to Help

There are many ways you can help your community during time of disaster. However, the first step is to make sure you and your family are prepared, so you readily can put your compassion into action and effectively help others.

- If you are interested in protecting your community and helping your neighborhood directly following a disaster, you may be interested in the Department of Emergency Management's free Community Emergency Response Team training. This 20-hour training provides participants with knowledge of First Aid, light search and rescue operations and disaster preparedness. If we have at least 10 people interested from our neighborhood, we can potentially hold our own class. Please send an e-mail to maria.lutz@redcross.org if you are interested.
- If you want to help out with the humanitarian response to disaster whether it is a single family or major disaster, please look into volunteering with the American Red Cross Hawaii State Chapter, where you can learn how to manage a shelter, conduct residential damage assessment and provide emotional and financial support to families after they have lost everything. More information on how to volunteer is located at www.redcross.org/hi/honolulu
- If you want to support the response to helping pets during a disaster, please look into assisting the Hawaiian Humane Society. They are recruiting more people to assist with Pet Shelters. Please find more information at www.hawaiianhumane.org
- If you are a medical professional and wish to help with a response to a disease outbreak, school flu or vision program or assist with public health needs in shelters, you should look into the Medical Reserve Corps which is organized by the Department of Health. Please find out more at <http://hawaii.gov/health/emergencyprep/mrc>

Links to Additional Resources

Red Cross - Hawaii Chapter: <http://www.redcross.org/hi/honolulu/programs-services/disaster-preparedness>

Hawaii State Civil Defense: <http://www.scd.hawaii.gov/preparedness.html>

Hawaii Humane Society: <http://www.hawaiianhumane.org/disaster-readiness.html>

Department of Emergency Management: www.honolulu.gov/dem/

Honolulu Fire Department: <http://www1.honolulu.gov/hfd/>

Department of Health: <http://hawaii.gov/health/BT/BiologicalAgents.html>

Pacific Tsunami Warning Center: <http://ptwc.weather.gov/>

National Oceanographic Atmospheric Association: <http://www.prh.noaa.gov/hnl/watchwarn/>

American Red Cross: www.redcross.org/hawaii

Federal Emergency Management Agency: www.fema.gov

Hawaii Homeowner's Handbook for Natural Hazards:

http://seagrant.soest.hawaii.edu/sites/seagrant.soest.hawaii.edu/files/publications/web_homeownershandbook_0.pdf