

Annex C: Dependent Shelter-in-Place and Preparedness

A. GENERAL:

The priority of hurricane/tsunami preparation is the safety and health of USCG personnel. The member's family is an integral part of the member and therefore their safety is a top priority. Preparedness encompasses the entire year, however, with the arrival of hurricane season it is the responsibility of each person within the command to prepare his/her family and household for the possibility of a hurricane. This section gives guidelines to assist the member in their preparations. In addition, the command will seek to educate the members of the command via meetings, general discussion and mailings.

B. PREPARATION FOR FAMILY EVACUATION:

Before any storm develops, people need to decide whether they should plan for evacuation of their homes prior to the storm. To set expectations, the limitations of living on an island prevent the USCG from issuing an evacuation order prior to a storm. Families will not be flown off island or supplied a POET for hotels. Members and families need to prepare to shelter in place. The City and County of Honolulu's Department of Emergency Management recommends the following for evacuation preparations:

1. Residents who live in or near the Tsunami Inundation/Evacuation Zones described on the Pacific Disaster Center website ([Hawaii State Tsunami Evacuation Maps \(pdc.org\)](http://www.pdc.org)).
2. Individual residing along ridge lines subject to higher wind speeds.
3. Those living in low-lying river run-off areas subject to flooding.
4. Occupants of wood frame or other lightly constructed buildings, especially homes built before 1995.

NOTE: Residents of multi-story buildings of heavy concrete and steel within 300 feet of the shoreline should go to the third floor or above in their building's enclosed rooms, hallways, or stairwells that have load-bearing walls.

It is recommended that personnel who live in homes considered to be as safe as any shelter stay at home throughout the storm unless directed otherwise by the HI-EMA or the District Fourteen Commander. Members who live in evacuation zones should plan to stay with friends or families outside of the hazard area. Public shelters should be a last resort only. Members who live in safe housing are encouraged to invite USCG families and unmarried unit personnel who live in the community to stay with them during the storm. For those who choose to evacuate their homes and go to an Emergency Management/Civil Defense shelter, shelters will be opened selectively depending on storm severity. Listen to radio and television for shelter designations and opening schedule. Important to note, in a growing number of shelters, pets

can be brought along. It is the responsibility of individuals to check ahead with their shelters (cots, food, water are not provided at shelters).

Hurricane Preparation:

Recommended preparations before the hurricane season:

1. Prepare or update a hurricane survival kit. It should include the following:
 - Portable radio
 - Flashlights
 - Extra batteries
 - First Aid kit
 - Non-perishable food (minimum 14 days)
 - Manual can opener
 - Containers of water (1 gal per person per day for 2 weeks, 14 gallons total per person)
 - Sleeping bags/blankets/air mattresses
 - Special medications/diets
 - Change of clothes
 - Personal hygiene/sanitary supplies
 - Toilet articles/diapers
 - Copy of Communication Plan
 - Gather and place all important documents in one central location
 - Sanitary Supplies (trash bags, wipes)
 - dust masks
 - whistle
 - closed toe shoes
 - consider pet kit also.
2. Obtain and store materials, such as plywood and plastic, necessary to properly secure your home.
3. Check home for loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
4. Keep trees and shrubbery trimmed. Cut weak branches and trees that might fall or bump against the house. When trimming, try to create a channel through the foliage to the center of the tree to allow for air flow.

5. Review your insurance policy to ensure it provides adequate coverage. Take pictures of valuables, and your insurance policies noting policy.
6. Individuals with special needs should contact their local office of emergency management. JBPHH places all special needs families in rooms with backup generators. Pre-registration is required with the Military Family Support Center and JBPHH Emergency Management Office.
7. If both parents work, have a plan for childcare as many schools close a day before a hurricane watch is issued.

When a Hurricane Watch is issued:

1. Frequently monitor radio, TV, NOAA Weather Radio, or the Weather Channel for official bulletins of the storm's progress.
2. Fuel family vehicles.
3. Prepare to cover all window and door openings with shutters or other shielding materials.
4. Check food and water supplies:
5. Have clean, airtight containers on hand to store at least 2 weeks of drinking water (14 gallons per person).
6. Stock up on canned provisions and have a manually operated can opener available.
7. Obtain a camping stove and fuel.
8. Keep a small cooler with frozen gel packs handy for packing refrigerated items.
9. Check prescription medicines, obtain at least a 10-to-14-day supply.
10. Stock up on extra batteries for radios, flashlights, and lanterns.
11. Prepare to store and secure outdoor lawn furniture and other loose, lightweight objects such as garbage cans, garden tools, potted plants, etc.
12. Check and replenish first-aid supplies.
13. Have an extra supply of cash (small bills) on hand. Recommendation: \$200 (think 2 weeks with no access to ATMs or stores only accepting cash)

When a Hurricane Warning is issued:

1. Closely monitor radio, TV, NOAA Weather Radio, or the Weather Channel for official bulletins.
2. Follow instructions issued by local officials. Evacuate dependents immediately if told to do so.
3. Complete preparation activities, such as putting up storm shutters, storing loose objects, etc.
4. Evacuate areas that might be affected by storm surge flooding.
5. If evacuating, leave early (if possible, in daylight).
6. Notify neighbors and family members outside of the warning area of your evacuation plans. Have a common mainland contact all members of the family know to contact if families are separated.
7. If you are evacuating:
 - a. Stay with friends or relatives at other safe location.

- b. Put food and water out for your pet if you cannot take it with you. Some public shelters do not allow pets nor do most hotels/motels.
 - c. If driving through a flooded area, turn around. Do not go through it.
 - d. Head to the closest shelter you come across, do not go pass with intending to go to another one. Hurricane shelters will be available for people who have nowhere else to go. Shelters may be crowded and uncomfortable, with no privacy and no electricity. Do not leave your home for a shelter until government officials announce and radio and/or television that a particular shelter is open.
 - e. What to bring to a shelter:
 - First-aid kit including dust mask.
 - Medicine.
 - Baby food and diapers.
 - Cards, games, books, etc.
 - Toiletries, wipes, hand sanitizer.
 - Battery-powered radio.
 - Flashlights (one per person) with extra batteries.
 - Blankets or sleeping bags.
 - Identification.
 - Valuable papers; insurance policy number, birth certificates, mortgage papers, proof of residency, etc.
 - Extra cash (including small bills).
 - If pets are evacuated, ensure veterinary records are taken.
8. What to do before you leave your home:
- a. Assemble family.
 - b. Leave note for those absent, give time, destination, and telephone number.
 - c. Shut off electricity, gas and water.
 - d. Secure residence. Lock windows and doors and wedge sliding glass at top.
 - e. Take survival kit and small valuables.
 - f. Provide for your pets (remember, they may not be allowed at shelters).
9. If you are staying in a home.
- a. Store Water:
 - i. Fill sterilized jugs and bottles with water for a 2-week supply of drinking water.
 - ii. Fill bathtub and large containers with water for sanitary purposes.
 - b. Turn refrigerator to maximum cold and open it only when necessary.
 - c. Turn off utilities if told to do so by authorities.
 - d. Turn off propane tanks.

- e. Unplug small appliances.
- f. Stay inside a well-constructed building. In structures, such as a home, examine the building and plan in advance what you will do if winds become strong. Strong winds can produce deadly missiles and cause structural failures. If winds become strong:
 - i. Stay away from windows and doors even if they are covered. Take refuge in a small interior room (on the first floor if in a two-story home), closet, or hallway. Take a battery-powered radio and flashlight with you to your place of refuge.
 - ii. Close all interior doors. Secure and brace external doors, particularly double inward opening doors and garage doors.
 - iii. If you are in a multiple story building and away from the water, go to the first or second floor and take refuge in the halls or other interior rooms away from the windows. Interior stairwells and the areas around elevator shafts are generally the strongest part of the building.
 - iv. Lie on the floor under tables or other sturdy objects.
- g. If the eye of the hurricane passes over your area, be aware that the improved weather conditions are temporary and that the strongest winds are around the eyewall. The storm conditions will return with winds coming from the opposite direction. This change may take place in a period of just a few minutes.

After the Storm Passes:

1. Stay in your protected area until announcements are made on the radio or television that the dangerous winds have passed. Remember even if it feels like the storm is over you may be in the eye. Shelter in place until you hear an all-clear announcement.
2. If you have evacuated, do not return to your home until officials announce that your area is ready. Remember, proof of residency may be required in order to reenter evacuated areas.
3. If your home or building has structural damage, do not enter until it is checked by officials.
4. Avoid using candles and other open flames indoors. Do not use propane tanks indoors.
5. Be aware of outdoor hazards:
 - a. Avoid downed power lines and water in which they may be lying.
 - b. Be alert for landslides due to hillside stability being weakened by extensive wind and rain.
 - c. Beware of weakened bridges and washed-out roads.
 - d. Watch for weakened limbs on trees and/or damaged overhanging structures.
6. Do not use the telephone unless necessary. The system usually is jammed with calls during and after a hurricane.
7. Guard against spoiled food. Use dry or canned food. Do not drink or prepare food with tap water until you are certain it is not contaminated. To check freezer thaw, freeze a cup of water before the storm and place a coin on the top after frozen solid. The placement of the coin after the storm will demonstrate the thaw.

Useful References:

- Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA): <https://dod.hawaii.gov/hiema/get-ready/prepare-your-family/>
- DHS: www.ready.gov
- NOAA Central Pacific Hurricane Center Hurricane Tracking: <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/?cpac>
- Local Radio Broadcasting KSSK AM590/ FM 92.3

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