

# Hawai'i Boater's Hurricane and Tsunami Safety Manual



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*On the cover (left-right): Storm waves, O‘ahu’s north shore, photo courtesy of Dolan Eversole; Sailboat on the Breakwater at Magic Island, O‘ahu, photo courtesy of U.S. Coast Guard; March 2011 tsunami debris, photo courtesy of Hawai‘i State Civil Defense.*



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# INTRODUCTION

Hurricanes are the most severe of all tropical cyclones and have great potential for widespread destruction in Hawai‘i. This was demonstrated in 1982 by Hurricane Iwa and in 1992 by Hurricane Iniki. Total damages in Hawai‘i from Iwa were estimated at \$250 million and from Iniki at \$2.4 billion. Hurricanes impact coastal areas in particular, especially harbors and marinas, where they cause widespread damage to boats and marine facilities. The Hawai‘i State Civil Defense and the University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant College Program in cooperation with the Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation have developed this manual to give Hawai‘i’s boaters the information they need to protect their lives and property when a hurricane or other severe storm threatens. The manual also includes a section on tsunamis, another serious threat to boaters and the marine community in Hawai‘i.

Most hurricanes that impact Hawai‘i originate off the coasts of Central America or southern Mexico and then move in a west-northwest direction toward the Hawaiian Islands. Some hurricanes have formed to the south and southwest of Hawai‘i and have threatened the islands. Whatever their source, hurricanes often dissipate before they reach the islands or pass to the south, east, or west. Storms that do not strike the islands can still cause significant damage through high surf and heavy rain, which can cause flooding and landslides. On occasion, hurricanes strike Hawai‘i, causing considerable damage. Hurricane Iwa in 1982 and Hurricane Iniki in 1992 were especially destructive, causing billions of dollars in damage, especially on Kaua‘i. In addition to the considerable damage on land, boats in the harbors were hit hard, with many of them tossed onshore like toys and completely destroyed. In the aftermath of these great storms, many members of the boating community felt that they needed specific guidelines for action – especially since, with Hawai‘i sitting in the Central Pacific hurricane corridor, the probability of another hurricane striking the islands is great. Thus, the original version of this manual was published in 1998.

For boaters, tsunamis pose a similar threat as hurricanes, so it is appropriate to address the tsunami threat in this manual as well. The tsunamis of 1946 and 1960, from the Aleutian Islands and Chile respectively, were the most damaging of recent history. The 1946 tsunami delivered damaging waves to all the Hawaiian Islands, while the 1960 tsunami’s damage was concentrated along the shorefronts of Hilo and Kahului.

Somewhat smaller was the tsunami from Japan in 2011, but even this was adequate to produce damage in all small boat harbors in the state. Currents produced by the 2011 tsunami were especially severe at Ke‘ehi Lagoon, where floating docks broke free and more than a hundred vessels were severely damaged or sunk.

This updated manual provides a summary of the actions boaters and other members of Hawai‘i’s marine community can take before, during, and after a hurricane or tsunami. It is intended to assist in preparing for and mitigating the effects of these hazards. It includes information on these events and their dangers, provides guidelines to develop a personal preparedness plan, and lists emergency assistance information (that is, phone numbers, radio frequencies, and hurricane evacuation shelter locations). The statements and procedures contained in this manual may be modified or supplemented to meet the specific needs of individual boat owners. It is intended that this manual complement state statutes, Hawai‘i administrative rules, county codes and ordinances, whose provisions shall prevail in the event of a conflict.



## KEY DEFINITIONS

### **Category**

Classification of hurricane strength based on sustained wind speed in miles per hour. Category 1: 74 to 95 mph (64 to 82 knots); category 2: 96 to 110 mph (83 to 95 knots); category 3: 111 to 129 mph (96 to 112 knots); category 4: 130 to 156 mph (113 to 136 knots); and category 5: 157 mph (137 knots) or greater.

### **Gale Warning**

A warning of sustained surface winds, or frequent gusts, in the range of 39 to 54 mph (34 to 47 knots) inclusive, either predicted or occurring, and not directly associated with a tropical cyclone. See also Storm Warning.

### **High Surf Advisory/Warning**

The National Weather Service (NWS) now has a two-tiered system for high surf, with the criteria for advisory and warning varying by the coastal sector and island as described in the following table.

## Advisory and Warning Criteria

Location	Advisory	Warning
North-Facing Shores – All Islands	15 ft.	25 ft.
West-Facing Shores – Big Island	8 ft.	12 ft.
West-Facing Shores – Remaining Islands	12 ft.	20 ft.
South-Facing Shores	8 ft.	15 ft.
East-Facing Shores	8 ft.	15 ft.

All surf heights and forecasts are for the full face surf height, from the trough to the crest of the wave.

### Hurricane

A storm with distinct rotary circulation at the surface of the ocean with sustained winds of 74 mph (64 knots) or more.

### Hurricane Warning

Hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are expected in the specified area of the warning, but the warning is called 36 hours before the expected arrival of the tropical storm winds (sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph). Complete hurricane preparations and implement your hurricane plan if directed by officials. When a Hurricane Warning is called, the sirens will sound and the warning will be broadcast by local media.

### Hurricane Watch

Hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are possible in the specified area of the watch, but the watch is called 48 hours before the possible arrival of the tropical storm winds (sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph). During a watch, prepare your boat and review your emergency plan in case a hurricane warning is issued. Preliminary preparations should begin even before a watch has been issued.

### Small Craft Advisory

A statement issued by the NWS when winds are, or expected to be between 29 and 38 mph (25 and 33 knots), and/or when combined seas are, or expected to be 10 feet or greater, thereby producing conditions hazardous to small craft.

## **Squall**

A strong wind of sudden onset and short duration.

## **Storm Surge**

An abnormal rise of water above the predicted astronomical tide caused partly by the low pressure of the storm and mostly by winds driving water onshore. On top of the astronomical tide and storm surge, there are waves, which give a Total Water Level during a hurricane that can inundate coastal areas, erode beaches and destroy shoreline roads, structures, boats, and marinas.

## **Storm Warning**

A warning of sustained surface winds, or frequent gusts, in the range of 55 to 73 mph (48 to 63 knots) inclusive, either predicted or occurring, and not directly associated with a tropical cyclone. See also Gale Warning.

## **Tropical Storm Warning**

Tropical storm conditions (sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph) are expected in the specified area of the warning, usually within 36 hours.

## **Tropical Storm Watch**

Tropical storm conditions (sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph) are possible in the specified area of the watch, usually within 48 hours.

## **Tornado**

A violently rotating column of air extending down from a cumulonimbus cloud or thunderstorm.

## **Tropical Cyclone**

The general term for all cyclonic circulations (storms rotating counterclockwise in the northern hemisphere) originating over tropical waters and classified by form and intensity to include, in order of increasing strength, tropical depressions, tropical storms, and hurricanes.

## **Tropical Cyclone Public Advisory**

Once a disturbance develops into a tropical cyclone (tropical depression, tropical storm, or hurricane), advisories are issued every six hours. The Tropical Cyclone



Public Advisory contains a list of watches and warnings and provides information on the cyclone position in terms of latitude and longitude coordinates, the distance from a selected land point or island, as well as the current motion. The Public Advisory includes the maximum sustained winds and the estimated, or measured, minimum pressure. The Tropical Cyclone Forecast/Advisory contains similar information as the Public Advisory but also includes the cyclone's position, intensity, and estimated wind fields for 12, 24, 36, 48, and 72 hours from the current time. Boaters should actively monitor advisories so that they can adequately prepare well in advance of a hurricane watch or warning.

### **Tropical Depression**

A storm with distinct rotary circulation at the surface of the ocean with sustained winds of 38 mph (33 knots) or less.

### **Tropical Disturbance**

A moving body of thunderstorms that maintains its identity for 24 hours or more.

### **Tropical Storm**

A storm with distinct rotary circulation at the surface of the ocean with sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph (34 to 63 knots).

### **Tropical Weather Outlook**

During hurricane season, the National Weather Service issues a Tropical Weather Outlook four times daily, with the outlook assessing the genesis potential of tropical disturbances over the next 48 hours.

### **Tsunami**

A series of ocean waves that are set in motion by great disturbances in the earth's crust. These disturbances are normally earthquakes or natural events associated with earthquakes, such as volcanic eruptions and explosions that vertically displace the water column in the ocean.

### **Tsunami Advisory**

A tsunami is expected, but will not be large enough to cause significant land flooding. Evacuation of the coast is not necessary, but the beach and coastal waters may be hazardous because of unusual waves and strong currents. Sirens will not sound, but

beaches will be closed. The advisory will be continued until wave action falls below danger levels, which may take several hours.

### **Tsunami Warning**

A damaging tsunami is expected and people should evacuate from the tsunami zones. When a warning is issued, sirens will sound and the warning will be broadcast by local media. Normally a warning is issued at least three hours before the tsunami arrives; the time the tsunami is to arrive is part of the warning and will be repeated by the media. The warning continues until wave heights have dropped below hazard levels, which may be more than 12 hours. After a damaging tsunami, the warning will be downgraded to an advisory as the threat decays, but the advisory may remain in effect six hours or more before being cancelled. See also, Urgent Local Tsunami Warning.

### **Tsunami Watch**

Issued if there is the potential for a damaging tsunami but the existence of a tsunami has not yet been confirmed. A Tsunami Watch will always be upgraded to a Tsunami Warning or a Tsunami Advisory or will be cancelled. If it is upgraded to a warning or advisory, that upgrade will occur with a target of at least three hours before the tsunami arrives. If you learn that a Tsunami Watch has been issued, tune to local television or radio for further information and prepare to evacuate in case the watch is upgraded to a warning.

### **Urgent Local Tsunami Warning**

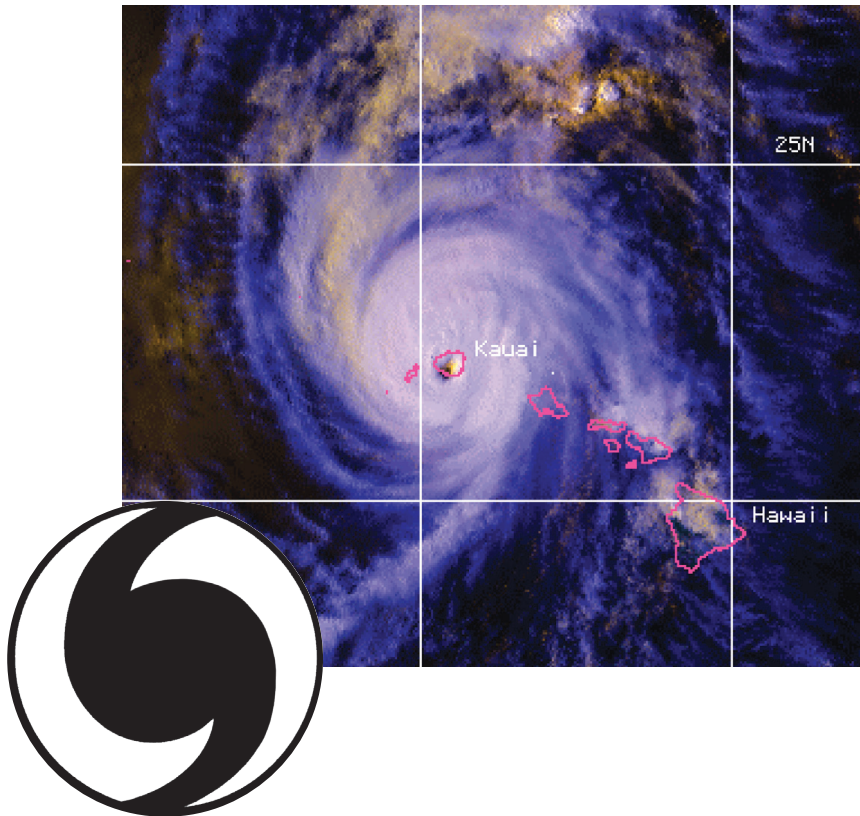
Issued when there has been a major earthquake in the Hawaiian Islands and a damaging tsunami is likely within minutes to tens of minutes. If you feel ground shaking which is so severe that you have difficulty standing, take the shaking as a natural tsunami warning and move inland immediately; do not wait for the sirens to sound. If you feel shaking, even if it is not very severe, and the sirens sound within a minute or two, immediately leave the coastal area, preferably on foot. Tune to local television or radio once you are out of the evacuation zone. If you are on the water at dock, the compressional shock waves in the water from an earthquake will feel as if the hull has been hit or the boat has run aground. Evacuate the marina immediately. If you are on the water at sea, and an earthquake is felt, head to deeper water (over 300 feet).

### **Water spout**

A tornado occurring over water.

# PART 1

## Hurricane Information



*NOAA satellite image of Hurricane Iniki over Kaua'i, September 11, 1992. The band of strong winds and rain surrounding the eye of the hurricane missed the more populated islands of O'ahu, Maui, and Hawai'i, as Iniki passed west of these areas.*



## General Hurricane Information

### Origin

Most Central Pacific hurricanes originate in the warm, tropical waters near the coasts of Central America or southern Mexico and then move west-northwest.

Many of them dissipate as they encounter unfavorable atmospheric and oceanic conditions such as cooler water, but those that survive follow a conventional path that brings them across the Central Pacific toward the Hawaiian Islands.

In Hawaiian waters, they usually pass below or south of the islands and tend to veer northwest below or beyond Kaua‘i. Fortunately, most of them remain far enough away to spare us their severe effects. Hurricanes also originate outside of the conventional corridor described above. Some of them form closer to Hawai‘i, while a few, like Iwa, even originate far to the southwest.

### Season

The official hurricane season in Hawai‘i is from June 1 through November 30. Most Central Pacific hurricanes occur in July, August, and September, but they may occur as early as May and as late as December and may infrequently occur any time of the year. During some years, many hurricanes occur, whereas in others, few or none. The Central Pacific Hurricane Center in Honolulu issues a seasonal outlook, typically in May that forecasts the number of tropical cyclones that are expected to occur within the basin in the upcoming season. Regardless if the forecasts call for an active season or not, boaters should prepare every year before hurricane season because it only takes one hurricane to cause great devastation.

### Characteristics

A hurricane is a type of tropical cyclone, an atmospheric disturbance that originates over warm tropical waters with winds that rotate in a counterclockwise direction. Tropical cyclones are classified by form and intensity and include tropical depressions, tropical storms, and hurricanes. When the sustained wind speed in a tropical cyclone reaches 74 miles per hour (64 knots), it is classified as a hurricane.

Stated simply, hurricanes are giant whirlwinds in which air moves in a large, tightening spiral around a calm center of extremely low pressure, the eye of the hurricane. In the Northern Hemisphere, the wind circulation is counterclockwise and reaches maximum velocity in a circular band extending outward 20 to 30 miles from the rim of the eye. Near the eye, winds may gust to more than 200 miles per hour (174 knots). Winds of 39 miles per hour (34 knots) and greater can extend 200 miles or more in all directions from the center of the hurricane. The entire storm dominates the ocean surface and lowers atmospheric pressure over thousands of square miles.

The eye, within the spiral structure of the storm, is unique to hurricanes. In the eye, winds are light and skies are clear or partly cloudy. However, this is a deceptive calm, bordered as it is by maximum force winds and torrential rains. Many people have been injured or killed when they ventured out from a safe shelter during the calm of the hurricane's eye, only to be caught in the maximum-force winds at the far side of the eye which blow in the opposite direction from the winds in the leading half of the storm. These winds are responsible for flying debris, one of the greatest dangers during a hurricane.

Hurricanes are extremely dangerous because they combine the multiple effects of violent winds, torrential rains, abnormally high surf, and storm surge. Each of these weather phenomena alone is hazardous, but in combination they pose a serious threat to life and property. In Hawai'i, hurricane winds, especially when accelerated by local terrain, are very damaging to all types of vegetation and structures. Hurricane rains can cause landslides and flash floods. High surf generated by hurricane winds reaches the islands while the storms are still several hundred miles away, causing dangerous conditions along the coast. When hurricanes approach or strike the islands, abnormally high, wind-driven surf inundates coastal areas, eroding beaches and destroying shoreline roads and structures. Storm surge from hurricanes presents a great danger to boaters and others in low-lying coastal areas. As a hurricane moves across a coastal area, it may create a storm surge that will make the ocean rise several feet or more above the normal high tide level, and if the storm surge is accompanied by high surf, coastal lowlands may be severely flooded and battered.

## **Movement**

In their conventional corridor, hurricanes move to the west-northwest, pushed along by surface winds. In the Central Pacific they move slowly, usually 15 miles per hour or less, and are often stationary for short periods of time. Typical forward speed of a hurricane is from 11 to 14 miles per hour. As they move farther north from the equator, their forward speed tends to increase and at middle latitudes may exceed 50 miles per hour in extreme cases. Although hurricanes normally follow an established path that carries them to the south of Hawai‘i, their behavior can sometimes be erratic. It is this measure of unpredictability and the extended geographical effects of high surf, heavy rains, and landslides that necessitate taking precautionary measures when a tropical storm is in the Central Pacific.

During hurricane season, the National Weather Service (NWS) maintains a constant watch over any tropical disturbance that could develop. The NWS’s Central Pacific Hurricane Center issues a Tropical Weather Outlook four times daily during hurricane season, with the outlook assessing the genesis potential for tropical disturbances over the next 48 hours. The probability of development will be stated to the nearest 10 percent for each area of interest. If a disturbance becomes a tropical depression, the NWS begins issuing advisories, which detail the tropical cyclone’s (TC) location, intensity, speed and direction of travel. Advisories are issued on a more frequent basis if the TC threatens any portion of the island chain.

## **General Precautionary Measures for Boaters**

The key to protecting boats from hurricanes or any severe threatening weather is planning, preparation and timely action. The following precautionary measures are meant for use as guides only. Each boat owner needs a plan unique to the type of boat, the local boating environment and the weather conditions likely to occur in that region. The following preparatory and precautionary measures are issued as guidelines for use by the boating community. While these precautionary measures may not be applicable to everyone in all instances, it is anticipated that common sense and good judgment will prevail in determining which measures should be used.

1. **Hurricane Plan.** Your Hurricane Plan should be written. Prior to hurricane season, develop a detailed plan of action that includes: (a) securing your boat in the marina or harbor (if permitted), removing your boat from the marina or harbor, or taking your boat to a previously identified hurricane refuge; and (b) identifying and assembling equipment and supplies. Specific details and worksheets are provided later in this manual. Keep your Hurricane Plan with your equipment and supplies, and practice it before every hurricane season to ensure that it works, as access or other circumstances may change over time. Determine how valuable equipment will be removed from the boat and how long it will take to do it. You will need to have an accurate estimate of the time and work involved.
2. **Plan Implementation When You're Away.** Arrange for a knowledgeable friend (preferably a boater who is very familiar with your vessel and its state of readiness) to carry out your Hurricane Plan if you are out of town during hurricane season. If your vessel is moored in a state recreational boating facility and you are out of state, off island, or otherwise unable to immediately respond to an emergency related to your vessel for any length of time, you are required to have a caretaker serve in this capacity.
3. **Responsibilities.** Check your lease or storage agreement with management personnel of the marina, harbor, or storage area. Know your responsibilities and liabilities as well as theirs. Make sure they have your most current contact information and the name and current telephone number of the person you have designated to care for your boat in your absence.
4. **Records.** Consolidate your records, including copies of insurance policies; recent photos of your boat; boat registration; equipment inventory; lease agreement with the marina, harbor, or storage area; and telephone list of appropriate authorities such as the harbormaster, Coast Guard, and your insurance agent. Take them with you after securing your boat. You may need them after the hurricane when you return to check on your boat.
5. **Inventory.** Keep a list of the items from your equipment inventory that you took off the boat. Items of value should be marked so they can be readily identified.

6. **Final Provisions.** When a hurricane is impending and you have made your final anchoring, mooring, or storage provisions, remove all portable equipment such as canvas, sails, dinghies, radios, cushions, biminis, and roller furling sails. Lash down everything you cannot remove, such as tillers, wheels, and booms. Make sure the electrical system is shut off, unless you plan to leave the boat in the water. Remove the battery to eliminate the risk of fire or other damage, unless the battery is needed to run automatic bilge pumps.

## Specific Precautionary Measures for Boat Owners

In addition to the general precautionary measures which should be taken no matter where you plan to leave your boat during a hurricane or other severe weather, the following specific precautionary measures should be taken depending on the situation.

### Trailerred Boats

1. If your boat can be trailerred away from the shoreline and placed in a safe area, then part of your Hurricane Plan should be to identify the vehicle and the trailer to be used to move the boat. Be sure your tow vehicle is powerful enough to move your boat and your trailer and vehicle are in good working condition. Too often a flat tire or a broken axle will prevent an owner from moving a boat.
2. Once at a safe place, lash your boat to the trailer and place blocks between the frame members and the axle inside each wheel. Owners of light weight boats, after consulting with the manufacturer, may consider letting half the air out of the tires and then filling the boat one-third full of water to help hold it down. The blocks will prevent damage to the springs from the additional weight of the water.
3. Secure your boat with heavy lines to fixed objects. Because hurricane winds rotate and change direction, try to pick a location that allows you to secure it from four directions. Anchors screwed in the ground can serve as fixed objects for your lines.



## **Non-trailerred Boats**

Non-trailerable boats are usually large boats berthed in a marina, a harbor, or moored offshore. Owners need to select one of the following three options, each of which requires a different strategy, to protect their boat:

1. Secure the boat in its berth, or
2. Moor the boat in a previously identified safe area, or
3. Haul the boat out of the water.

Note that running from the hurricane is not listed as an option and is not recommended except for large commercial vessels.

## **Boats Remaining in a Berth**

1. Double all lines. Rig crossing spring lines fore and aft. Attach the lines high on the pilings to allow for the storm surge. Make sure the lines are secured and will not slip off the pilings. Inspect the pilings and choose those that seem the strongest and tallest and most properly installed.
2. Cover all the lines at the contact points to prevent fraying as a result of chafing. Wrap the lines with tape, heavy plastic bottles, rubber hoses, or similar items. Install fenders to protect the boat from striking the pier, pilings, and other boats.
3. Assess the attachment of the primary cleats, winches, and chocks. They should have substantial back plates and be secured by adequate-sized bolts, preferably ones made of stainless steel.
4. Make sure batteries are fully charged and able to run automatic bilge pumps for the duration of the storm. Turn off or disconnect all electrical devices except the bilge pumps. When it is safe to return to your vessel, bring spare charged batteries to replace depleted ones to run the bilge pump, if necessary.
5. Do not stay aboard. After you have secured the boat, leave the area and seek shelter in a safe haven.

## **Boats Tied to an Offshore Mooring**

1. Double your anchor lines and set port and starboard anchors both fore and aft.
2. Cover all the lines at the contact points to prevent fraying as a result of chafing. Wrap the lines with tape, heavy plastic bottles, rubber hoses, or something similar.
3. Assess the attachment of the primary cleats, winches, and chocks. They should have substantial back plates and be secured by adequate-sized bolts, preferably ones made of stainless steel.
4. Make sure batteries are fully charged and able to run automatic bilge pumps for the duration of the storm. Turn off or disconnect all electrical devices except the bilge pumps. When it is safe to return to your vessel, bring spare charged batteries to replace depleted ones to run the bilge pump, if necessary.
5. Do not stay aboard. After you have secured the boat, go ashore and seek shelter in a safe haven.

## **Boats Hauled Out of the Water**

1. Determine the safest haven for your boat and make arrangements to move it there. When selecting a safe location, be sure to consider whether storm surge could rise into the area.
2. Wherever you choose to locate your boat for the duration of the hurricane, lash your boat to its cradle or trailer with heavy lines and consider, based on the weight of the boat, adding water to the bilge to help hold it down.
3. Never leave your boat in davits or on a hydro lift.

## **Hurricane Plan for Boat Owners**

All boat owners should take the time and effort to develop a Hurricane Plan to protect themselves and their property. Marine-related facilities, service

organizations, and insurance companies consider it reasonable to expect boat owners to take necessary actions to secure and protect their boats. The following information should be considered when developing a Hurricane Plan.

### **Prior to Hurricane Season**

1. Make sure your vessel is in sound condition. This includes the hull, deck hardware, rigging, ground tackle, machinery, and electronics. Absentee owners should arrange for a boatyard haul-out or a supervised inspection of the boat prior to hurricane season. The inspection should include making sure that the batteries are charged, the bilge pumps are operational, and all equipment is secured.
2. Enhance the watertight integrity of your boat, both above and below the water line. Seal portlights, deadlights, companion ways, and hatches using duct tape if necessary. Shut seacocks and cap off or plug un-valved through-hull fittings such as sink drains.
3. Inspect the vessel's deck hardware in light of planned mooring arrangements. Assess the size and structural attachment of the primary chocks, cleats, bitts, bollards, and winches. These high load/high-stress points should have substantial backing plates and should be secured with bolts of adequate size.
4. Give special attention to the mooring lines to prevent them from chafing. Consider using a double neoprene hose, a proven example of successful chafing gear, or a fire hose.
5. Use double lines for storm moorings, whether at dock or otherwise. The second set of lines should be a size larger than the normal lines, including spring lines at a dock.
6. Purchase necessary materials – such as additional lengths of mooring lines, screw anchors, fenders, fender boards, chafing gear, and anchors – ahead of time. These items may not be readily available during the hurricane season or just prior to a hurricane.

7. If the boat is to be unattended during the hurricane season, haul it into a storage yard or leave it on its trailer. If the boat is not trailerable, arrangements should be made for wet storage at a marina or harbor.
8. Make up an inventory of all vessel equipment as part of your Hurricane Plan. Note the items that are to be removed from the boat if you have to implement the plan.
9. For wet berthing locations, ensure that seawalls and docks are sound, mooring bitts and cleats secure, and dock pilings and dolphins in good condition.
10. At private berthing and dock facilities in residential areas, coordinate safety and mooring plans with neighbors and other boat owners in the area.
11. Get copies of harbor or marina facilities' own hurricane plans and procedures for boats at their facilities and keep them with your personal Hurricane Plan. Check with the local Civil Defense or Emergency Management offices for copies of preparedness information.
12. If your Hurricane Plan calls for moving your boat from its current berthing location, rehearse your planned boat movement, including an actual visit to the alternate docking, mooring, or anchoring location.
13. If your plan calls for moving your boat from its current berthing location to an inland waterway, know your boat's navigation requirements, including bar and bridge restrictions at different tides.
14. Make a list of reputable salvage operators and repair facilities in your area. Include the list in your Hurricane Plan.
15. Be sure that your family and crew members are familiar with your Hurricane Plan in advance and how they can contact you or your designated representative or agent.
16. Make sure that your plan includes a quick response to protecting your boat

if a hurricane watch is announced. Moving a boat, stripping sails, derigging, and anchoring in high winds and stormy seas may be extremely difficult and at times impossible.

17. Make copies of your Hurricane Plan with inventory of equipment and keep one on the boat, one at home, and, if appropriate, a third copy at the office.
18. Make sure the insurance policy on your boat is current. Read the policy thoroughly. It should contain some helpful information in regard to your actions if your boat does sustain hurricane-related loss or damage. Be sure you understand what is covered and what is not and your duties as a boat owner.
19. A large number of boat owners are homeowners. Your Hurricane Plan should have enough preparation time to implement protection measures for your boat, family, and home. This will require preparation before Hurricane Season and prior to a Hurricane Watch. Monitor Tropical Cyclone Public and Tropical Cyclone Forecast Advisories (in Key Definitions section). See the *Homeowner's Handbook to Prepare for Natural Hazards* (in Resources section).

### **Prior to the Hurricane**

1. If your plan calls for moving your boat, do it before or as soon as a Hurricane Watch is issued by the National Weather Service. A Hurricane Watch is issued when hurricane conditions pose a possible but uncertain threat to a specific coastal area within 48 hours. If you do move your boat, make sure of the following:
  - ✓Fuel tanks are full,
  - ✓Fuel filters are clean,
  - ✓Batteries are charged,
  - ✓Bilges are clean,
  - ✓Cockpit drains are free and clear,
  - ✓Fire-fighting equipment is operational,
  - ✓Lifesaving equipment is accessible and in good condition, and
  - ✓Marine band radio, if installed, is in proper working order.

2. If your plan does not call for moving your boat, remove or secure all deck gear, portable gear, portable radios, radio antennas, outriggers, fighting chairs, deck boxes, bimini tops and side canvas/curtains, sails, booms, dorades, extra halyards, canister rafts, and dinghies. Make sure you secure all hatches, ports, companionways, lazarettes, and sailboat rudders. Remember that you may need the dinghy to take line ashore. Consider minimizing the amount of fuel in your gas tanks and placing absorbent pads in the bilge and around the engine to reduce the release of HAZMAT materials should a breach occur.
3. When removing equipment from the vessel, remember to remove the Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) (if equipped) to avoid making an unintended false distress call to the U.S. Coast Guard. Be sure to keep the EPIRB readily accessible to place back on board when you're ready to get the boat underway again.
4. Monitor VHF Radio Channel 16 or go to <http://homeport.uscg.mil/honolulu> to stay aware of U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port Safety Zones that may have been established restricting access to port. Those without Internet or VHF access can also call the USCG Command Center at 1-800-552-6458.
5. Wherever your boat is moored, assume that it will be subject to storm surge that is 5 to 10 feet greater than normal tidal movement and adjust your lines accordingly. High surf and hurricane surge will precede the estimated time of arrival of the hurricane. For boats in rivers or canals, the best mooring location is in the center of the river or canal where double mooring lines can be secured to both shores, port and starboard, fore and aft.
6. Do not raft boats together at moorings or docks, especially if larger and smaller boats are involved. The probability of damage to the boats is greater than if they are moored singly.
7. If the boat must remain dockside at a harbor or marina, use or install heavy duty fender boards (2" X 6") on a bare center piling to prevent or at least reduce damage. Lines should be doubled or even tripled where

necessary to hold a boat in the center of a berth or off a seawall or dock pilings.

8. Do not attempt to move your boat once a Hurricane Warning has been issued. Leave your boat and initiate protective actions for yourself and your family. A Hurricane Warning is issued when the National Weather Service expects hurricane force winds, but is announced when tropical storm winds (39 to 73 mph) are expected within 36 hours or less to give the public more time to prepare.

### **During the Hurricane**

1. Do not stay aboard the boat during a hurricane. If you have taken all the precautionary measures in your Hurricane Plan, you have done all that can be done in anticipation of the storm.
2. Stay in a protected place or designated shelter. Attend to the safety of your family, your home, and other personal property.
3. Stay tuned to news broadcasts and weather advisories concerning the hurricane so you will know when the danger has passed.

### **After the Hurricane**

1. Check your boat as soon as possible after the all clear announcement is made. Be aware that there may be extensive damage in the area and that you may not be able to reach your boat due to downed power lines, blocked roads, and flooding in low-lying areas. Consider taking a spare battery just in case the one powering your bilge pump is depleted.
2. If you moored your boat in a river where it was blocking traffic, move it as soon as possible. If other boats cannot navigate past you, their operators may cut your mooring lines and let your boat drift, possibly causing more damage than the hurricane.
3. If your boat was damaged, be sure to check for fuel leaks or the odor of fuel.
4. If your boat was damaged and its security breached, take action to re-secure

it as soon as possible. Looters will take advantage of any damaged boat if given the opportunity.

5. Report any non-storm-related theft, vandalism, or damage to a boat to the police or the appropriate law enforcement agency. Record the incident number and obtain a copy of the report as soon as possible to substantiate insurance claims or Internal Revenue Service (IRS) property loss reports.
6. If your vessel, or any other vessel you observe has spilled oil, fuel, or other chemicals into the water, make an immediate report to the National Response Center by calling 1-800-424-8802 or make your report online at [www.nrc.uscg.mil](http://www.nrc.uscg.mil).
7. If the boat was damaged, take immediate action to save the boat and its equipment and to prevent further loss or damage. This action on the part of the boat owner is a requirement of all insurance policies. Boat owners are expected to take those actions that prudent uninsured persons would take to save their property. Take photographs of the damage once the boat is secured.
8. If the boat appears to be unrepairable and a total loss, make arrangements to remove the hull from any navigable waterway as required by government authorities. Your boat should be hauled to a storage yard or salvage facility. Take photographs of the damage before the boat is moved.
9. If salvage removal of your boat is required, emergency or otherwise, and you are unable to contact your insurance agent or the harbor or marina representative, screen the salvage contractor for competence and evaluate his estimated cost. Read the contract carefully and know where your boat is going and how secure the site is. Before the boat is hauled away, remove as much equipment as you can, make an itemized list of the equipment that remains, and take photographs of the damage.
10. When damage to your boat is repairable, make immediate arrangements to have the boat moved to a reputable repair yard. Obtain estimates and agree on the work to be done before authorizing the repairs.



## **Hurricane Plan for Other Members of the Marine Community**

Harbor and marina operators, boat builders, boat dealers, and boat repair yards should consider the following information in developing a Hurricane Plan for their facilities.

### **Prior to Hurricane Season**

1. Develop a written Hurricane Plan and distribute it to all employees. Because facility personnel will have their own family and property concerns to attend to, they must be made aware of their work-related responsibilities so they can plan accordingly.
2. Know your physical plant facilities, operational services, equipment, and standard operating procedures. Make assignments of personnel to be responsible for areas and operations of the facility. Designate team units and key people to manage them.
3. Review your Hurricane Plan with co-tenants and subcontractors in multiple occupancy facilities.
4. Review your facility's operations during the hurricane season and consider ordering supplies, stocks, and boating inventory items accordingly to keep exposure damage to a minimum.
5. Consider the number of permanent, transient, new, or brokered boats that you may be responsible for at any time during the hurricane season. In the event of an approaching hurricane, you will need to determine how you and your staff can secure these boats in place or move them to a safer inland site.
6. Keep a current list of all the boats in your care and their owners, captains, or caretakers, including their home and business phone numbers and addresses. Consider requiring boat owners to file a Hurricane Plan with you.
7. Conduct a complete facility housekeeping field day sometime in the spring or just prior to the start of hurricane season to clean up all open areas

and structures within your facility. The cleanup should include but not be limited to the following:

- a. Removing all debris, trash, and unnecessary items from open areas
  - b. Storing or securing all materials and supplies
  - c. Servicing, as necessary, building walls, roofs, windows, doors, docks, piers, wharfing, slip fingers, pilings, electrical and lighting installations, fuel and natural gas supply and equipment, portable and fixed fire-fighting equipment, mobile lifts, hydro lifts, and railways.
8. Order and stock extra equipment and supplies for emergencies, including mooring lines, lumber for fender boards, chafing gear, screw anchors, nails, hoses and clamps, oil absorbent pads, flashlights, batteries, portable generators, electrical and manual bilge pumps, and hull-patching supplies.
  9. Test all equipment that may be used during an emergency—such as portable generators and pumps.
  10. Consider having one event per year (workshop, fair, seminar, etc.), before the beginning of hurricane season on June 1, to educate boaters on best practices, preparation tips and harbor/marina plans, policy, and practices. Information disseminated should be correct and up-to-date.

### **Prior to the Hurricane**

Even the smallest marine facility has numerous tasks to perform in preparation for a hurricane. However, 72 hours is probably the minimal time needed in most instances for a facility owner or administrator to undertake the following.

#### ***48 to 72 Hours Prior***

1. Notify facility employees that they should begin implementing their Hurricane Plan.
2. Consider terminating activities of all mobile or waterborne operations, if any, within 24 hours.

3. Initiate facility protection procedures by removing or securing all loose items and equipment in open areas.
4. Secure all flammable, explosive, and other hazardous materials such as compressed gas cylinders in a protected structure.
5. Consider relocating small boats on dry storage or outside racks or on trailers to safer locations under cover. Facilities with inside rack storage may provide sufficient protection unless they are situated in a low-lying area that is subject to storm surge inundation.
6. Take down large signs, antennas, or other removable items that could be subject to wind damage.
7. Install storm shutters and other protective equipment.
8. Process and mail all paperwork that can be completed immediately. Set aside new paperwork to be completed after the hurricane.
9. Transport expensive equipment or products to inland storage sites.
10. Reduce inventories as much as possible and delay ordering materials, stocks, or supplies.
11. Begin contacting boat owners or their representatives to remove their boats, if required.

### ***36 to 48 Hours Prior***

1. Complete the following facility-protection measures:
  - a. Lock all structures, including trailers.
  - b. Turn off electricity at the main power switch.
  - c. Turn off natural gas at the main valve.
  - d. Top off tanks of facility boats and vehicles, and then turn off fuel supply tanks at the main valve.

- e. Disconnect electric motors, pumps, and similar equipment below ground level and remove to a safe location.
  - f. Turn off water supply at the meter.
2. Complete boat removal operations and secure remaining boats.
  3. Place forklifts, trucks, travel lifts, mobile cranes, and workboats in protected structures, if possible.

### ***0 to 36 Hours Prior***

During the 36-hour period prior to the projected arrival of the hurricane, a Hurricane Warning will be issued. The following activities should be in progress or nearing completion so that personnel can be released within the final 12 hours, if not sooner.

1. Complete vessel-protection and securing operations with a final check of doubled mooring lines, which should be tied off with sufficient slack and fender boards and other protective equipment in place.
2. Release employees who are not required to staff facilities during the hurricane no later than 12 hours prior to the projected time of arrival. Instructions for reporting to work after the hurricane should be given before they leave. Determine where in the facility all remaining employees will take shelter.
3. Complete facility preparations 12 hours prior to the hurricane's arrival. Make sure that all perimeter access points in the form of fences, gates, and building doors are locked and secured.
4. Do not allow any personnel to stay on any vessel during the hurricane.
5. Evacuate all personnel from the facilities, if so directed by Civil Defense or Emergency Management officials.

## **During the Hurricane**

1. Stay in a safe and protected place, inland if possible. Moving to high ground outside an evacuation or flood zone is recommended and is safer than moving to a high area within these zones. For the rare instances where facilities must remain staffed, personnel should have engineered protection from the wind, rain, and storm surge and should remain inside during the hurricane.
2. Do not attempt to move or re-secure a loose boat or piece of equipment.
3. Stay tuned to news and weather broadcasts concerning the hurricane's movement so you will know when the danger has passed.
4. Do not venture out during any lull or calm as the eye of the hurricane passes.

## **After the Hurricane**

1. Be aware that the hurricane may have caused extensive damage, including widespread flooding, washed out roads and bridges and downed power lines—all of which may prevent you from accessing your facility.
2. Alert personnel returning to the facility to begin the damage assessment process to be aware of the following:
  - a. Poisonous insects that may have crawled into unexpected places. Wear boots and gloves while working outside the facility.
  - b. Downed power lines that still may be live. Avoid all downed lines until the electric company troubleshooter disconnects them. Be aware that lines that appear dead may be live if they are connected to a generator.
  - c. Natural gas leaks. Check for natural gas leaks by smell only, not with matches or candles.
  - d. Fuel leaks. Check facility fueling docks and fuel tanks for leaking gasoline or diesel fuel.
  - e. Electrical equipment. Do not start any electrical equipment that was submerged in water until it has been checked or repaired. This includes electrical appliances such as hot plates, toasters, and calculators.

- f. Broken sewer or water mains. Report the breaks to the appropriate utility company.
  - g. Electrical wiring. Check all of the facility's wiring completely before turning on the main power switch.
3. Prepare a written assessment of the damages and take photographs of them as soon as possible. Estimate damages to docks, piers, and other harbor facilities, including cranes, mast hoists, boat sheds, toilets, showers, lockers, offices, and fuel docks.
  4. If any theft, vandalism, or damage other than that caused by the hurricane has occurred, report it to the police or other appropriate authorities. Record the incident report number and obtain a copy of the report as soon as possible to help substantiate any insurance claim or IRS property loss report.
  5. Carefully document and photograph immediate repairs made prior to an insurance adjustment. In the case of facility property damages, appraisers assigned by the insurance companies will be involved with the adjustment and will establish temporary claim offices.
  6. Be aware that the facility will receive calls from vessel owners, captains, caretakers, and others with boating interests.



*This boat was destroyed and beached in front of the Sheraton at Black Rock at Ka'anapali Beach, Maui, by Hurricane Iniki in 1992. Photo courtesy of Ward Graessle.*

## General Procedures for Processing Vessel Claims

If your boat is insured and damages occurred during a hurricane, a report of loss and/or damage should be made to your insurance agent or to the insurance company as soon as possible. A telephone call should suffice to initiate the claim. Then follow up the call with a brief written report that includes the following:

- The exact location of the boat, including information on whether it is partially or totally submerged.
- The structural condition of the boat, including an estimate of the percentage of damage, a description of the damage, and photographs of the damage.
- Information on whether the boat must be removed immediately and, if so, to what location.

With all the confusion that follows in the aftermath of a hurricane, insurance companies will settle first those claims that have the appropriate paperwork completed and in hand. After you have made the initial notification to your insurance company, take the steps listed below to assist in processing your claim. Take these steps as quickly as possible to expedite getting your boat repaired as soon as possible.

1. If your boat is still in a precarious situation, stabilize it to prevent further damage.
2. Do not perform repairs other than those necessary to prevent further damage.
3. Photograph the damage to your boat.
4. Make a list of all damages and suspected problems.
5. Contact repair yards to get estimates. You do not have to wait for an adjuster/survey or to get estimates.

In order to process claims, insurance companies will send surveyors and adjusters into the area to work with you and other policy holders. In locations designated as disaster areas, claim offices will be set up and staffed with teams of insurance personnel to expedite the processing of large numbers of claims. Locations of the claim offices should be available through the local media and civil defense and emergency management offices. In your dealings with the insurance companies, remember the following:

1. You will need to file a statement of loss explaining what, when, why, where, and how it all took place. Your statement should include copies of your list of damages, photographs, and sketches, if necessary.
2. An adjuster, insurance company surveyor, or independent surveyor acceptable to the insurance company will be instructed to survey the damage to your boat. Make sure you accompany the surveyor on the initial damage survey.
3. You should have your inventory list, receipts, pictures of damages, and repair estimates ready for inspection by the adjustor/surveyor.
4. After conducting the survey, the surveyor will file a damage report with the insurance company. Request that a copy also be sent to you.
5. If you are not satisfied with the damage report results and are not able to resolve the differences with the insurance company, you may elect to hire another surveyor at your own expense for a second opinion. Your surveyor will then represent you in any mediated discussions that follow.
6. If you agree with the insurance company's damage estimates and the company designated to do the repairs, the insurance company will proceed with the payment for repairs. It will issue a check with both the repair company's name and your name as payees.
7. When the work is completed to your satisfaction, you sign the check and the repair company gets paid.



8. If your boat is declared a total loss, the insurance company will issue a check to you, usually for the boat's fair market value as agreed upon by you and the company.
9. Be prepared to surrender the boat's documentation papers, original insurance policy, and remaining equipment, as well as the boat itself.



*Storm surge from a hurricane is one of the greatest dangers to boats and marinas. It destroys structures and pushes boats inland. Hurricane Sandy in 2012 damaged or destroyed more than 65,000 boats on the east coast. Photo courtesy of Dennis Hwang.*

# Boat Owner's Hurricane Plan Worksheet

After reading the material in this manual, use this worksheet to develop a Hurricane Plan for your boat. Be sure to distribute copies to your alternates as well as your harbor manager.

Boat's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Vessel registration #: In Hawai'i (HA#) \_\_\_\_\_ or USCG document# \_\_\_\_\_

Length: \_\_\_\_\_ Make/Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Hull Color: \_\_\_\_\_

Boat's current location: \_\_\_\_\_ Harbor: \_\_\_\_\_ Row/Pier: \_\_\_\_\_ Slip#: \_\_\_\_\_

Boat's location during hurricane: \_\_\_\_\_

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Night: \_\_\_\_\_ Cellular: \_\_\_\_\_

## Two Alternative Contacts (if you are not available)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Night: \_\_\_\_\_ Cellular: \_\_\_\_\_

Have boat keys? \_\_\_\_\_ Access to hurricane equipment? \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Night: \_\_\_\_\_ Cellular: \_\_\_\_\_

Have boat keys? \_\_\_\_\_ Access to hurricane equipment? \_\_\_\_\_

## Storage Options

Is boat already stored ashore? \_\_\_\_\_

If No, what arrangements have been made for hauling? \_\_\_\_\_

Storage location: \_\_\_\_\_

If at dock: \_\_\_\_\_ Slip #: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional lines: \_\_\_\_\_ No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Length: \_\_\_\_\_ Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional chain: \_\_\_\_\_ No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Length: \_\_\_\_\_ Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Chafe gear: \_\_\_\_\_ Fenders: \_\_\_\_\_

## If at a Mooring/Anchorage

Has mooring been inspected within the last six months? \_\_\_\_\_

How will the boater get ashore? \_\_\_\_\_

Type of bottom: \_\_\_\_\_ Depth: \_\_\_\_\_

Mooring line should be extended \_\_\_\_\_ to increase scope.

Additional anchors needed: No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Type(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Additional lines: \_\_\_\_\_ No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Length: \_\_\_\_\_ Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional chain: \_\_\_\_\_ No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Length: \_\_\_\_\_ Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Chafe gear: \_\_\_\_\_ Swivel: \_\_\_\_\_ Shackle(s): \_\_\_\_\_

## List All Equipment Needed Aboard to Prepare Boat

Equipment	Current Location
1. Extra lines	_____
2. Chafe protectors	_____
3. Fenders	_____
4. Anchors	_____
5. Swivels	_____
6. Shackles	_____
7. Duct tape	_____
8. Plugs (exhaust ports)	_____

## List All Equipment to be Removed from Boat

Equipment	Storage Location
1. Electronics	_____
2. Dinghy	_____
3. Outboard/fuel	_____
4. Sails	_____
5. Bimini	_____
6. Galley fuel	_____
7. Ship's papers	_____
8. Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB)	_____
9. Distress flares	_____
10. Other	_____

## HURRICANE PLAN FINAL CHECKLIST

- Arrange dock/anchor lines
- Add chafe protection
- Use extra fenders/fender boards as needed
- Insert plugs in engine ports
- Strip bimini, sails, life rings, etc.
- Disconnect shore power
- Close all but the cockpit sections
- Lock boat
- Notify harbor manager
- Plug all through-hull ports

## Remember These Important Points!

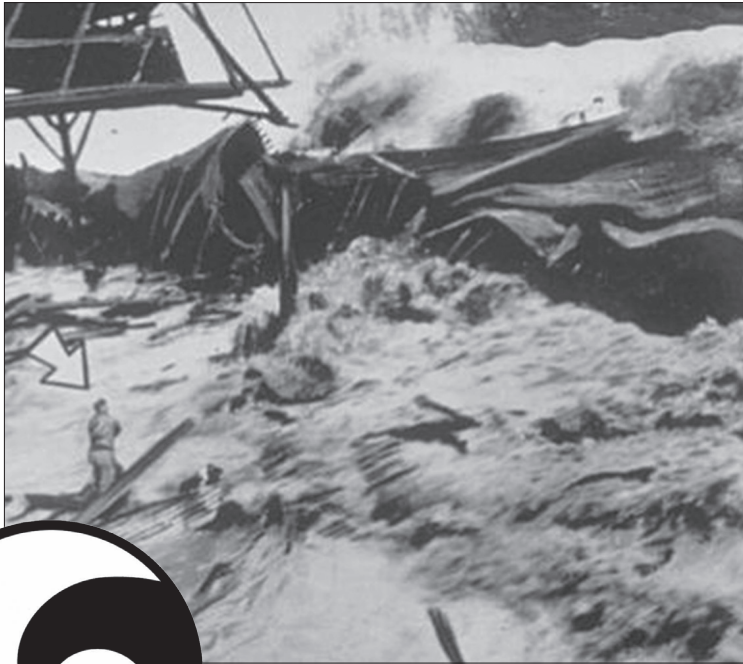
1. Develop your Hurricane Plan now. You alone are responsible for this.
2. Make all emergency plans for moving and securing your boat prior to hurricane season (June 1 to November 30).
3. Do not stay on your boat or attempt to move it after a Hurricane Warning has been issued. Rescue agencies will not risk the lives of their personnel to assist you or other careless boaters during a hurricane.
4. Do not become a hurricane statistic! Your life is more valuable than your boat.
5. Do not be fooled by the lull or calm as the eye of the hurricane passes. The second half of the storm will strike soon with full intensity.
6. Consult the Civil Defense section of your phone book for shoreline evacuation zones.
7. Stay tuned to all broadcasts and official announcements of the hurricane's status.
8. Do not return to your boat until the hurricane has passed and an official announcement indicates that it is safe to do so. DLNR will not be the agency issuing the announcement.



*This was a common sight in the small boat harbors in Kaua'i after Hurricane Iniki struck in 1992. Picture taken at Nāwiliwili Small Boat Harbor. Photo courtesy of Ward Graessle.*

# PART 2

## Tsunami Information



*April 1, 1946 – Hilo, Hawai‘i. A magnitude 8.6 earthquake near the Aleutian Islands of Alaska generated a large tsunami causing death and destruction on all the Hawaiian Islands. In this photo, the tsunami wave breaks over Pier No. 1 in Hilo Harbor. The arrow points to a man as one of the 159 identified fatalities in Hawai‘i. The photo was shot from a ship that later managed to escape to open sea. Photo courtesy of NOAA/NGDC and the Pacific Tsunami Museum.*



## General Tsunami Information

A tsunami is a series of ocean waves set in motion by a rapid change in the shape of the ocean bottom over a large area. By far the most common reason for this change is an earthquake, though landslides, volcanic activity, and meteorite impacts can also cause tsunamis.

Tsunamis are sometimes incorrectly called “tidal waves,” because the surge and withdrawal may resemble rapidly rising or falling tides.

Tsunami waves may come ashore as a “bore,” a vertical wall of water, superficially resembling the tidal bores observed in regions with very large tides, such as the Bay of Fundy, the Amazon River and the Turnagain Arm (Cook Inlet, Alaska). Tsunamis have nothing to do with tides, however, and they differ from true tidal waves in three very important respects. First, unlike tidal waves, which can be forecast months in advance, tsunamis occur at random, unpredictable times. Second, a tsunami is a succession of waves rather than a single wave. The false expectation that a tsunami is over after the first wave has resulted in considerable loss of life, even in Hawai‘i. Third, tsunami waves proceed as ordinary gravity waves with a typical period of five to 60 minutes, while the period of tides is 12 hours. Consequently, the time of the flooding is drastically different.

There is no tsunami season. A tsunami is an unpredictable event that can happen at any time. Most tsunamis that strike the Hawaiian Islands are generated in the oceanic trenches around the border of the Pacific Ocean. The unstable areas are the Pacific coast of Japan, the Kuril-Kamchatka island chain, the Aleutian Arc, and the Pacific coasts of Central America and South America.

It is important to note that a tsunami can be dangerous for several hours and the first wave is often not the largest of the series.

A tsunami has great destructive potential and is capable of quickly inundating (or flooding) areas thousands of feet inland past the normal high tide level. Their fast-moving waters can crush cars, homes, buildings, boats, and anything else in their path. They also have great erosional potential, stripping beaches of sand and undermining trees and other coastal vegetation.

In Hawai‘i, tsunamis have caused death and destruction on all the major islands. The town of Hilo has been hardest hit in historic times with destruction to major parts of the city in both 1946 and again in 1960. Both of these tsunamis were generated by earthquakes along the Pacific Rim: the 1946 tsunami from the Aleutian Trench that impacted mainly the northeast shores of our islands, and the 1960 tsunami from the Peru-Chile Trench that impacted mainly the southeast shores of our state. The 1946 event resulted in 159 deaths, with casualties on every major island.

Tsunami waves generated by the 2011 Tohoku magnitude 9.0 earthquake, caused significant damage to Hawai‘i’s recreational boat harbors with the loss of dozens of vessels and damage to countless more. A tsunami in Hawai‘i can also be generated by a nearby as well as a distant earthquake. This is especially true on Hawai‘i Island where earthquakes occur in association with the volcanic activity at Kīlauea and Mauna Loa. Any violent earthquake—one that causes you to fall to the ground or to hold onto something to keep from falling—should be considered a natural tsunami warning. If in a low-lying area, you should move immediately to higher ground or evacuate vertically to the third floor or higher of a reinforced concrete building that is at least six stories in height.

In 1975, two campers at Halapē campground, a coastal area in Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park, were killed by a tsunami generated by a magnitude 7.7 earthquake immediately offshore. The earthquake shook the campsite severely and gave the campers only a few minutes to evacuate before the tsunami came on shore, rising to 26 feet above sea level. Farther south, the tsunami damaged the coastal villages of Punalu‘u and Honu‘apo, though, fortunately, no lives were lost. The 1975 event was a repeat of a similar earthquake and tsunami which hit the same coast in 1868.

In general, all coastal areas of the Hawaiian Islands are vulnerable to inundation by a tsunami.

“As tsunami waves approach islands, they encounter shallower depths which cause the waves to bend or refract. The bending (refraction) means that tsunami waves may wrap completely around an island causing inundation even on the side of the island farthest from the area of tsunami generation. Tsunami wave refraction may result in smaller waves in some areas and larger waves in other areas. Tsunami waves may also be reflected off coastal

areas with steeply sloping shorelines. These reflected waves may combine with incoming, refracted, or other reflected waves to produce large wave run-up in unexpected places. No matter where a tsunami is generated, all sides of our islands are at risk.” - The Pacific Tsunami Museum

Tsunami waves can be amplified where a bay, harbor, or lagoon funnels the wave as it moves inland.

Please refer to the Disaster Preparedness Guide in front of the telephone book for maps of the coastal evacuation zones (Maps are also available online at: <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/psc/riskmgmt/tsunami.html> and <http://www.scd.hawaii.gov/>). Determine whether you live, work, play, transit, or go to school in an evacuation zone and develop a Tsunami Evacuation Plan for you, your family, and your boat.

## Tsunami Warnings

### Distant Earthquakes

In the event of a significant earthquake in a distant area of the Pacific Basin, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) on O‘ahu will issue a Tsunami Watch until a tsunami can be confirmed or discounted. PTWC will issue a Tsunami Warning when a tsunami is confirmed and evacuation is necessary. The warning will be announced over the radio and on television through the Emergency Alert System, in conjunction with the sounding of the Outdoor Siren Warning System. The warning will include the predicted time of arrival of the first wave. The Outdoor Siren Warning System will be sounded at 3, 2, 1, and 1/2 hour prior to the estimated arrival time of the first wave.

For land activities only, it may be safe to return to the evacuation zone after a Tsunami Warning is cancelled **and** local officials indicate it is safe to return. This may vary from area to area depending if there is damage. For activities in the water (e.g., wading, swimming, or boating), it is not safe to go in the water or return to a harbor until the Tsunami Advisory is cancelled **and** the harbor has been cleared by local authorities. Boaters should monitor VHF Radio Channel 16.

### Local Earthquakes

If a significant earthquake occurs in the vicinity of the Hawaiian Islands, PTWC



will issue an **Urgent Local Tsunami Warning**. The warning will be announced over the radio and on television through the Emergency Alert System, in conjunction with the sounding of the Outdoor Siren Warning System. **If the Urgent Local Tsunami Warning identifies the island you are on as subject to impact, leave any evacuation zone immediately.**

As stated previously, in the event of a local earthquake that causes you to fall to the ground or to hold onto something to keep from falling, **if you are in an evacuation zone**, move immediately to higher ground when the shaking stops. There may be no time for an official warning from PTWC, the Emergency Alert System, or the Outdoor Siren Warning System. **You must act on your own and self evacuate.**

## **Tsunami Emergency Plan for Boat Owners**

The need to evacuate may occur suddenly and at any time. Therefore, all boaters should prepare in advance, maintain a high state of readiness and develop a Tsunami Emergency Plan that covers evacuation scenarios for distant and local earthquakes that generate tsunamis.

### **Boat and Owner Preparedness**

1. Have your local U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary conduct a free vessel safety check to ensure your boat is in full compliance with all federal and state boating laws for that year. To find a local examiner, visit the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary online at <http://www.cgaux.org/vsc/>. If these safety checks are being offered at a harbor near you, take advantage of the opportunity. It may save a life.
2. Check your emergency gear each and every time you go out on the water. Perform maintenance, make repairs, and replace out-of-date or worn equipment as needed. Check and replace rubber parts and hoses that are brittle or cracked. Make sure you have spare fuel filters aboard.
3. The powder in dry chemical fire extinguishers can pack down into a solid mass over time. This greatly reduces its effectiveness during actual use. Before you launch, unpack and loosen the powder by inverting the extinguisher and giving it a few taps with a rubber mallet at the base.

4. Regular maintenance of your boat and support equipment are vital for any tsunami emergency situation. If your vessel is moored in a state of Hawai'i recreational boating facility, it is required to leave the confines of the harbor every 90 days to demonstrate its seaworthiness. It should be able to move offshore to the recommended minimum depth of 300 feet.
5. Any towing vehicle or trailer should be in good condition. This can be checked every year during registration, when an annual inspection is required.
6. Vessels should always have enough non-perishable food and drinking water on board so that a trip to the grocery store is not needed when a watch or warning is called.
7. Fuel supplies should be sufficient to keep a boat out of the harbor for 24 hours, if that is part of your Tsunami Emergency Plan.
8. All vessel owners should insure their vessels and make sure their policies cover **salvage costs for grounded and sunken vessels, damage to docks, pollution containment, and wreck removal.**
9. If you do not know about the issuance of emergency notifications, you could lose precious preparation time. You should pay heed to the monthly testing of the State Outdoor Siren Warning System near your workplace, near your home, and other locations that you frequent. Report outages so the system can be properly maintained. Consider adopting a siren at <http://sirens.honolulu.gov> and you, too, can contribute to keeping this system working properly. For those not on O'ahu, check your local Civil Defense Agency for such a program.
10. Receive emergency alerts, such as text messages to mobile devices for anyone that signs up for the free service. You can receive warnings issued for tsunamis, earthquakes and severe weather events. O'ahu uses a system called Nixle, Kaua'i uses Blackboard Connect CTY, Hawai'i Island uses

City Watch, and Maui uses Alert Center. See the Resources section of this book for more information on these services.

These practices can keep you and your vessel at a high state of readiness and allow you to successfully implement your Tsunami Emergency Plan.

### **Evacuation Planning for a Tsunami Emergency**

If your vessel is in an evacuation zone you will have three options: move it inland, move it offshore, or leave it in place. The decision to leave a safe place to go to your boat should depend on your equipment, your state of readiness, and adequate warning. Whatever option you choose requires a realistic assessment of the situation. Moreover, have a plan when you are off island or traveling out of state.

If, in your assessment, you, your vessel, and trailer are at a high state of readiness, and you have more than adequate time based on estimated wave arrival time, then you can move the boat inland. However, traffic on the roads, weather conditions and other unforeseen factors can change everything and rob you of precious time. Reassess your situation periodically. If you think that you will have just enough time to move inland or out to sea, you are probably not expecting the unexpected. Be realistic and know when it's time to evacuate, with or without your vessel.

A Tsunami Emergency Plan may include any of the following steps that are applicable to the vessel, the vessel owner, their situation and other considerations:

1. **If your boat is on a trailer in an evacuation zone, move it outside the evacuation zone as soon as a Tsunami Warning is issued.** Don't rush, but try to get off the roadways as soon as you can. Only implement this option if your towing vehicle and trailer are in good condition and there is no risk that there could be a breakdown on the road, worsening traffic.
2. **If your boat is in the water and cannot be trailered, prepare to put to sea as soon as a Tsunami Watch is issued.**
  - a. Consider having someone drive you to the harbor. If you drive yourself and leave your vehicle in the harbor parking lot, it may sustain damage

from the tsunami while you are offshore in your boat. Even worse, it may impede vehicle traffic or prevent emergency personnel from conducting their assigned duties.

- b. **Move your vessel offshore to waters greater than 300 feet in depth and more than two miles from the channel entrance as soon as a distant Tsunami Warning or Tsunami Advisory is declared.** It is important to note that even if the event is not elevated to a Tsunami Warning, a Tsunami Advisory is still associated with strong currents or waves dangerous to those in or very near the water and that the threat may continue for several hours. The decision to move your vessel out of the harbor under a Tsunami Advisory should be part of your Tsunami Emergency Plan.
  - c. Maintain the minimum water depth of 300+ feet just prior to and during the expected arrival time of the tsunami. Keep a distance of at least two miles from the channel entrance. You should plan to have enough fuel, food, water, and anything else you consider essential for at least 24 hours. Be sure to turn on your navigation lights at night and in times of limited visibility.
  - d. **Stay clear of the harbor entrance channel during a tsunami event.** Tsunamis can cause rapid changes in water level and unpredictable and dangerous currents in harbors and entrance channels, in addition to destruction from waves.
  - e. If your vessel is unable to navigate to a safe depth in advance of the arrival time, do not attempt to move your boat offshore or you may be caught in the tsunami or the dangerous currents associated with it. Do not move your boat offshore if your vessel is not seaworthy (e.g., risk that engine may quit in the entrance channel preventing other vessels from transiting the waterway).
3. If your boat is in an evacuation zone and cannot be moved inland or offshore, determine ahead of time what you want to remove and how you will secure the boat. As soon as a Tsunami Advisory or Tsunami Warning is declared, remove predesignated items, secure the boat, and leave the evacuation zone. Don't rush, but get off the roadways as soon as you can.

4. All shores of all Hawaiian Islands are subject to seasonal high surf, some of which directly impact boat channels and harbor entrances. **If a Tsunami Warning occurs during a period of seasonal high surf, especially at night, and your Tsunami Emergency Plan calls for moving your boat offshore, you should give serious consideration to leaving it where it is** and just removing whatever you can, securing your boat, and leaving the evacuation zone.
5. Upon initiation of an evacuation, public safety officials will establish roadblocks to control traffic coming into the coastal evacuation zone. When wave arrival is imminent, no one will be allowed back into the evacuation zone for their own safety. Therefore, if you intend to take some kind of emergency action for your boat, you should complete it and be out at sea or out of the evacuation zone at least one hour prior to the expected arrival of the first wave.
6. Anticipate heavy traffic island-wide when a Tsunami Warning is issued. Again, allow ample travel time to reach your boat before the evacuation zones are closed to non-emergency traffic.
7. If, for any reason, you are unable to tend to your boat during a tsunami event, designate someone else to carry out your Tsunami Emergency Plan.
  - a. **If your vessel is moored in a state recreational boating facility and you are out of the state, off island, or otherwise unable to immediately respond to an emergency related to your vessel for any length of time, you are required to have a caretaker serve in this capacity.**
  - b. Harbor managing agents must have your contact information and/or your caretaker's most current contact information so one of you can be reached at any time. Many times, vessels have been saved from sinking in their slips with a phone call.
  - c. Your designated caretaker should be very familiar with your boat and its seaworthiness. If your caretaker is expected to take your vessel to sea, he/she should be very capable of piloting your vessel. If not, your designated caretaker should be prepared to identify the items

on your predesignated list of equipment, remove them and evacuate. **Do not** put your caretaker in harm's way to move your vessel if the condition of your vessel, trailer, etc., is questionable. **Do not** put your caretaker at risk if there isn't adequate time to travel to your harbor to remove items or secure your mooring. Equipment can be replaced. Lives cannot.

*In 1964 in Kodiak, Alaska, a warning was received prior to the arrival of the first tsunami waves. People who rushed down to the harbor to secure or take their boats out to sea constituted two thirds of all the fatalities caused by the tsunami at Kodiak City.*

## Boats at Sea During a Tsunami

1. Tsunami wave activity is imperceptible in the open ocean, so normally that would be the safest place for most boats. Remember, however, that out on the water you are at the mercy of the weather, seasonal ocean conditions, and possible rough seas. You could run out of fuel and anchoring at the minimum safe depth (300 feet of water) could be problematic. This must be taken into consideration before moving your boat offshore.
2. Most large harbors and ports are under the control of a harbor authority and a vessel traffic system. If the harbor authority orders a forced evacuation of vessels to deeper water, you will need to be aware of the marine traffic, especially if it will impact you and your boat.
3. If a tsunami does strike, your cellular phone may not work if power on shore is knocked out. Multiple methods of communication are preferable. With a marine VHF-FM radio, you can call for help if you are adrift. **If you go more than one mile from shore your vessel must be equipped with a VHF radio or an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) according to state law.** If you only have an EPIRB and you are in distress, it is possible no one will respond to your MAYDAY call during a tsunami. A marine VHF-FM radio is your most practical piece of communication equipment during a tsunami event. It allows you to

monitor Channel 16 for information from the U.S. Coast Guard and harbor management agencies, and hear when it is safe to return to your harbor. You can also hail other vessels and ask for depth readings or signal that you are in distress. Remember that Channel 16 is for distress, safety, and calling (hailing) another vessel. Once you are in contact with another party, agree to switch to a working channel designated for noncommercial vessels. Even if you do have a VHF radio on board, it doesn't hurt to have the EPIRB, a fully charged cellular phone and a working transistor radio in your survival kit.

4. If an official announcement has not been made that it is safe to return to your harbor for some time, operate your vessel in a manner that will conserve fuel. The Tsunami Warnings and Advisories may last for hours and harbor/ocean conditions following the tsunami may not permit a quick return to port.
5. There will be a lot of boating traffic in your area, so do not linger near harbors, ports, and channels. If you actually have adequate line to anchor and it's after sunset, put on your anchor lights to indicate you are stationary. If you are underway, put on your running lights. At night or when visibility is limited, your navigation lights may save lives.
6. Monitor VHF Radio Channel 16 or go to <https://homeport.uscg.mil/mycg/portal/ep/portDirectory.do?tabId=1&cotpId=27> to stay aware of U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port Safety Zones that may have been established restricting access to ports. Those without Internet or access to a VHF radio can also call the USCG Command Center at 1-800-552-6458.

## **Boats at Sea After a Tsunami**

1. Damaging wave activity and dangerous currents can affect harbors for an undetermined period of time following the impact of the tsunami on the coast. Do not return to port until there is an official announcement that it is safe to return to your specific harbor. Remember cancellation of a Tsunami Warning and instructions that the public on land can return to the evacuation zone is different than an all clear signal for boaters to return to the harbor since there may be lingering currents or waves in

the water hours after the threat of inland wave inundation has passed. An announcement that it is safe for boaters to return will not be given until a Tsunami Advisory is cancelled. Even if a Tsunami Advisory is cancelled, the harbor will still need to be surveyed before it is reopened for traffic. This will allow navigation hazards to be removed or identified prior to your returning to port and allow better protection for you and your vessel.

2. While waiting aboard your boat, be alert for people who may have been swept out to sea by the tsunami as well as large amounts of debris that could become hazards to navigation.
3. Be prepared to yield to or assist emergency personnel involved in rescue or salvage operations.
4. Monitor VHF Radio Channel 16 or go to <https://homeport.uscg.mil/mycg/portal/ep/portDirectory.do?tabId=1&cotpId=27> to stay aware of U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port Safety Zones that may have been established restricting access to ports. Those without Internet or access to a VHF radio can also call the UHCG Command Center at 1-800-552-6458.

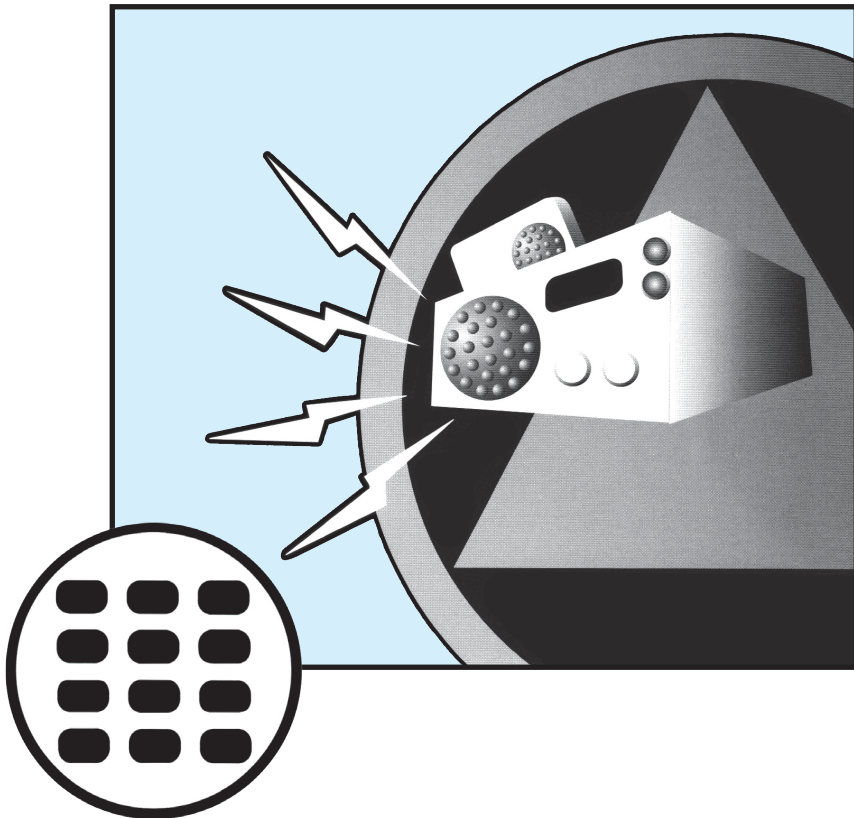


*Hilo, Hawai'i. The tsunami that struck Hilo on May 23, 1960 was caused by a magnitude 9.5 earthquake off of Chile the day before. Water and debris carried enough force to crush wooden buildings and twist parking meters by the time it hit Hilo 15 hours later. Photo courtesy of NOAA/NGDC and the Pacific Tsunami Museum.*



# PART 3

## Emergency Assistance Information



## Important Phone Numbers

### State of Hawai‘i (non-O‘ahu callers)

National Weather Service Recorded Forecasts .....	973-4380
State Civil Defense Agency .....	733-4300

### City and County of Honolulu (island of O‘ahu)

NOAA Weather Radio Recording .....	973-6109
National Response Center .....	1-800-424-8802
National Weather Service Recorded Forecasts .....	973-4380
Ambulance, Fire, and Police .....	911
American Red Cross .....	734-2101
Marine emergencies, nearshore 0-3 miles: fire rescue .....	911
Marine emergencies, offshore 3-200 miles: Coast Guard .....	1-800-552-6458
Marine emergencies, offshore 200+ miles: Coast Guard .....	1-800-331-6176
Honolulu Department of Emergency Management .....	723-8960

### Maui County (islands of Maui, Moloka‘i, Lāna‘i, and Kaho‘olawe)

Maui - NOAA Weather Radio Recording .....	871-6706
Lāna‘i - NOAA Weather Radio Recording .....	565-6033
Moloka‘i - NOAA Weather Radio Recording .....	1-866-944-5025
National Response Center .....	1-800-424-8802
National Weather Service Recorded Marine Forecast .....	1-866-944-5025
Ambulance, Fire, and Police .....	911
American Red Cross .....	244-0051
Marine emergencies, nearshore 0-3 miles: fire rescue .....	911
Marine emergencies, offshore 3-200 miles: Coast Guard .....	1-800-552-6458
Marine emergencies, offshore 200+ miles: Coast Guard .....	1-800-331-6176
Maui Civil Defense Agency .....	243-7285
U.S. Coast Guard Station Maui .....	986-0023

## **Hawai'i County (island of Hawai'i, the Big Island)**

NOAA Weather Radio Recording . . . . .	935-5055
National Response Center . . . . .	1-800-424-8802
National Weather Service Recorded Marine Forecast . . . . .	935-8555
Ambulance, Fire, and Police . . . . .	911
American Red Cross: Hilo . . . . .	935-8305
Marine emergencies, nearshore 0-3 miles: fire rescue . . . . .	911
Marine emergencies, offshore 3-200 miles: Coast Guard . . . .	1-800-552-6458
Marine emergencies, offshore 200+ miles: Coast Guard . . . .	1-800-331-6176
Hawai'i Civil Defense Agency . . . . .	935-0031
U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Team Hawaii (Big Island) . . . . .	329-3987

## **Kaua'i County (islands of Kaua'i and Ni'ihau)**

NOAA Weather Radio Recording . . . . .	245-2919
National Response . . . . .	1-800-424-8802
National Weather Service Recorded Marine Forecast . . . . .	245-6001
Ambulance, Fire, and Police . . . . .	911
American Red Cross . . . . .	245-4919
Marine emergencies, nearshore 0-3 miles: fire rescue . . . . .	911
Marine emergencies, offshore 3-200 miles: Coast Guard . . . .	1-800-552-6458
Marine emergencies, offshore 200+ miles: Coast Guard . . . .	1-800-331-6176
Kaua'i Civil Defense Agency . . . . .	241-1800
U.S. Coast Guard Station Kaua'i . . . . .	246-0279

## Important Radio Frequencies

In Hawai‘i, according to HRS 200-37.5, vessels operating more than one mile from shore must be equipped with a properly functioning marine VHF-FM (156-162 MHz band) radio or Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB).

Channel 16 (International Public Hailing Channel) . . . . .	156.800 MHz
Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES)	
State RACES Link on O‘ahu . . . . .	147.060 MHz PL103.5
State RACES Link on Kaua‘i and Maui . . . . .	147.040 MHz PL103.5
State RACES Link on Hawai‘i . . . . .	147.020 MHz PL103.5
Citizens Band (CB) Radio . . . . .	Channels 9 and 23
NOAA Weather Radio Network for Hilo and Honolulu . . . . .	162.550 MHz
NOAA Weather Radio Network for all other areas . . . . .	162.400 MHz
Coast Guard Medium-Frequency (MF) Sideband . . . . .	2182/2670 kHz
NWS/KVM-70 Radio Fax Weather Data . . . . .	9982.5 kHz,
	11090.0 kHz,
	16135.0 kHz,
	23331.5 kHz

## Hurricane Evacuation Shelters

Your Hurricane Plan should include the locations of hurricane evacuation shelters that you and your family might use. For the locations of hurricane evacuation shelters, call your county Civil Defense or Emergency Management Agency. However, during a Hurricane Watch or Warning, listen to the Emergency Alert System announcements for the location of the hurricane evacuation shelters that are open; do not call your Civil Defense or Emergency Management Agency (for more information visit: <http://www.scd.hawaii.gov>).

## Resources

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Hawai'i State Civil Defense: <http://www.scd.hawaii.gov>

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Honolulu Department of Emergency Management: <http://www1.honolulu.gov/dem/>

Honolulu Department of Emergency Management, to register for Oahu's Nixle: <http://local.nixle.com/register/>

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International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC): <http://itic.ioc-unesco.org/index.php> and <http://www.tsunamiwave.info>

Kaua'i Civil Defense Agency: <http://www.kauai.gov/Government/Departments/CivilDefenseAgency/EmergencyPreparedness/tabid/77/Default.aspx>, to register for Kaua'i's Blackboard Connect CTY: <http://www.kauai.gov/Kamaaina/Community/ConnectCTY/tabid/344/Default.aspx>

Maui Civil Defense Agency: <http://www.co.maui.hi.us/index.aspx?nid=70>, to register for Maui's Alert Center: <http://www.co.maui.hi.us/AlertCenter.aspx>

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National Weather Service Forecast Office: <http://www.prh.noaa.gov/hnl/>

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*Lebu, Chile. A major 8.8 magnitude earthquake off the coast of Chile on February 27, 2010 caused massive destruction of buildings as well as a devastating tsunami which destroyed several coastal towns and commercial fishing vessels. Photo courtesy of National Geological and Mining Survey (SERNAGEOMIN) 2012 and UNESCO/IOC - NOAA International Tsunami Information Center.*



*O'ahu, Hawai'i. In response to the large earthquake and tsunami in Chile on February 27, 2010, a tsunami watch and later warning was issued in Hawai'i. Here boats at Kewalo Basin on O'ahu head to deeper water. The Coast Guard vessel in the background is observing operations and ready to provide assistance. During a tsunami warning, boats going to sea should stay at depths greater than 300 feet and at least 2 miles from the channel entrance. Photo courtesy of Dennis Hwang.*



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