

BE PREPARED! HURRICANE READINESS



We're fortunate to live in Hawaii, but hurricanes and tropical storms can be devastating to our island paradise. Hurricane season is officially between June 1 and November 30, but it's always a good idea to be prepared throughout the year. The following is some information, answers to questions frequently asked by IPC residents, and resources that can help keep your family safe.

What makes hurricanes so dangerous?

Hurricanes combine the triple hazard of violent winds, torrential rains, abnormally high waves and storm tides. Each of these by itself can pose a serious threat to life and property, but together they can cause widespread destruction. Don't wait until the last minute to prepare for hurricane season.

Tracking a Hurricane

Satellites allow us to see, predict and prepare for storms many days in advance. National and local agencies monitor severe weather and provide the initial alert of approaching storms. Local media, as well as internet sites, provide additional up-to-the-minute details of approaching storms. Here are a few resources for tracking storms:

Central Pacific Hurricane Center

www.prh.noaa.gov/cphc | www.facebook.com/NWSHonolulu | [@NWSHonolulu](https://twitter.com/NWSHonolulu)

Stay Up-to-date on Happenings in Your Area

Monitor city, state and federal agencies and local media outlets for the latest news and information on actions being taken by official emergency agencies and local Department of Defense leadership.

City & County of Honolulu, Department of Emergency Management

www.honolulu.gov/dem | www.facebook.com/OahuDEM | [@Oahu_DEM](https://twitter.com/Oahu_DEM) | HNL.info (text alerts)

Hawaii Emergency Management Agency

<https://dod.hawaii.gov/hiema/> | www.facebook.com/HawaiiEMA | [@Hawaii_EMA](https://twitter.com/Hawaii_EMA)

U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii

www.facebook.com/usaghawaii | [@usaghawaii](https://twitter.com/usaghawaii)

RESIDENT AND ISLAND PALM COMMUNITIES RESPONSIBILITIES

Island Palm Communities (IPC) takes the necessary steps to secure its neighborhoods upon announcement of a potential weather threat to Oahu. Clearing debris from storm drains, securing materials and equipment to mitigate flying hazards, and addressing areas prone to flooding are among the many tasks depending on forecasted conditions.

Residents also must prepare. Have an emergency kit and plan for your family and do a thorough check outside your home. Remove potential flying hazards by storing them in your enclosed garage or in your home or securely strap them down. Patio furniture, gazebos, grills, hanging plants, toys, bicycles, kayaks, and trash and recycling bins are examples of potential hazards. Trampoline-owners – disassemble and store equipment indoors.

And, don't forget basketball hoops that might be in your cul-de-sac!

It's also helpful to remind neighbors to secure their personal belongings; items often may be overlooked.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact your [community center](#).

CALL 911 IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Tropical storms and hurricanes may be a new experience for residents. To help you prepare and ensure your family's well-being, we've put together some information, resources and responses to frequently asked questions.

What can I do to keep my family safe during a hurricane?

Preparation well ahead of hurricane season is one way you can help keep your family safe. And, having an [emergency kit](#) assembled and an emergency plan in place that everyone in your household is informed of also is important. Here are a few resources that can help you prepare.

Ready.gov | www.ready.gov/hurricanes

National Hurricane Center | www.nhc.noaa.gov/prepare/ready.php

**Department of Emergency Management,
City & County of Honolulu** | www.honolulu.gov/dem

Hawaii Emergency Management Agency | dod.hawaii.gov/hiema/

Do I need to board my home's windows?

No. Residents do not need to board their windows. Emergency officials are monitoring the storm and will determine when and where evacuations are needed. It's also recommended you identify a [safe room](#) in your home – bathrooms, an enclosed hallway, etc. Unsecured personal items outside are potential flying hazards. Residents can help minimize these hazards by storing them indoors.

Should I tape our windows with a big "X"?

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency ([FEMA](#)), tape does not prevent windows from breaking. Stay indoors during the hurricane and away from windows and glass doors. And identify a safe room or area in your home.

How will I know if I need to evacuate my home?

Disaster agencies recommend sheltering in your home or staying with family or friends who are outside any hazard zone. Should conditions warrant an evacuation, emergency agencies will make announcements through several means such as their social media sites, local news outlets, and the state's Warning Notification System (sirens). On base, residents also may hear announcements over the public announcement system – also known as the "Giant Voice."

Know where your nearest shelter if you choose not to stay with family or friends in a non-hazard area. Shelter locations are identified early on during an imminent weather event by emergency agencies, including the military base's emergency operations team.

If at any time you don't feel safe and an evacuation has not been issued, you can choose to go to a friend, neighbor or relative's home or an open shelter. Be especially cautious if you leave your home during hazardous conditions and be aware of road conditions on and off base, including road and gate closures.

Why do I need to store and secure outdoor personal items?

In the event of a tropical storm or hurricane, heavy winds are highly probable. Help mitigate injury and damage from flying hazards. Store indoors or securely strap down items that can be propelled by strong winds. Patio furniture, gazebos, grills, hanging plants, toys, bicycles, kayaks, trash and recycling bins, and portable basketball hoops are potential hazards. Trampoline-owners – disassemble and store equipment indoors.

My yard floods during heavy rain. Will sandbags be placed around my home?

The property team will address known areas prone to flooding by clearing storm drains, placing sandbags, and implementing other preventive methods. If heavy rain has caused flooding in your home, call the maintenance office at 808-457-4075.

Should I be concerned about flooding?

IPC follows the state's design-build requirements surrounding stormwater management; however, weather impacts can be unpredictable. Always monitor local news announcements and heed all warnings by emergency officials leading up to, during and after a storm. Emergency officials are continually assessing potential and current storm impacts, but regardless of the type of hazard always have an evacuation plan in case of an emergency.

If my home is damaged during the storm, what do I do?

For your safety, don't attempt to repair or temporarily fix any damage. If damage poses a risk of injury or loss of life, call 911. For other damages, call and leave a message with IPC's maintenance at 808-457-4075. Even if IPC's operations are closed as directed by base command or other emergency agencies, messages will continue to be accepted and reviewed. Calls are addressed according to urgency; however, IPC staff or contractors may not respond if weather conditions pose a risk to their safety. Once the All-clear is given by authorities, IPC will resume operations, assess its communities, and prioritize actions according to urgency.

What if my electricity goes out?

Battery-powered lights/flashlights should be part of your emergency kit. Do not use candles – they are a fire hazard. [Hawaiian Electric Company \(HECO\)](#) has an emergency preparedness handbook that provides guidance on how to prepare for a power outage and "weather the storm" during and after it passes. It also includes information about perishables in your refrigerator and freezer.

SAFETY FIRST!

Stay away from stormwater retention basins, canals, and standing water

Stormwater retention basins and canals help control flooding in IPC communities. Heavy rains can suddenly and quickly fill retention basins located in neighborhoods on Schofield Barracks, Helemano Military Reservation, and Aliamanu Military Reservation. The baseball field in Aliamanu Community is designed as a stormwater retention basin, so be cautious.

Stay away from and out of all stormwater basins and canals – including areas where water drains into or out from them – and areas prone to flooding and any standing water. Even after heavy rains pass in your area, retention basins and canals may be filled or continue to fill with fast flowing water and continue to drain. Please keep a watchful eye on your children before, during and after heavy rains.

IPC OPERATIONS DURING A STORM

IPC operations will close, and non-essential staff will be sent home to shelter in place when Base Command directs a shut-down of installation operations due to imminent dangerous weather conditions. Residents are to call 911 for issues that may pose a risk of injury or loss of life. For other household issues, residents can call and leave a message with IPC's maintenance at 808-457-4075. Calls are addressed according to urgency; however, IPC staff or contractors may not respond if weather conditions pose a risk to their safety. Once the All-clear is given by authorities, IPC will resume operations and prioritize actions according to urgency.

