Hawaii 2018: An Eventful Year for Disaster Response

Bruce S. Anderson, Ph.D.
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Hawaii State Department of Health
Timeline of Events

Hawaii Disaster/Emergency Response 2018

- **April**: Kauai and Oahu Flooding
- **May - July**: Kilauea Volcano Eruption
- **August**:
  - West Oahu Wildfires
  - Hurricane Lane
  - Maui Wildfires
- **September**: Tropical Storm Olivia
# Inter-Agency Response Effort (Partial List)

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<tr>
<th>Federal</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Non-Profit/NGOs</th>
<th>Private Sector</th>
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<tr>
<td>FEMA</td>
<td>Civil Defense/ Emergency Mgmt.</td>
<td>American Red Cross</td>
<td>Utilities</td>
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<td>EPA</td>
<td>Police</td>
<td>Humane Society</td>
<td>Businesses</td>
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<td>US Geological Survey</td>
<td>Fire</td>
<td>Salvation Army</td>
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<td>Health and Human Services</td>
<td>EMS</td>
<td>Volunteer Orgs. Active in Disasters (VOAD)</td>
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<td>Boards of Water Supply</td>
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<td>HAH/HHEM</td>
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State

- HI-Emergency Mgmt Agency
- DLNR
- DOT
- DOH
- DOE
What is the Health Department’s Role During a Disaster?
Pre-, during, and post-disaster, DOH provides:

- Environmental health services
- Mental health services
- Medical surge
- Laboratory testing
- Disease surveillance and investigation
- Assistance and resources for vulnerable and at-risk individuals
- Public health messages, advisories
- Subject matter expertise to assist emergency management
- Post-event assessments
DOH Response -Kilauea Eruption-

- Monitored air quality
- N95 mask distribution/fitting (ash masks)
- Online dashboard to keep public informed of air quality in real time
- Medical support at shelters
- Crisis counseling at shelters
- Surveillance through healthcare systems
- Health alerts and advisories
Kauai Flood: April 2018
DOH Response
-Kauai Flood-

• Water sampling
• Food safety monitoring
• Mosquito control
• Public information/education
  • Mold exposure and removal
  • Leptospirosis
  • Exposure to flood contaminated water and debris
• Community assessment
Kauai Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER)

• Conducted 190 interviews

• Significant findings showed more information is needed on:
  • -Storing 14-days of emergency supplies
  • -Building an emergency kit
  • -Considerations for pets
  • -Sheltering in place vs. evacuation shelters
  • -Recognizing local warning protocols

• Identified gaps in emergency generator availability and placement in evacuation shelters
Community Resilience

Community resilience looks at a community’s ability to withstand, adapt, and recover from a disaster or public health emergency.

-NACCHO (National Association of County and City Health Officials)
The overall health of a community is key.
Resilience will:

- Reduce vulnerability to disasters
- Enable the population to be more self-reliant
- Facilitate recovery
Fostering Community Resilience

- Promote health and wellness alongside disaster preparedness
- Strengthen and promote access to healthcare and social services
- Expand collaboration with community partners that serve at-risk and vulnerable populations
  - NGOs and non-profits
- Build social connectedness
  - Know your neighbor
What You Can Do

• Stay healthy
• Understand your insurance coverage
• Clean your roof and gutters
  • Clear blockages
  • May need to collect/use rainwater
• Sign up for weather advisories and alerts
• Know your family’s emergency needs, including pets
  • Supplies, contact info, etc.
Hawaii Medical Reserve Corps Volunteers (MRC)

A cadre of volunteers dedicated to public health activities and disaster/emergency preparedness and response.
MRC volunteers participate in the following types of events:

• Community preparedness fairs (education booths)
• Vaccination clinics
• Data collection
• Preparedness exercises/drills
• Staffing evacuation shelters
Partnerships with the Public Health Community

• Advocacy

• Research & evaluation
  • Mental health impacts post-disaster
  • Evaluating how to reach vulnerable and special needs populations

• Exploring new and innovative technologies
e.g., Identifying alternative methods of purifying water, generating power

• Supporting activities to grow healthy communities
Questions?

MAHALO!

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