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HURRICANE Watch & Warning Sheet, 2009 SEASON

Safety Awareness Sheet

HURRICANE/TROPICAL STORM WATCH: Hurricane/tropical storm conditions are possible within the **Watch** area within 48 hours. During a **Watch**, prepare your home and business and review your plan for possible evacuation in case a Hurricane/Tropical Storm **Warning** is issued. When this status is issued, prepare and/or review your family Personal Evacuation Plan:

- ▶ **Identify ahead of time where you could go if you are told to evacuate.** If you plan to use a shelter, make alternate arrangement for pets.
- ▶ **Designate an emergency contact.** In case you have to evacuate or get separated from family. Choose family/friends on a neighbor island or the mainland.
- ▶ **Charge your cell phone batteries.**
- ▶ **Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or local radio or TV stations for evacuation instructions.**
- ▶ **Double check your Disaster Supplies Kit,** and top off with fresh food and water if necessary.
- ▶ **Fill your car's gas tank.**
- ▶ **Check batteries and stock up** on canned food, first aid supplies, drinking water, and medications.

HURRICANE/TROPICAL STORM WARNING: Hurricane/tropical storm conditions are expected within the **Warning** area within 36 hours. Complete storm preparations and leave the threatened area if directed by local officials. When this status is issued, do the following to prepare for the onslaught:

- ▶ **Board your windows with 1/2" plywood.** When windows are broken during a hurricane, the air pressure may suddenly rise inside the building, pushing outward and upward. Generally, roofs are the first to go, and soon the walls tumble as the whole building collapses. Protecting windows is crucial to saving a home.
- ▶ **Secure and brace all external doors.** This helps to solidify the structure's walls. Also closing interior doors helps to stabilize the building.
- ▶ **Secure outdoor furniture, plants, etc.** It is best to store your outdoor furniture and items inside to help lower flying debris. Portable garages, swing sets and temporary "tarp" shelters will fly apart in very high winds. Break them down and store them under or in your home/garage.
- ▶ **Fill empty spaces in your fridge/freezer with ice.** This will help protect food longer should the power go out.
- ▶ **Store water.** Fill plastic containers, buckets and bathtubs with water. Containers of clean water can be used for drinking and food preparation; buckets of water can be used for sanitary reasons.
- ▶ **If instructed to evacuate, DO SO! It is YOUR life that may be saved!**
- ▶ **Do NOT shut of gas or electricity UNLESS you are directed to evacuate!** If you are directed to evacuate, utility gas customers (those who receive their gas by underground pipeline) should shut off their gas valve at their meter. Non-utility gas customers (those who have tanks or cylinders) should shut off their gas valve located on their tank or cylinder. Be sure to find out beforehand whether you are a utility or non-utility customer. Call a The Gas Company representative to find out where your meter or valve is and how to shut it off.¹ After you are returned to your home, call The Gas Company and they will send trained personnel to safely restore your service.

¹ Gas Safety for Hurricane Season. http://www.hawaiigas.com/safety/gas_safety.html