Emergency Preparedness and Response

Plan, Equip, Train, Exercise --- Know the Warning Signs --- Stay Informed

Emergencies can create a variety of hazards for workers in the impacted area. Preparing before an emergency incident plays a vital role in ensuring that employers and workers have the necessary equipment, know where to go, and know how to keep themselves safe when an emergency occurs.

Planning

Develop an evacuation plan to guide everyone in the workplace when immediate action is necessary. Planning in advance helps ensure that everyone knows what to do when an emergency occurs. A thorough evacuation plan should include:

- Conditions that will activate the plan
- Chain of command
- Emergency functions and who will perform them
- Specific evacuation procedures, including routes and exits
- Procedures for accounting for personnel, customers and visitors
- Equipment for personnel
- Review the plan with workers

Some businesses are required to have an Emergency Action Plan meeting the requirements under 29 CFR 1910.38. Visit https://www.osha.gov/etools/evacuation-plans-procedures for more information.

Train & Exercise

- Ensure that all workers know what to do in case of an emergency.
- Practice evacuation plans on a regular basis.
- Update plans and procedures based on lessons learned from exercises.
- Ensure that all workers develop the skills needed to perform their assigned task/operation.
- Maintain records of worker training include training certificates, attendance rosters, and course curricula.

Know the Warning Systems

Hurricanes

Central Pacific Hurricane Season: June 1-November 30.

Hurricane/Tropical Storm watches: A hurricane or tropical storm is possible in the specified area.

Hurricane/Tropical Storm warnings: A hurricane or tropical storm is expected to reach the area, typically within 24 hours.

Floods

Flood Watch: Flooding is possible.

Flash Flood Watch: Flash flooding is possible. Be prepared to move to higher ground.

Flood Warning: Imminent threat - Flooding is occurring or will occur soon; if advised to evacuate, do so immediately.

If you would like to read more, find it here: www.osha.gov/emergency-preparedness/

Local Resources - Sign up for Alerts: portal.ehawaii.gov/page/alerts/

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

For more information, please contact HIOSH at: ddir.hiosh@hawaii.gov or 808-586-9100