

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS BULLETIN 8-19-2007
SELF EVALUATION

Earlier this week Hawaii nearly experienced a category four hurricane (Flossie), a major brush fire (Waialua), and a large earthquake (Peru) that could have generated a tsunami. Natural disasters in Hawaii are real. How prepared were you and your family? Score yourself based on your answers to the following questions:

1. If you live in a tsunami inundation zone, (sea level up to 50 feet elevation) did you have a pre-determined plan and destination in mind if a large tsunami was generated? Yes- 20; Don't live in an inundation zone- 10; No - 0
Why?: Going to an inadequate altitude or trying to get there when the highway (Kalaniana'ole Hwy.) is gridlocked could be deadly.
2. Do you have a plan? Do you know what your spouse's work and children's school's policy is for tsunamis? Do you know where to meet? When can you pick them up? What happens if you can't get to them in time?
Yes, we have worked out our plan- 20 Children are taken care of-10 Haven't thought about it- 0
Why?: The school itself may be in an inundation zone. If the wave is expected to strike in the middle of the day, they would want parents to pick up their children. The highways would be gridlocked with people trying to get home. The school may or may not have a policy to try to relocate or safeguard the children that can't be picked up in time. Phones probably will not work at the most critical time, as the volume of people trying to contact and coordinate with family will overwhelm the system.
3. If Flossie started heading our way how much potable water would you have had on hand for every person?
50 or more gallons per person - 20 20 gallons per person- 10 Five gallons per person- 5 Less than five gallons- 2 Less than two gallons- 0
Why?: By the time you found out that Flossie was heading our way, it would be too late to get water. Stores would be emptied of water, food and supplies. You would have to scramble for containers which may not be sanitary. You would be otherwise preoccupied. If Flossie hit at category four, there would not be electricity for weeks, and water may be unavailable if pumps are not operating. A person needs one gallon per day.
4. How many days of non-refrigerated food did you have on hand for each person in your household? Four months or more- 20 Two to three months- 10 One month- 5 2-3 weeks- 2 One week - 0
Why?: Food will not be available from stores once the hurricane hits. The food in your refrigerator and freezer will last only a few days unless you have a generator. A severe storm could damage port facilities such that it could prevent ships from unloading containers for weeks. Hawaii has no food warehouses and is dependent on container ships for 98% of all goods brought in to the state. Ships normally arrive every other day to supply our needs. Besides a local hurricane, there could be disruptions or damage at mainland ports, which could cause severe shortages for awhile.
5. How full was your car's gas tank? Full- 10 About half- 5 Almost empty- 0
Why?: Without electricity to operate the pumps, there will be no gas available.
6. For how long would you have means of emergency cooking? (gas stove, hibachi, propane camp stove)
Six months or more- 20 Three Months - 10 One month- 5 Two weeks- 2 One week or less- 0
7. How long would your emergency lights and a radio work?
More than two months- 20; One month- 10; 2-3 weeks- 5; One or less-2; Don't have any- 0

Bonus: Add 20 points for a generator, food production capability (vegetable garden, chickens), hurricane clips

Score yourself as follows: **130- 95** points (Faithful, Ready); **94-75** (Very Good, keep working at it); **74- 55** (Could be taking a serious risk); **54- 25** (Time to get going); **24-0** (Should evaluate your understanding of preparedness.)

The last question: Evaluate how you would you have felt if a large tsunami and Flossie actually hit. What would the impact have been on you and your family with your existing score? In what ways would you have to rely on others? Plan to raise your score before the next emergency. Call upon Brother Matsuo if you have questions or need help.

If ye are Prepared Ye Shall Not Fear. (D&C 39:30) "We can so live that we can call upon the Lord for His protection and guidance. This is a first priority. We cannot expect His help if we are unwilling to keep His commandments." – Pres. Gordon B. Hinckley