



NEWS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF WATER, COUNTY OF KAUA'I

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Water emergency preparedness tips and standard service advisory reminders from DOW

LIHUE –The Department of Water (DOW) reminds residents of water emergency preparedness tips and water service advisories that may be issued during an emergency or severe weather event.

DOW's mission is to provide customers with safe, affordable, sufficient drinking water service through wise management of our resources. Therefore, when necessary, DOW issues specific water service advisories to notify customers of potential impact to water services or the high quality that customers have come to trust. To provide a better understanding of these advisories, the following information will help household members prepare before and during an emergency:

Water Conservation Notice

A water conservation notice is typically issued to help prevent water storage tanks from draining, causing a water system outage. Customers are advised to limit water use to essential needs only such as drinking, cooking, and sanitation needs, in addition to turning-off plumbing fixtures that automatically draw water (irrigation, ice machines, etc.) until the conservation notice has been lifted.

Do Not Drink (DND) Advisory

A DND advisory is typically issued when the quality of the water may be compromised. During a DND Advisory customers are advised not to consume tap water until further notice. This includes drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and preparing food. Tap water should not be consumed until the Department of Water has officially announced it is safe to do so.

What to do in a storm

Severe weather conditions: such as high winds, flooding, can affect DOW's water facilities. If this occurs, the following should be implemented:

- **Stay tuned to news reports.**
- **During an electrical power outage keep water use to an absolute minimum.** In the event of a power outage, immediately begin water conservation measures to avoid a full water outage. Water should only be used for essential uses such as cooking, drinking and sanitation needs. Keep toilet flushing to a minimum.
 - Collect rainwater to utilize for non-potable water needs. Do not drink rainwater.
 - Turn off or disconnect any devices or fixtures that regularly draw water. Such devices include automatic icemakers and irrigation systems.

What to do After the Storm

- **Stay tuned to news reports.** The DOW will update the public on the status of the water system, including any warranted drinking water quality advisories through the media and the Kauai County Alerts. Service announcements are also posted on DOW's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/KauaiDOW.
- **Continue water conservation measures.** After the storm has passed, DOW will need to conduct assessment of its water facilities. Water conservation is needed in order to avoid a water outage, in case there are damages to our system. The DOW will send out a notice to the public when the water conservation request has been lifted.

How to store water

To store water properly, you should:

- **Use clean containers, preferably those designed for water storage.** Do not use containers that stored questionable materials or food with strong odors (mayonnaise, pickles, etc.) as the water will pick up the odor during storage.
- **Disinfect containers.** Wash containers thoroughly, then rinse it in a mild bleach solution (one capful of liquid bleach to one gallon of water), and then rinse thoroughly.
- **Fill container with water from the tap.** Fill the container to the top, keeping a minimal amount of air between the water and the cap. Store it in a cool, dark place.
- **Optional – Boiling or bleach disinfection.** If you prefer, you can boil water before storing it. You should boil the water at a rolling boil for 1 to 3 minutes, let it cool down until it is slightly warm, fill the containers, and then seal and store immediately. Liquid bleach may also be used to disinfect water that has not been boiled. Add 1 to 8 drops of new, unscented liquid bleach with strength of 5% to 6% (like Clorox) per gallon of water. Seal and store immediately. For questions about boiling or bleach disinfection, please call DOW's Water Quality Division at 245-5446.

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) recommends storing one gallon of water, per person, per day for at least fourteen days for drinking and sanitation purposes, as part of an emergency preparedness kit. Keep in mind some household members may need additional water for medical purposes.

Residents are advised to stay tuned to the latest updates from Kaua'i County Alerts, a mass notification service, formally known as BlackBoard Connect CTY. To sign-up to receive text, call or email from Kaua'i County Alerts, visit www.kauai.gov/KEMA or call the Kauai Emergency Management Agency at 241-1800. Residents that have previously signed up via BlackBoard Connect do not need to sign-up again.

For more information on water emergency preparedness, visit www.kauaiwater.org or www.ready.hawaii.gov.

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