



For immediate release July 29, 2013

Health Care Facilities Ready to Help Each Other in the Storm

Now that Tropical Storm Flossie has made landfall on the Big Island, HAH Emergency Services has opened its emergency operations centers on all major islands and operations support center on Oahu. These will remain open for the duration of Flossie. A network of area coordinators and hospital command centers are monitoring the situation and will take actions to mitigate any problems that might arise in the health care system statewide.

In the event of health care facility damage or patient capacity greater than local hospitals can manage, HAH Emergency Services will coordinate the deployment of medical assistance teams and portable medical facilities as needed. Two medical “strike” teams are ready for deployment if needed.

Health care facilities prepare for storms like Flossie throughout the year with drills and other emergency planning activities. HAH Emergency Services coordinates the activities of its 125 coalition members during storms and other events that could potentially interrupt patient care. HAH Emergency Services Coalition members include all hospitals in the state, nursing facilities, dialysis, blood bank, and other health care providers. HAH Emergency Services harmonizes its activities with civil defense, the state department of health and other state and federal agencies as appropriate.

Shelter at Home or Community Shelter

The public is urged to avoid sheltering in hospitals or hospital parking lots. These areas are needed for the movement and treatment of injured and ill patients.

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