Hawaii Medical Team Heads East to Help in New York

A team of 25 federally-trained medical professionals deploy from Hawaii Monday to help in the disaster areas in New York left in the wake of Superstorm Sandy.

Approximately two weeks after Sandy's landfall on the east coast, medical shelter areas are consolidating, and federally-deployed disaster workers on the scene are exhausted and in need of relief.

“The team has trained for this locally and nationally and is ready to offer medical assistance. The team has assisted in natural disasters nationally, including Katrina, and throughout the Pacific. Hawaii DMAT knows how to do what may be asked of us, ‘Hawaii would go’.” – Toby Clairmont, Director, HAH Emergency Services

photo: members of Hawaii DMAT in a training exercise during RIMPAC

Three Medical Task Forces

• Two task forces largely from Hawaii, under the command of Toby Clairmont and Bill Richter from HAH Emergency Services
• Third team from Alaska
• Clinicians, nurses, paramedics, pharmacists
• They deploy on Monday, November 12 for a mission that could last up to two weeks, depending on the needs in Manhattan.
• This is a joint Hawaii-Alaska operation. Members from each state will deploy and work together once they are on the ground; 2/3 of the team is from Hawaii, 1/3 from Alaska
• Many members of the Hawaii DMAT team also deployed after Katrina
• Team members most recently served in American Samoa after the earthquake and tsunami
• The operation is very dynamic. The team from Hawaii can expect frequent venue changes, adjustments in mission priorities and close work with local healthcare and public health providers as they transition.
• Field operations start in Manhattan Tuesday, November 12
“We have a great working relationship with Alaska’s federal team, we worked with them before during APEC here. We’re happy to team up with them again to help the people of New York.” –Toby Clairmont, Director, HAH Emergency Services

**What is Hawaii DMAT?**

HAH Emergency Services deploys emergency response teams (Hawaii Disaster Medical Assistance Team) for casualty care, aeromedical transport, medical surge and incident management.

Hawaii Disaster Medical Assistance Team (Hawaii DMAT) is a trained corps of medical professionals who respond to calls for medical surge, disaster and humanitarian assistance throughout the U.S. and the Pacific Region. There are currently more than 75 members of Hawaii DMAT. Hawaii DMAT provides on-scene high acuity casualty care services within 2 to 4 hours of request.

Hawaii DMAT is on call for 4 months of the year for response to the U.S. mainland, and 12 months of the year for Hawaii and the Pacific.

Hawaii DMAT is also known as Kalawao Rescue within the State of Hawaii; a nonfederal configuration of the team that provides enhanced services to the State of Hawaii. Kalawao Rescue is administered by HAH Emergency Services and operates year-round.

**What is HAH Emergency Services?**

HAH Emergency Services, a division of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, provides emergency preparedness and operations management services to over 115 health care coalition members throughout the state of Hawaii including hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, home care and hospice, air and ground ambulance, blood banks and clinical laboratories.

HAH Emergency Services is one of three federally recognized health care coalitions (along with Indianapolis and DC) that serve as a model for the rest of the nation.

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