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Hawaii DMAT Braves Typhoon Dolphin

A 25-person Hawaii Disaster Medical Assistance Team (Hawaii DMAT) team returned yesterday from a federal deployment to Guam. The team included nurses, medical officers, paramedics, a respiratory therapist, physician assistant, pharmacists and team members with specialty training in safety, communications, and logistics.



The Hawaii DMAT team traveled to Guam on Wednesday in advance of Typhoon Dolphin, to be available in case medical response would be needed. Four team members were from Maui, 19 from Oahu and two from Hawaii Island. Hawaii DMAT is led by HAH Emergency Services Director Toby Clairmont. The team sheltered in place during the storm, using the time for medical response training. “We commend the resilient and brave medical personnel who have stepped up to be on call year-round for just this sort of need,” said Clairmont. “Living in Hawaii we understand the vulnerable nature of living on an island, and we’re proud to be part of the federal disaster system to help others in their time of greatest need.”

Thankfully damage from the category 2 typhoon, which reached sustained winds of 135 mph on Friday, was limited to power outages and property damage and did not result in a significant number of injuries, in part because the population took the event seriously and 1,000 people evacuated to community shelters.

Hawaii DMAT previously deployed in the wake of superstorm Sandy in New York, treating more than 1,200 patients in field treatment facilities, and hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. Hawaii DMAT is on call four months out of the year nationally and 365-days a year for the Pacific.

What is the Hawaii DMAT?

HAH Emergency Services deploys emergency response teams (Hawaii Disaster Medical Assistance Team and Kalawao Rescue) to provide casualty care, aeromedical transport, medical surge and incident management throughout the United States, the state of Hawaii and the Pacific.

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 110 members of Hawaii DMAT. Hawaii DMAT provides on- scene high acuity casualty care services within 2 to 4 hours of request.

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.

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