



# Water Emergency Preparedness

During a weather emergency, high winds and/or flooding can disrupt the electrical power to our island's water sources. Water quality and availability may be impacted. Residents should be prepared and all emergency preparedness kits should include at least **one gallon of water per person, per day for at least 14 days**, for drinking and sanitation purposes.

## How to Prepare for a Water Emergency

- **Stay tuned to news reports.**
- **Store enough water for you and your family.** It is recommended that you store at least 1 gallon of water per person, per day for at least 14 days, for essentials. See "How to Store Water" for instructions.
- **Turn off or disconnect any devices or fixtures that regularly draw water.** Such devices include automatic icemakers and irrigation systems, etc.

## How to Store Water

- **Use clean containers, preferably those designed for water storage.** Do not use containers that previously 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 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 water at a rolling boil for one to three 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 one to eight drops of new, unscented liquid bleach with strength of 5-6 percent per gallon of water. Seal container and store immediately. For more information or questions about boiling or bleach disinfection, please call DOW's Water Quality Division at 245-5446.

## What to do During the Storm

During a storm, an electrical power outage may occur. Electrical outages affect the DOW's pumps and equipment. In the event of a power outage, the DOW may shut off valves and isolate tanks to reduce risk of damage and water loss. If this occurs, water will be restored as soon as it is safe for personnel to go out and make the repairs.

- **Stay tuned to news reports.**
- **Immediately begin water conservation measures.** Use water sparingly. Water should be used for essentials; cooking, drinking and sanitation. Keep toilet flushing to a minimum.
- **Collect rain water to utilize for non-potable water needs.** Do not drink rain water.

## 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 BlackBoard Connect CTY.
- **Continue water conservation measures.** After the storm has passed, the 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.

## **Stay Informed**

Sign up now for the County's BlackBoard Connect CTY notification service to be notified of any weather emergency updates and any impacts on Kauai's water supply service. To sign up for BlackBoard Connect CTY, visit the County of Kauai's website, [www.kauai.gov](http://www.kauai.gov), or call the Kauai Emergency Management Agency at 241-1800.