



DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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POWERS, DUTIES, AND FUNCTIONS

The Department of Emergency Management (DEM) is established by Section 128-13, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and Section 6-103, Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu. The department is responsible for the following key areas:

1. Implementing public awareness, preparedness, and education programs critical to community-level resiliency
2. Synchronizing response and recovery procedures for public and private sectors
3. Sustaining the city's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) capability by facilitating event tracking, planning, and management
4. All-hazard strategic planning: DEM addresses everything from a risk-based all-hazard approach for both natural and man-caused hazards

MISSION

The Department of Emergency Management's mission is to plan and prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare. DEM responds to disasters, major emergencies, and acts of war or terrorism by activating the city's Emergency Operations Center.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DEM responded to, monitored, and supported many emergency and planned events during Fiscal Year 2014. EOC was activated 33 days during FY 2014 (includes full and partial activations).

EOC activation occurred for the following major events in FY 2014:

- **2013 Tropical Cyclone Season (June-November 2013):** three named storms entered the Central North Pacific, or Hawaiian waters in 2013; two additional storms originated in Hawaiian waters.
- **Tropical Storm Flossie:** Flossie strengthened to a tropical storm and entered Hawaiian waters on July 27, 2013. Although threatening Hawaii briefly, Flossie weakened prior to arrival and caused minor flooding and high surf on Oahu.
- **2013 Honolulu Marathon and 2014 Pro Bowl:** Due to the Boston Marathon bombing, DEM activated the EOC for the Honolulu Marathon and NFL Pro Bowl. Public-private partnerships, heightened security, and an increased security presence were enacted.
- **Fifty-foot high surf:** City EOC activated in response to several destructive high surf events in January 2014.

- **Chilean Tsunami:** On April 1, 2014, an 8.2 magnitude earthquake with an epicenter off the coast of Chile caused the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center to post a tsunami advisory for Hawaii, which necessitated an EOC activation and evacuating the waters and immediate coastlines of Oahu.

Other significant achievements in FY 2014:

- Public education programs supported more than 100 outreach events that focused on emergency preparedness messaging to the public.
- Increased the involvement of volunteer community-based emergency preparedness committees
- Coordinated Tsunami Awareness Month activities in April 2014
- Utilized social media to provide emergency public information
- Conducted 13 CERT classes with more than 250 graduates from various parts of the island
- Installed five new outdoor warning sirens to provide early warning for disasters
- Coordinated hurricane exercise Makani Pahili 2014; over 1,800 people participated in multiple exercises at multiple jurisdictions
- Conducted multiple hazardous materials (HAZMAT) safety awareness activities with public agencies, private industry, and citizens to enhance preparedness
- Sponsored individual and team technical HAZMAT training