



# ABOUT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency management *is not* only about responding to disasters. Emergency management creates the framework within which communities reduce vulnerability to hazards and cope with disasters. It includes both “blue sky” and “grey sky” activities.

“Blue sky” refers to non-disaster periods. General emergency management activities include **preparedness** initiatives such as writing and exercising plans, educating the community about disasters, and engaging in **mitigation** actions that reduce a disasters impact on people and property. “Grey sky” refers to the period immediately before, during and after an incident has occurred. It includes a **response** phase where priorities are protecting lives and property. It also encompasses **recovery** actions that begin once the incident is stabilized to rebuild the community.

Emergency management is based on a “whole community” approach. It requires the collective efforts and engagement of all segments of a community - individual citizens, non-profit agencies, the private sector and all levels of government.



## Hawai`i Emergency Management Agency

Emergency management agencies are conveners and coordinators of resources and capabilities from other government agencies and partners across all phases of emergency management. During an incident they activate Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs), which are centralized locations where response partners convene to

share information and coordinate activities.

The Hawai`i Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA), situated under the State of Hawai`i Department of Defense, is the state’s emergency management agency. HI-EMA is responsible for coordinating the response to all hazards that may impact the state, whether they are of natural, manmade or accidental causes. These efforts are closely coordinated with county emergency management agencies at the local level and with FEMA at the federal level. HI-EMA’s statutory responsibilities are received from Hawai`i Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 127A. The state’s Adjutant General is Director of Emergency Management. Day-to-day Agency operations are overseen by the HI-EMA Administrator. The Agency works closely with the Office of Homeland Security, also located within the Department of Defense, which is responsible for coordinating activities related to prevention of and protection against security threats and terrorism.