

November CERT Training

There is a special Manoa Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training scheduled for November 6, 13 and 20 beginning at 7:45 am. The first two classes will be held in the Manoa Innovation Center presentation room. The final session will be a field exercise at Battery Harlow on Diamond Head. More information on CERT can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Get Ready Honolulu

We here at Be Ready Manoa are not the only ones thinking about how to prepare for a man-made or natural disaster. Other neighborhoods such as Ewa Beach, Kailua, Hauula, and Waimanalo to name a few also have major preparedness efforts well underway. However, those named are coastal communities with the unique challenges of those living near the ocean. As far as we know, Manoa is the only urban community to develop a disaster preparedness plan and to begin community outreach to educate residents about how to prepare.

However, there are others who are thinking about the various disasters which could strike Honolulu. In October 2013, Honolulu Magazine ran a series of articles on what could happen in Honolulu and how to prepare. One statement in the introduction to that series sums up why all Honolulu residents should be concerned:

...Honolulu is literally the most isolated city in the world. When the Big One comes, there will be nowhere to run. And help may be a long time coming.

Honolulu Magazine, October 2013

The series goes on to discuss some [worst case scenarios](#) for Honolulu as well as some tips on [how to prepare](#) and what an [emergency seven day food supply](#) for two people might look like.

For those interested, there is an enormous amount of preparedness information available on the web from FEMA, The State Department of Emergency Management, The City & County Department of Emergency Management and our own bereadymanoa.org web site.

[Be Ready Mānoa Team](#)



“Together, we prepare, survive and thrive” is the motto, which we chose to rally our community members in developing a strategic preparedness framework for Mānoa. As the first urban community in Honolulu to develop a disaster preparedness plan, we strive to serve as a model to help our immediate neighbors and others beyond. In the chaos and uncertainty, which can accompany disaster, our best chance of surviving and thriving will only happen when working together.

After the Katrina and Sandy experiences, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) realized that Federal, State and Local agencies could not do it all so has focused its efforts on building skills at the local level to enable communities to respond to disasters. We were told at our first FEMA course for Community Leaders on November 21, 2013 not to expect emergency agencies to be able to respond within a week of a disaster. Hawai‘i is the most remote archipelago in the world; there is less money, fewer personnel and a very

long supply line. We must rely on our own resources.

The solutions are numerous and daunting. We will be organizing and strengthening our existing Neighborhood Security Watches with more training, more operations strategy and recruiting more members. We will be developing an overall communications strategy, using telephone trees, HAM radio, e-mail, texting, social media, couriers, etc. We will develop a general operational plan with a command center and line of command. In order to accomplish this, we will need to gain the support of partners and sponsors, and the ordinary citizens for us to succeed.