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May 28, 2015

## WATER EMERGENCY TIPS

*Oahu residents urged to store a personal drinking water supply for emergencies.*

HONOLULU – On May 26, 2015, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Central Pacific Hurricane Center announced that climate conditions indicate an active hurricane season for Hawaii and the Central Pacific Basin this year. Their forecast indicates a 70-percent chance of an above-normal season and urges residents to be prepared for the hurricane season, which begins June 1, 2015. The Board of Water Supply (BWS) is actively monitoring climate conditions in the Pacific Ocean and is prepared to take precautionary efforts to secure its facilities to minimize potential impacts to customers.

Natural disasters, power outages, blackouts, or other unexpected events can disrupt the ability of the BWS to provide water service to the community. The BWS also encourages our island residents to be prepared and plan in advance for a water emergency. **Emergency preparedness kits should include at least one gallon of water stored, per person, per day for at least five to seven days, for drinking and sanitation purposes.**

### How to store water for an emergency:

- **Use clean containers.** Do not use containers that stored 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 the tap.** Fill the container to the top, keeping a minimal amount of air between the water and the cap. To ensure the water is safe to drink, add one drop of mild liquid bleach per gallon of water, cap and store it in a cool, dark place.
  - **If you plan to store water for four weeks or longer,** add one half cap of mild liquid bleach per gallon of water, cap and store in a cool, dark place.

More emergency preparedness information, including a [step-by-step video](#) demonstrating how to store drinking water, is available at [www.boardofwatersupply.com](http://www.boardofwatersupply.com).

During an emergency, the BWS encourages residents to stay tuned to news reports. BWS, through the City and County of Honolulu, will issue bulletins and advisories, including when to take precautionary measures to secure an adequate water supply. Residents may also sign up to receive email or text message alerts from BWS and other emergency response agencies at [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com). If everyone uses water wisely during the pre-emergency phase, the BWS's storage tanks and reservoirs will be better able to meet the essential demands of the community.

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