

STORM TIPS

- Have several ways to get storm information for **Kauai**.
- Insure lawn sprinkler system is turned off.
- Stow/secure outside items (BBQ, bikes, furniture, big toys, garbage / recycle bins, pet items, hanging plants, flags and banners, chimes, signs, etc).
- Set refrigerator/freezer to coldest settings. Use bottles of water to make ice “blocks” to help keep food cold if the power goes out. During power outages refrain from frequent openings of fridge or freezer to retain cold. Here are USDA guidelines regarding refrigerated food:

It should be safe as long as power is out **no more than 4 hours**. Keep the door closed as much as possible. Discard any perishable food (such as meat, poultry, fish, eggs, and leftovers) that have been above 40 °F for over 2 hours.

Never taste food to determine its safety! You **cannot** rely on appearance or odor to determine whether food is safe.

Note: Always discard any items in the refrigerator that have come into contact with raw meat juices.

If a frozen item has thawed, treat it as a refrigerated item.

If in doubt, throw it out.

- Get things that water would damage up off the floor (especially electronics/computers – unplug and place on table/desk/chair). Move items away from windows.
- Unplug all unneeded electronic devices/equipment (protects them, and reduces electric system load).
- Move items into the house from lanais that water would damage.
- Taping flat glass windows is not required. They have plastic film coverings.
- Fill clean containers with water for drinking and hygiene use.
- Fill bathtubs, sinks (and other available containers) with water to use for other than drinking. (If you don't fill tubs/sinks at least close the drains to prevent sewer water from backing up into them.)
- Don't use BBQs to cook inside. Be very careful using candles if the power is out.
- Stay away from beaches/ditches/canals. Stay out of brown water (probably contaminated).
- Stay inside during high winds or if lightning is occurring. During storm lulls use caution if outside.
- Use the telephone only for emergency calls. (Others may need to make those types of calls).
- Be prepared to evacuate your house on short notice for both planned and unplanned reasons. Announced evacuations are **mandatory** for **everyone**. Take your emergency kit with you if you evacuate. Follow all instructions from emergency personnel.
- If you have children talk to them about what is happening or expected to happen. Have ways to keep them “occupied”.
- If you have a pet don't forget their safety and security.
- Help others; we are all in this together.

In the past we have had issues with sewer backups in the housing area. Water from storms adds to the problem when rain runoff gets into the sewer system through manholes. To help avoid problems for you and your neighbors we recommend doing things that send large quantities of water down the drain (laundry, dishwashing) before the storm arrives. If it is raining hard or there is a large amount of water “standing” on the ground outside, delaying toilet flushing if possible may be a wise choice. Also, to operate properly the base sewer system requires electricity to run pumps. If the electricity is off it is advisable to avoid the things that sends water into sewers.

Faucet water also requires electricity to run pumps. If the power is off there may not be running water. If water service is interrupted it may need to be treated before it is safe to consume. The most common ways to render (clear) water safe is to boil it or to add Clorox to it. Attached is a sheet of instructions for both techniques.