

# What will GovGuam do during an emergency?

## Fact Sheet: Assess. Inform. Respond.

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE JOINT INFORMATION CENTER (JIC). THE JIC IS LED BY GUAM HOMELAND SECURITY AND SUPPORTED BY MULTIPLE GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS DEALING WITH HEALTH AND SAFETY.



### **Residents should always be ready for an emergency. One may always be on the horizon.**

Families should always have a communications plan ready and an emergency kit prepared. (See Fact Sheet #2)

There is always the possibility Guam could be hit by a typhoon within any week; there are also some emergencies that can occur within the hour. That is why residents should always be ready with a communications plan and emergency kit.

Residents who are prepared for natural disasters may also be better-prepared for man-made or technological disasters.

#### **More information:**

Information before, during and after any emergency is available at [ghs.guam.gov](http://ghs.guam.gov), through island news sources or by calling 475-9600.

### **The Government of Guam is well-trained and prepared to respond during an emergency.**

#### **To help everyone prepare, the JIC provides information.**

The government of Guam gathers Public Information Officers from various agencies together to create the Joint Information Center (JIC). The PIOs keep the public as prepared as possible. The JIC makes sure the correct information is given out quickly. The JIC will put out information to the news media, on official government websites and through JIC-designated social media sources.

#### **Trained emergency officials come together. They assess, plan a response and monitor what is happening.**

If a situation requires a coordinated response, the government of Guam will bring together trained responders (local, federal, private, and non-profit) and officials to gather information and use prepared plans to assist in responding. This group is called the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

#### **The Emergency Alert System (EAS) is tested.**

The EAS is a public warning system that uses radio and TV systems to deliver important emergency information. Usually the EAS is used for weather information, flood information or information the public needs to know quickly.

#### **Responders are prepared to follow the plan.**

If needed, responders, including public safety and/or military support, are posted and ready to respond to the emergency.

#### **The government responds and help is provided.**

The Emergency Operations Center will monitor the emergency, continue following emergency plans, conduct damage assessments and continue to assist the public in staying safe during and after the emergency. Experts will help assess and respond to the emergency so normal life can resume as quickly as possible.

# How will I know if something happens?

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## Emergency Alert System (EAS)

- The first type of alert system was the CONELRAD system, followed by Emergency Broadcast System.
- The Emergency Alert System is a national warning system that was started in the U.S. in 1997.
- There are two types of alerts that go out on this system: Emergency and Urgent Situation. The Government of Guam runs regular tests for this system to ensure it works.

## How does it work?

- EAS interrupts all programming and sends emergency information out on AM, FM, weather radios, VHF, UHF.
- These outlets are required to run the emergency messages by federal communications law.
- In Guam, the main station for the Emergency Alert System (EAS) is KSTEREO 95.5 on the FM dial, and KTWG 801 on the AM dial.

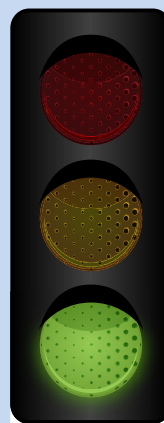
## What will I hear?

- If you are listening to the radio or watching TV, the program will stop, you will hear a siren sound followed by information.
  - o IF IT IS A TEST:
    - “This is a test of the Guam Emergency Alert System. In an emergency this system brings you important information. This concludes the Emergency Alert System.”
  - o IF IT IS A REAL EMERGENCY:
    - “We interrupt regular programming due to an Island of Guam emergency. Important information will follow.” Then the message will include important information and how you should respond.

## Will I be contacted any other way?

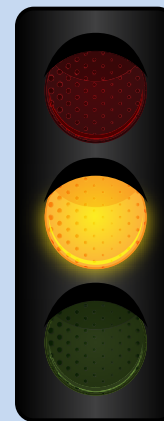
- In Guam we have additional contact methods in addition to the Emergency Alert System (EAS). The following activities will happen if an emergency actually occurs:
  - o SMS: Cell phone companies will send out alert text messages no longer than 140 characters
  - o EMAIL: The government of Guam will send out a mass email and post the message on social media sites.
  - o SIRENS: First responders from the government of Guam will drive through villages with sirens and information about what to do.

## How do I talk to my kids about this?



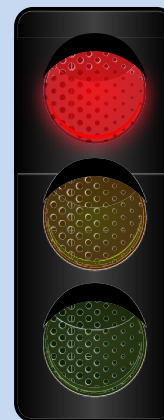
### Green – All is well

Green on a stoplight means everything is okay to move forward. In emergency planning, green is the normal, everyday color and means there is a low risk of any type of situation. During a green condition, government operations continue as normal.



### Yellow – Be careful

A stoplight that is yellow means to continue moving forward, but do so carefully. This is the same color used by government agencies to indicate there is a medium risk for the island. During a yellow condition, the government will continue to operate like normal with a few government agencies participating in emergency preparedness and planning.



### Red – Stop and be cautious.

Red means stop what you are doing and prepare immediately for an impending emergency. Government officials use red to indicate there is a high risk to the island from a security threat, such as a foreign military attack. During a red condition the government only operates critical services.