



Hawai'i Volcanoes News Release

August 13, 2007

Park Acts to Protect Visitors and Staff as Hurricane Flossie Approaches

Both a Hurricane Watch and Tropical Storm Warning are in effect for the island of Hawai'i. Due to the potential severe weather hazard posed by Hurricane Flossie, Hawaii Volcanoes has implemented the following closures until further notice:

- All backcountry trails and campsites are closed
- Mauna Loa Road and Hilina Pali Road are closed
- Chain of Craters Road is closed at the Ke Ala Komo Overlook, about 10 miles from the intersection with Crater Rim Drive
- Namakanipaio and Kulanaokuaiki campgrounds are closed
- Kipukapuauulu Trail and Picnic Area are closed
- All ranger-guided hikes are cancelled

Acting Chief Ranger Gail Minami-Judd said, "Flossie is a Category Three Hurricane. It is expected that strong winds, heavy rain, and high surf will develop as she moves closer to the island. We are taking the necessary steps now to ensure that our visitors and employees stay safe."

As of 11:00 am this morning, the center of the hurricane was located about 425 southeast of Hilo, moving west –northwest at about 15 mph. Flossie packs sustained winds near 125 mph with higher gusts. The main effects from Hurricane Flossie are expected on the island Tuesday.

The park will continue to monitor this dangerous hurricane. If weather conditions intensify, visitors should expect that more roads and facilities will close.

Minami encourages everyone to stay informed of current weather conditions and plan accordingly.

For information and updates on Hurricane Flossie go to Central Pacific Hurricane website at <http://www.prh.noaa.gov/hnl/cphc/>