



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Hawai'i Volcanoes
National Park

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Hawai'i Volcanoes News Release

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Park Battens Down as Flossie Nears

According to Superintendent Cindy Orlando, "Due to the potential severe weather hazard posed by Hurricane Flossie most of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park will close at 10:00 am this morning."

The following remain open

- Kīlauea Visitor Center and Jaggar Museum remain open until 5:00pm
- Three miles of Crater Rim Drive from Kīlauea Visitor Center to Jaggar Museum remain open
- Volcano House Hotel remains open
- Kīlauea Military Camp remains open



Maintenance Crew Closes Crater Rim Drive
Photo by Dave Boyle

As of 8:00 am HST Tuesday morning, the center of Hurricane Flossie, a Category Two Hurricane, was located about 190 miles southeast of the park, moving west-northwest at about 11 mph.

The Central Pacific Hurricane Center has issued a Tropical Storm Warning and Hurricane Watch for the island of Hawai'i. Flossie packs sustained winds near 110 mph with higher gusts. Some weakening is forecast during the next 24 hours.

The main effects from the hurricane are expected to hit the island by mid-morning today as Flossie passes south of the island. Tropical storm force winds of 40 to 50 mph with higher gusts are expected. Any shift in the hurricane's track towards the north will result in higher wind speeds.

Heavy showers and thunderstorms could produce 10 inches or more of rainfall in the island's Ka'ū District through tonight. Twenty to twenty-five foot surf is forecast for the island's south facing shores.

Park employees not essential to emergency operations were released from work this morning. "We're expecting strong winds and heavy rain and we're doing what we need to do to keep our visitors and staff safe," said Orlando.

Three national parks on the west side of the island closed today including Pu'uuhonua o Hōnaunau, Kaloko-Honokōhau, and Pu'ukoholā Heiau.

For updates on Hurricane Flossie, go to <http://www.prh.noaa.gov/hnl/cphc/>

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