

# The IRC Gazette



FEMA

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## This Week in the IRC

### Community Assistance RSF

CA convened the Community Planning RSF joint meeting with State partners, county leadership, and federal agencies to discuss community engagement strategies and recovery needs assessment and next steps on communicating recovery with the public

### Economic RSF

The EDA team met with the Maui Economic Development Board whose mission is to lead innovation in business, education and community including pursuing economic diversification. Discussion revolved around multiple local needs and connectivity of those with housing as linchpin on all recovery

### Health and Social Services RSF

Co-hosted the Disaster Recovery Resource Fair held at Whalers Village on October 28, 2023. The focus was to equip parents and children with essential resources and information.

### Housing RSF

National Housing Coordinator met with HUD Deputy Secretary, Hawaii Delegates, local leaders from the private sector to discuss CDBG-DR funds for the Maui wildfire. Also met with HUD Deputy Secretary and Governor Green to discuss the status of the housing situation in Hawaii.

### Infrastructure RSF Provided

*Maui County Department of Public Works Highways Chief, with digitization of data sets for traffic signal on Front Street, and of the Seawall by the GIS team. The Department of Public Works expressed gratitude to the GIS team for listening to what the needs were and will be for this product. DPW will send us the master watershed project to digitize and map.*

### Natural and Cultural Resources RSF

NCR RSF worked with Infrastructure RSF and DOT/FWHA advisor to draft briefing bullets for Bob Fenton, FRC on *Stormwater Management Needs, Soil Erosion Control Measures, and Contamination Risks* and is requesting a follow up meeting to discuss. It is imperative that we expand implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce stormwater migration of contaminants and sediments from the Lahaina burn zone to limit adverse impacts to near shore water quality and the coral reef systems.

### US Department of Agriculture Advisor

*NRCS Damage Survey Report teams have wrapped up final site inspections for the Emergency Watershed Protection Program and are working on finalizing their submissions for approval and funding. Agency participating in watershed meetings with county, state and federal partners. Participated in a meeting with Hawaii House Finance Committee and highlighted their efforts related to EWP.*

## Recovery Support Functions Overview – Infrastructure Systems (IS)

**Coordinating Agency:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

**Primary Agencies:** Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/FEMA/Preparedness and Protection Directorate (DHS-CISA), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U. S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development (USDA-RD)

The Infrastructure Systems (IS) RSF serves as a collaborative forum for federal government engagement with states, local governments, tribes, and territories (SLTT) as well as private sector representatives to focus on public engineering services that can reduce risks from disasters and expedite recovery.

IS is one of six RSFs, established under the [National Disaster Recovery Framework](#), that support recovery efforts of SLTT governments before, during and after disasters. The IS RSF is coordinated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and consists of a National Coordinator, primary agency points of contact, Regional Coordinators, and a cadre of staff available to deploy to disasters. Follow this link for more information on IS RSF [Infrastructure Systems Recovery Support Function | FEMA.gov](#)



Above photo shows a Hazardous Materials temporary packaging site, located at the Maui Firing Range. Hazardous Materials and Hazardous Waste are being packaged into 55-gallon drums, in preparation of transportation to a disposal site.

### US DOT

Through coordination with PHMSA, FMCSA, USACE, USCG, EPA and HDOT, hazardous materials and hazardous waste are being transported via roadways from Lahaina to various hazardous materials storage and disposal areas throughout the island. As the burn zone and the harbor are being cleaned up, more and more hazardous materials, hazardous waste and marine pollutants are being gathered. Also, electric car batteries from burned automobiles contain aluminum, copper, iron, cobalt, nickel, graphite, lithium, lead and/or sulfuric acid. All these materials are being handled, packaged and transported away from downtown Lahaina.

## Tip/Fun Fact from ADR Advisor

Managing change can be uncomfortable, but necessary for us to accomplish our best work. “Do not pretend that things will change if we always do the same. The crisis is the best blessing that can happen to people and countries because the crisis brings progress.” - Albert Einstein



# Recovery Support Function Leadership Group (RSFLG) Meeting

By Deborah Costa

The Recovery Support Function Leadership Group (RSFLG) is a federal interagency body designed to identify and facilitate resolution of operational and policy issues within the disaster recovery mission area, as organized by the [National Disaster Recovery Framework \(NDRF\)](#), one of five [National Planning Frameworks](#). The RSFLGs purpose is to improve the effectiveness and unity of effort in disaster recovery across all levels of government. RSFLG membership is comprised of officials at both the Action Officer and Senior Executive level who represent and speak authoritatively on behalf of each Recovery Support Function (RSF) coordinating, primary, and supporting agency, FEMA Headquarters and Regional Offices, the National Security Council (NSC), and select other federal departments and agencies. The RSFLG convenes at each level once a month to ensure its actions align to the goals outlined in the RSFLG Strategic Approach, which is reviewed annually.

On October 25, 2023, the RSFLG meeting focused on the Maui Wildfires Recovery efforts with several of the national RSF's reporting out from the IOF here at the Sheraton. The Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator, reviewed the disaster impacts to life and property with 99 confirmed fatalities (10.21.23) 6,692 acres burned and significant impacts to historic and culturally significant properties. There have been great strides on the state and county level with the development of the Hawaii Recovery Structure and progress on the development of a statewide and countywide recovery framework, the appointment of a State Disaster Recovery Coordinator and the opening of the Maui County Office of Recovery. Community Assistance (CA) has been actively providing the Maui County Office of Recovery with technical assistance pertaining to building out capacity of the recovery management, the framework, funding and peer to peer options, as well as providing technical assistance to the County Community Planning RSF.

Economic, Health and Social Services, Housing, Infrastructure, and the Natural and Cultural Resources RSFs each reported out on their observations, encounters with survivors, meetings with county officials and other stakeholders to gain a better understanding of the needs and gaps here on Maui. Each RSF having contributed to the Recovery Needs Assessment currently in draft form being reviewed by the county.

The Philanthropy Advisor noted that there has been major interest both domestically and international with over 200,000 donors to date. The Hawaii Community Foundation is the leading funding coordinator managing the fund, working in close collaboration with state and county leaders, nonprofit organizations, and community members to get an understanding of the quickly evolving priorities. As of 10.10.23 the Maui Strong Fund has received \$ 142,644,550, Go Fund me- \$ 30,000,000, People's Fund of Maui- \$ 10,800,000, Maui United Way- \$ 10,000,000, Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement - Hawaiian Way Kako'o Fund, \$7,190,247 and GlobalGiving—Hawaii Wildfire Relief Fund, \$2,377,258. Additionally, Jeff Bezos and Lauren Sanchez pledge to donate \$100,000,000 to Maui Wildfire Relief.

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## Philanthropic Advisor

Provided EPA subject matter support for Hawaii Community Foundation series with information on renewable energy EPA initiatives/resources related to renewable energy on contaminated lands/landfills and water and wastewater utilities.

## External Affairs Advisor

External Affairs activated its in-person language interpreters and sent the first interpreters to the Disaster Recovery Center in the Lahaina Civic Center. The first group included two Spanish speakers, one Tagalog and one Ilocano. A Tongan interpreter is also available. The contractor is sending other interpreters to FEMA for security checks before they are made available. The first group was immediately asked to interpret, and it is believed that the program will increasingly meet the needs of survivors as we add more interpreters.

**Environmental Protection/Sustainability Advisor** - I joined EPA Advisor and Deputy Administrator met with Mayor Bissen, his staff, and EPA staff working both on the response and recovery sides of the disaster. The mayor shared some of his ideas for recovery as well as reflected on lessons learned from the response effort to date. EPA Advisor will follow up with several of his staff next week.

## Small Business Administration Advisor

SBA began onboarding and training local-hire PIOs.

## Unified Federal Review (UFR) Advisor

UFR Advisor is working on transition to the next UFR Advisor. New UFR representative on Maui November 1. Have established on-going transition calls.



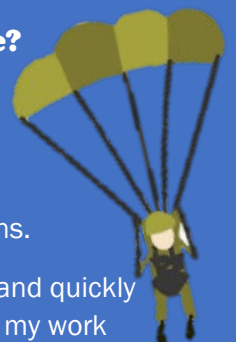
(L-R) David Apple, IS RSF; Janet Golrick, Housing RSF, Mark O'Hanlon, FDRC; Christy Grant FRDO, Tom O'Sullivan DFDRO

## Who's Packing your Parachute?

"I want to express my gratitude to Mr. Dave Apple for his exceptional communication skills and his ability to be concise and clear in his instructions.

This helps me understand the task at hand quickly and enables me to efficiently complete my work without any confusion! -- Pizem

A subject matter expert that mentors without reserve. A gentleman who is kind, understanding and caring. Dave accepted a novice liaison and supported her without question. I don't think I've ever known a work colleague who is the same; Every. Single. Day, regardless of the madness around.....I will miss my friend. Aloha, until we work together again. -- Judy



If you would like to recognize someone who has packed your parachute, send info to [deborah.costa@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:deborah.costa@fema.dhs.gov)