



CNMI-FEMA JOINT INFORMATION CENTER

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Office of the Governor

CNMI JOINT INFORMATION CENTER

Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 29, 2018

CNMI RECOVERY UPDATE: LIFE AFTER YUTU

It has been a little over a month since Super Typhoon Yutu devastated the islands of Saipan and Tinian, but significant movement towards recovery has been progressively steady and made possible through partnerships and collaborative efforts fostered between the CNMI Government and our federal and military partners.

In just five weeks, Saipan's shelter population has been reduced by 70 percent. Power has been restored to 50 percent of the island of Saipan with 50 percent of Tinian projected by CUC to be back online by Christmas. Over 80 percent of Saipan's water wells and 100 percent of Tinian's wells have been energized. Public schools, including the Northern Marianas College, will be opening their doors for the first time since Yutu made landfall.

Additionally, the Saipan International Airport welcomed its first flight of tourists a week ago and key businesses vital to community service and continuity such as gas stations, water companies, banking institutions, restaurants and convenient stores have resumed back to normal operating hours.

The tasks of water distribution provided by Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Units and debris removal from primary roads conducted on the islands of Saipan and Tinian by our military partners have been marked as "mission complete" due to signs of life in the CNMI reverting back to normal.

Office of the Governor

The Office of the Governor continues to direct CNMI Government offices to resume reduced operational hours from 9:00AM - 3:00PM, so that government employees and residents can avail of the variety of disaster assistance programs requested by CNMI leadership, such as Disaster Food Assistance (D-NAP), Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA), and the CNMI Tenting Program (TETRIS), and humanitarian relief from the American Red Cross, CNMI Mass Care, other nonprofit partners, and volunteer organizations. Resumption of normal operational hours will be announced soon.

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, and Senate President Arnold I. Palacios continue to meet with regional and international consulate offices that have committed to providing additional assistance to their respective citizen groups. This includes the Philippine Consulate, Korean Consulate, FSM Consulate, and the Chinese Consulate. The meetings centered on leveraging additional humanitarian and financial resources for CNMI residents who were severely impacted by the storm.

CNMI Leadership continues to work with federal partners on leveraging additional federal assistance related to disaster assistance, technical assistance, and hazard mitigation. This includes conversations with the Department of the Interior, US Economic Development Authority, etc.

CNMI Leadership continues to work with tourism stakeholders and private sector partners on revitalizing and supporting the CNMI tourism market and overall economy as the CNMI continues to see visitor arrivals steadily increase. The Marianas Visitors Authority continues to market the CNMI as a viable and preferred destination.

Power & Water Restoration

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation has been hard at work, and have been able to within this past month restore 50 percent of power, more than 80% of water production to the island of Saipan and 100% water production and 50% of power by the Christmas holiday to the island of Tinian. Further, 106 out of 138 water wells have been energized, 66 of which are online with the CUC Power Grid and 40 of which are online with FEMA generators.

Shelter and Housing

On November 5, 2018, the CNMI Government, in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Dept. of Defense (DOD) and Red Cross, introduced the Temporary Emergency Tent and Roofing Installation Support (TETRIS) Program. The TETRIS program was designed to assist families whose homes were totaled or majorly destroyed as a result of Yutu.

As of today, 804 tents have been installed on Saipan, and 202 on Tinian. As the CNMI Government continues to provide temporary housing solutions for residents impacted by Yutu, more inspections conducted by FEMA inspectors to damaged homes will also be occurring simultaneously; however, it is important to note that the TETRIS program and Individual Assistance provided by FEMA are two separate programs. Applying for disaster assistance with FEMA will not automatically make you an applicant for the TETRIS program, and vice versa.

It is also important to note that the deadline to submit Right of Entry (ROE) forms for recipient consideration of tents or temporary roofs have been set for Saturday, December 8, 2018.

Applications received after the 8th of December will not be accepted.

Deadline to apply for FEMA Disaster Assistance is set for Sunday, January 27, 2019.

As of today, the shelter count on Saipan is 360, nearly a 70 percent reduction from the immediate post-Yutu landfall shelter count.

Debris Removal

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in partnership with the Bureau of Environmental & Coastal Quality (BECQ) and the Saipan Mayor's Office announces the roll out of the White Goods, Electronics and Household Hazardous Material Curbside Pick-up program, now available for residents to take advantage of.

BECQ, the Saipan Mayor's Office and the US EPA will be roving villages picking up the following debris:

1. White Goods (refrigerators, washers, dryers, etc.)
2. Electronics (television sets, computers, PC units, etc.)
3. Household Hazardous Waste (paints, solvents, pesticides and other chemicals)

Last pickup sweep of Tinian will start December 5 and Saipan on December 17, so put your items out now. Please note pickups of items will happen per village with crews coming to each area starting from the south and ending in the north and repeating these pickups for a total of 3 sweeps of each area.

Please place your items curbside and keep separate from green waste, tin and construction materials.

For more information on household hazardous waste, electronic waste, or white goods disposal, please contact the CNMI BECQ at 664-8500.

EPA is working with CUC on transformer collection. To date, 492 transformers have been collected on Saipan and 166 on Tinian. EPA is collecting and removing household hazardous waste such as paints, cleaners, solvents, oils,

batteries, herbicides and pesticides.

The Saipan Mayor's Office, Dept. of Public Works and the Dept. of Defense continue to team up to clear debris from residents' homes, and would like to remind the residents of Saipan and Tinian to continue separating debris into four different piles:

1. Green Waste (trees, shrubs, plants, grass, etc.)
2. Tin (roofing metal, metal sheets, etc.)
3. Lumber (plywood, 2x2s, 2x4s, etc.)
4. Household Waste (mattresses and furniture damaged by Yutu, DOES NOT INCLUDE daily household trash)

Day-to-day household trash mixed in with the above piles will NOT be picked up by debris crews.

Residents can also drop off debris at the following locations:

Saipan

- Lower Base Transfer Station: Now until December 14, 7:30AM to 4:50PM, 7 days a week.
- As Gonno Staging Area (Kobler Airfield, near Tottottville): Now until December 2, 8:30AM to 4:00PM, 7 days a week.

Tinian

- Tinian Port (near CPA building): Now until December 3, 9:00AM to 3:00PM, Monday through Saturday.

CNMI Emergency Food Assistance

Due to the ongoing processing of D-NAP, the regular issuance of NAP benefits will be delayed one week. NAP benefits will be issued on December 10 on Tinian and Saipan, and December 11 on Rota.

The D-NAP application process on Saipan will be extended an additional week. The details of that extension are forthcoming. The D-NAP application and issuance has been completed for Tinian.

Please pay close attention to future announcements on the D-NAP application schedule for household representatives holding numbers D07401 and above. D-NAP is in the process of extending the CNMI Emergency Food Assistance Operation another week. Further announcements will be made soon.

Due to the small number of individuals picking up numbers for the D-NAP application schedule, any household that still needs a number can pick this up at the NAP office from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 29 and Friday, November 30.

Disaster Unemployment Assistance

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) is available for workers and self-employed individuals in Saipan, Rota, Tinian and the Northern Islands affected by Super Typhoon Yutu and/or Typhoon Mangkhut. Deadline is December 16, 2018, which means there are 16 days remaining until DUA Application deadline. DUA provides payment and reemployment assistance to individuals who are unemployed as a direct result of a major disaster.

Commonwealth Ports Authority

Saipan International Airport

The Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport is open for day and night flights. Island power has been temporarily restored. CPA is repairing its riser and materials have been ordered. The Main Generators are awaiting parts and will undergo maintenance. The commuter building is totally shut down due to extensive damages. Commuter tenants are operating out of temporary container offices in the commuter parking area. CPA is working with a vendor to remove the damaged canopy leading from the bus parking to the commuter building. Majority of the canopy has been removed.

All navigational aids are operable. Flight checks were completed. The Tower and Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) are now on island power. Majority of the taxiway/runway lights have been replaced. However, the taxiway/runway signs need replacement. The sign housing has been replaced, and now awaiting the actual signs.

There is water running through the terminals. Most of the street lights are non-operable due to damaged wires and poles. Need to order parts and light poles. More lights have been fixed and CPA has received 30 solar lights which are now being installed. The CPA is working on restoring the exterior terminal lights and installing temporary lighting. The SIA incinerator is operable by a generator. The Mobil Aviation Facility is powered by generator and is able to refuel aircrafts.

Car Rental Tenants are open for business.

Port of Saipan is back to normal operations.

Tinian International Airport

The Airport is running on a FEMA generator. The CPA generator is awaiting a schedule to be serviced. Still awaiting parts to replace broken taxiway and runway lights. Temporary fencing repair was completed.

Port of Tinian

The dock has no power. Any incoming vessels will need to bring their own lights and power supply. Fencing materials arrived in Tinian to repair areas damaged. FEMA Operations was moved from the Airport to the Seaport.

Benjamin Taisacan Airport

Both Rota Airport and Seaport are back to normal operations.

Practicing Caution

With the partial opening of the Public School System campuses happening as early as next Monday, December 3, 2018, the Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management would like to advise the community to please be cognizant of heavy equipment and dump trucks still circulating public highways and to practice caution when driving on public roadways. "The Mayor's Office, Dept. of Public Works and our Dept. of Defense partners are still removing debris from schools and secondary roads where most of the community reside, and so we are encouraging parents who need to drop off their children to school to leave a little earlier than usual to ensure kids are getting to school on time," states Pedro Leon Guerrero, HSEM Deputy Special Assistant.

Follow CNMI on Social Media

The CNMI Joint Information Center (JIC) urges the community to follow the following social media platforms to get the latest weather updates and information:

- CNMI EOC State Warning Point Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cnmieocswp/>
- CNMI Office of the Governor Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CNMIGov/>
- Governor Ralph DLG. Torres Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ralphdlg.torres/>
- CNMI Joint Information Center: <https://www.facebook.com/JICNMI/>

The CNMI JIC also encourages residents to download HSEM's *readyCNMI* App available for FREE in the Apple iStore or Google PlayStore to receive the latest weather updates and notifications.

For more information or media inquiries, contact Nadine Deleon Guerrero, HSEM External Affairs Officer at ncdlg@cnmihsem.gov.mp.