

Hawaii 2-Day Multi-Hazard Construction Course/ Maui Fires (DR-4724-HI) Multi-Hazard Construction Workshop

SYNOPSIS:

This 2-day workshop is intended for design professionals as well as builders and property managers to understand the basic principles of designing and constructing residential buildings in Hawaii for multi-hazard resilience.

WORKSHOP FEATURES:

This workshop is based on the residential construction field course (NDEMU G0386) and addresses the design of coastal residences to resist coastal flooding, high winds, and other hazards common to the Continental United States (CONUS), using traditional wood frame construction techniques. However, the context is expanded to include guidance on hazards unique to Hawaii and U.S. territories. The workshop also incorporates lessons learned from FEMA's Mitigation Assessment Team (MAT) investigation of the August 2023 Maui Fires (DR-4724-HI), providing strategies for rebuilding fire-damaged residences on Maui and for new construction in coastal areas of Hawaii.

TOPICS COVERED – DAY 1:

Unit 1: Introduction and Course Overview (60 minutes)

Unit 1 introduces participants, review course objectives, and discusses recent local hazard events in Hawaii and Maui and lessons learned from FEMA P-2425, Maui Fires Mitigation Assessment Team (MAT) Compendium Report. The unit includes multiple-choice questions throughout that act as an introductory knowledge check.

Unit 2: Overview of Building Design Concepts (75 minutes)

This unit discusses the design concepts that define a successful building, including continuous load path, avoiding flood and resisting wind, applying best practices, understating hazard risk and risk tolerance, and hazard mitigation. Unit 2 concludes with an analysis of a vacant lot that discusses many of the concepts covered in this unit.

Unit 3: Identifying and Estimating Hazard Loads (195 minutes)

Unit 3 provides details on identifying and estimating various hazard loads including gravity loads (dead, live), flood loads (hydrostatic, hydrodynamic, debris impact, waves), high wind loads and earthquake loads and how they apply to load path design and the building envelope. This unit includes several exercises including finding coastal flood information, wind load and load path knowledge checks, and identifying “what’s wrong with this picture?”

Unit 4: Siting and Defensible Space (45 minutes)

This unit discusses siting and defensible space actions that can minimize the risk of coastal flood, high wind, and wildfire hazards for coastal residence in Hawaii. Unit 4 concludes with a “what’s wrong with this picture?” exercise and discussion questions as knowledge checks.



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TOPICS COVERED – DAY 2:

Unit 5: Roof Systems (90 minutes)

Unit 5 reviews traditional and island housing roof systems, and discusses how to protect roof system components from high wind and fire events in Hawaii. The unit contains knowledge checks including “what’s wrong with this picture?” images and multiple-choice questions.

Unit 6: Walls, Openings, and Other Structural Elements (90 minutes)

This unit reviews and discusses best practices for protecting exterior walls, openings, building utility systems, and appurtenances from flood and wind events; with additional considerations for wildfire resilience. Unit 6 concludes with a “what’s wrong with this picture?” activity.

Unit 7: Design and Construction of the Foundation (90 minutes)

Unit 7 addresses various foundation types and requirements, foundation loads, design considerations and best practices for shallow and deep foundations. The unit contains knowledge checks including “what’s wrong with this picture?” images and multiple-choice questions.

Unit 8: Maintaining the Building (45 minutes)

This unit reviews general and specific maintenance techniques for residential coastal buildings in Hawaii, discusses the implications of design choices on maintenance, addresses maintenance versus retrofitting. Unit 8 includes “what went wrong?” images to reinforce maintenance concepts.

Unit 9: Final Exam and Conclusion (90 minutes)

Unit 9 includes a final exam followed by a review of course objectives. The unit concludes the workshop with a course evaluation and graduation.

