



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER 011 - 2022**

**AN ORDER DECLARING A STATE OF DISASTER EMERGENCY  
RELATED TO THE EARTHQUAKES FELT IN TA'U**

**Section 1: Authority**

This executive order is hereby issued in accordance with the powers and authority granted to the Governor by Article IV, Sections 6 and 7 of the Revised Constitution of American Samoa, and the American Samoa Code Annotated, Sections 4.0111 (b) and 26.0105.

**Section 2: Preamble**

**WHEREAS**, earthquakes have been felt by residents of Ta'u<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Geological Survey states that an explosive eruption like Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai is unlikely<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, earthquakes may cause a tsunami; and

**WHEREAS**, preparation for natural disasters can save lives; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor may declare that a State of Disaster Emergency is in effect when a disaster is imminent; and

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order 008-2022 declared that a state of emergency was in effect related to the earthquakes that were felt in Manu'a for thirty days, and Executive Order 009-2022 extended the state of emergency thirty days,

**NOW THEREFORE, I, LEMANU P. S. MAUGA**, Governor of American Samoa, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Revised Constitution of American Samoa and the American Samoa Code Annotated, hereby execute this order.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.usgs.gov/volcanoes/ta-u-island/news/information-regarding-felt-earthquakes-american-samoa>

<sup>2</sup> Id.

**Section 3: Declaration**

Pursuant to A.S.C.A. § 26.0105 I declare that the Territory is in a State of Disaster Emergency which began on August 10, 2022.

**Section 4: Activation of the Emergency Operations Center**

Pursuant to A.S.C.A. § 26.0105(e) the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated on August 10, 2022.

**Section 5: Evacuation and Emergency Housing**

In case of imminent danger or an active disaster, A.S.C.A. § 26.0105(g) authorizes the Governor to direct and compel the evacuation of all or part of the population from a stricken or threatened area, prescribe routes and modes of transportation for evacuation, and provide for emergency housing.

**Section 6: Reminders to the Public**

Members of the Public are reminded:

- (a) Anyone who feels a strong or long earthquake, observes a sudden drop or rise of sea level, or hears a loud roar from the ocean should immediately go to higher ground.
- (b) Anyone who feels an earthquake should report it to the EOC and/or the National Weather Service Office in Pago Pago once they are in a safe place.

**Section 7: Effective Date**

This order supersedes Executive Order 009-2022. It shall take effect immediately and will remain in effect for thirty days.

Date: Oct. 7, 2022



LEMANU P. S. MAUGA  
Governor of American Samoa