



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT**

EXECUTIVE ORDER 009 - 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'u¹; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Geological Survey states that an explosive eruption like Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai is unlikely²; 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.

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.

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.

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

² Id.

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 a the population form 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 008-2022. It shall take effect as of immediately and will remain in effect for thirty days.

Date: September 9, 2022



LEMANU P. S. MAUGA
Governor of American Samoa