



Cayman Islands
Government



Hazard Management
Cayman Islands Government

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



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Civil Service Engagement.



NEOC Executive briefing during Hurricane Melissa.



Mass Rescue Workshop.



Director's Message

2025 marked a year of substantial growth and innovation for Hazard Management Cayman Islands. Our department expanded its capabilities across all four pillars of emergency management—Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery—while deepening our commitment to building community resilience throughout the Cayman Islands.

This year, we achieved record-breaking community engagement, delivered critical infrastructure improvements, and strengthened our operational readiness through enhanced training and regional partnerships. The accomplishments detailed in this report reflect the dedication of our team and the collaborative spirit of our partners across government, the private sector, and our community volunteers.

As we reflect on 2025, I am confident that HMCI is better positioned than ever to fulfill our mandate of protecting lives, property, and the well-being of all residents and visitors to the Cayman Islands.

Looking ahead, 2026 represents a deeply meaningful milestone for us as we enter our third year within the Cabinet Office portfolio. This journey has been shaped by the unwavering support, trust, and collaboration we have received, and we are truly grateful for the partnership that has enabled our success across every operational area.

We are proud of what we have achieved together and are excited to continue on this strong foundation, strengthening our relationship, and delivering even greater impact in the years to come.



Danielle Coleman
Director, Hazard Management Cayman Islands



Hurricane Season Preparedness briefing to the Opposition.



National Hurricane Exercise - Infrastructure Cluster.



About HMCI

Hazard Management Cayman Islands (HMCI) was established in January 2007 as the government agency responsible for coordinating national disaster management programmes for both natural and man-made hazards. HMCI serves as the lead agency for the National Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme, coordinating activities through the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) and supporting the National Hazard Management Executive (NHME) and National Hazard Management Council (NHMC).

The primary focus of HMCI is to enhance resilience, response, and recovery capacity by implementing policies and initiatives addressing disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

HMCI operates under the Disaster Preparedness and Hazard Management Act (2019 Revision). Governance oversight is provided by the National Hazard Management Executive, ensuring compliance with national and international standards for disaster risk reduction and emergency management.

Under Section 4 (1) of the Disaster Preparedness and Hazard Management Act (2019 Revision), a Disaster Fund was established. The current balance of the Disaster Fund as of December 2025 was KYD \$ 2,957,737.86, represented by the following deposits:

NDF Fixed Deposits as at 31 December 2025			
Bank	Placement Date	Maturity Date	KYD
FCIB	19-Dec-25	17-Dec-25	\$2,833,247.47
RBC	30-Dec-25	29-Dec-25	\$124,490.39
Total Fixed Deposit as at 31 December 2025			\$2,957,737.86

HMCI expects to earn interest of \$353.01 on deposit maturing 29 January 2026.





Mitigation

HMCI strengthened the Cayman Islands' disaster risk reduction infrastructure through expanded monitoring capabilities, enhanced oil spill preparedness, and strategic planning initiatives.

Flood Monitoring Infrastructure Expansion

The IoT flood sensor network expanded by 100% with the installation of two additional sensors at Windsor Park and Bodden Town. This doubling of monitoring capacity positions the programme for significant growth in 2026, including planned expansion to the Sister Islands. Real-time flood data continues to be integrated into emergency management systems to support early detection, response coordination, and recovery planning.



Installation of IoT Flood Sensor in Bodden Town, Grand Cayman.

IoT Flood Sensor Network
100% Network Expansion
2 Additional Sensors Installed:
Windsor Park & Bodden Town

Oil Spill Response Capacity

HMCI strengthened internal oil spill response capability through comprehensive training, workshops, plan review and refinement, and development of international partnerships. This work culminated in HMCI being recognised as best practice during the ILL Code audit, establishing a solid benchmark for future collaboration with the National Maritime Council. Strategic relationships were developed with key partners including the Government Support and Development (GSD), the Pacific Disaster Center (PDC), and Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL).

Advanced Forecasting Capability

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) delivered a beta version of a Storm Surge Model specifically calibrated for the Cayman Islands. This advanced forecasting tool will enhance HMCI's ability to predict and prepare for storm surge impacts, supporting more effective evacuation planning and public safety messaging.



Preparedness

2025 saw record-breaking community engagement and the expansion of training programmes across all three islands, reinforcing the Cayman Islands' culture of readiness.

Event Horizon 2025

Exercise Event Horizon 2025 brought together 144 emergency response delegates from the Jamaican Defence Force, Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (Jamaica), the Bahamas Defence Force and the Turks & Caicos Regiment for an intensive 8-day field training exercise (FTX) and tabletop exercise (TTX). HMCI personnel participated alongside colleagues from the Cayman Islands Regiment and Cayman Islands Coast Guard (and others) in this comprehensive multi-agency training event. The exercise strengthened coordination protocols, tested response capabilities across participating organisations, and enhanced preparedness through realistic scenario-based training that challenged participants to operate in complex, dynamic emergency environments.



Mock NEOC during Event Horizon 2025.

Event Horizon 2025

114 Emergency Response Delegates

8-Day Field Training Exercise and Tabletop Exercise

Multi-agency regional event

The Bahamas, the Cayman Islands, Jamaica, and Turks & Caicos Islands



Exercise Event Horizon Field Exercise at Dolphin Cove.



Exercise Event Horizon Field Exercise at CIFS Training Grounds.



Caribe Wave 2025

On March 20, 2025, the Cayman Islands achieved the highest participation among all British Overseas Territories in the regional tsunami exercise coordinated by UNESCO/IOC. The exercise involved comprehensive earthquake and tsunami drills, communication checks, and evacuation exercises across government agencies, schools, private sector partners, and community organisations. HMCI successfully tested the National Emergency Notification Systems, including radio interrupt capability and the NENS mobile app.

Caribe Wave 2025
11,501 Participants
Highest participation
among all
British Overseas Territories
Strong engagement on
Education sector



Students of The Lighthouse School take cover during the Caribe Wave 2025 exercise.

Public Education and Outreach

The Planning and Preparedness Team delivered 75 presentations to approximately 3,816 individuals across public and private sector organisations, including schools. This represents a notable 19% increase from 2024, demonstrating expanding impact and continued community demand for preparedness training. Sessions focused on hazard awareness, earthquake and tsunami preparedness, and Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles (JESIP).

In July 2025, HMCI partnered with the Alzheimer's and Dementia Association of the Cayman Islands (ADACI) to deliver district-level presentations focused on hazard awareness for caregivers, highlighting preparedness considerations for vulnerable individuals. HMCI also participated in the 2025 Annual Agriculture Show, partnering with the Lands and Survey Department to provide residents with elevation data to support safe sheltering decisions.

**Public Education
Presentations**
75 Presentations
3,816 Individuals Reached
19% Increase from 2024



Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)



CERT Volunteer participating at the Agricultural Show.

In collaboration with the Cayman Islands Red Cross, HMCI delivered three CERT training courses in April, May, and November, certifying 63 new volunteers across all districts in Grand Cayman. Throughout 2025, CERT volunteers contributed to public education campaigns, missing person search operations, preparedness activities, and sandbagging operations.

To strengthen CERT knowledge and operational readiness, HMCI facilitated continuing education workshops including specialised sessions on Earthquake and Tsunami awareness and a technical briefing delivered by Caribbean Utilities Company (CUC) on Electrical Hazard Awareness for First Responders. The CERT Council was established in 2025 to enhance coordination, standardise procedures, and guide long-term programme development, convening quarterly meetings throughout the year.

CERT Programme
63 NEW Volunteers Certified
3 Training Courses Delivered
CERT Council Established



CERT Volunteers.



CERT Volunteers assisting with the Missing Person Search & Rescue.



Shelter Operations and Readiness

HMCI coordinated comprehensive shelter cleanup and reorganisation activities between April 22-26, 2025, in collaboration with CERT volunteers, the Cayman Islands Red Cross, and the Cayman Islands Cadet Corps. This collaborative project highlighted the importance of cross-sector partnerships in maintaining emergency shelter readiness. Shelter inspections were conducted across all emergency facilities in Grand Cayman between March 31 and April 3, 2025, involving representatives from multiple government departments including Public Works, Department of Environmental Health, Health Services Authority, Cayman Islands Fire Service, and Department of Education Services.

HMCI conducted Shelter Management Training on June 7-8, 2025, training 133 volunteers in Grand Cayman, with additional sessions held on June 12 in Cayman Brac and July 15 in Little Cayman. Following training, shelter orientation sessions were conducted at all Grand Cayman shelters between July 22 and August 5, 2025.

HMCI advanced Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) within shelter operations through engagement with the Disability Council and the Mental Health Emergency Support Team. EDI considerations were integrated into Shelter Management Training, special needs cots were redistributed to all Emergency Medical Centres, and HMCI partnered with The Wellness Centre to develop a social story booklet to support individuals with sensory sensitivities. HMCI also partnered with LIFE Cayman (Literacy Is For Everyone), which donated books for use in shelters to support children's wellbeing.

Shelter Management Training 133 Volunteers Trained

3 Training Sessions (Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac, Little Cayman)
All emergency shelter facilities inspected



HMCI inspecting generators at one of the shelters.



Red Cross Volunteers and HMCI after a shelter clean up exercise.



Pre All Clear Assessment Readiness Framework (PACARF)

HMCI developed the Pre All Clear Assessment Readiness Framework (PACARF), a critical tool for systematic damage assessment following disasters. The framework was developed through a comprehensive workshop with key stakeholders, followed by detailed meetings to finalize protocols and procedures. To ensure operational readiness, HMCI delivered specialised training to a cohort of 40 Cayman Islands Regiment reservists, establishing a trained cadre capable of conducting structured damage assessments in the immediate aftermath of emergencies. PACARF positions the Cayman Islands to gather accurate, timely damage data to inform recovery planning and resource allocation.



PACARF Development 40 Regiment Reservists Trained

Framework finalised through stakeholder workshops

Preparedness Month

The 2025 Preparedness Month campaign expanded to include enhanced Sister Islands activities and the inclusion of supermarkets as key partners in promoting household emergency preparedness. This broad-based approach reinforced community-wide readiness messaging during the critical pre-hurricane season period.



Preparedness booth at local hardware store.



HMCI and CERT during Preparedness Month.



National Colour Coded Alert System

In collaboration with the Cayman Islands National Weather Service and Department of Communications, HMCI advanced the development and implementation of the National Colour Coded Alert System. Substantial progress was made on the National Emergency Notification System, including delivery of stakeholder discovery workshops, drafting of requests for proposal, and securing funding for fiscal year 2026-27.



Strategic Workshops and Partnerships

HMCI facilitated several strategic workshops and strengthened key partnerships throughout 2025. The Honourary Consulate Workshop provided essential briefings on emergency protocols for diplomatic representatives. A comprehensive Damage Assessment workshop supported the development of the Pan-American Caribbean Regional Assessment Form (PACARF). The NENS Phase 3 Discovery workshop advanced the notification system modernisation, while a Mass Rescue Tabletop Exercise focused on cruise ship emergency scenarios enhanced multi-agency coordination capabilities.

UK visits from Minister Doughty and representatives from the UK Health Security Agency strengthened international partnerships and knowledge exchange. The National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) Readiness Check verified operational capabilities and identified areas for continuous improvement.

Organisational Development

HMCI completed a comprehensive brand refresh in 2025, modernising visual identity while reinforcing the organisation's commitment to the four pillars of emergency management: Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery. This refresh better positions HMCI to communicate effectively with diverse audiences and strengthens recognition of the agency's critical role in national resilience.



HMCI team learning more about Business Continuity.



Response

HMCI demonstrated strong operational capacity through activations ranging from severe weather events to public health emergencies, maintaining coordinated multi-agency response capabilities throughout 2025.

February Earthquake and Tsunami Response

In February 2025, HMCI coordinated the national response to an earthquake and tsunami threat, activating communication protocols, conducting facility assessments, and providing timely public safety information. The event demonstrated the effectiveness of the earthquake and tsunami preparedness training delivered throughout the previous year.



Hurricane Melissa Response and Regional Support

Hurricane Melissa presented a dual challenge requiring both domestic preparation and regional humanitarian support. HMCI coordinated Cayman Islands preparation activities while simultaneously establishing and managing a Relief Hub to support Jamaica's recovery efforts. Working closely with the Office of the Premier (OTP) and the Cabinet Office on relief aid coordination and management of pledged assistance, HMCI facilitated the Jamaica Relief Trip, demonstrating the Cayman Islands' commitment to regional solidarity and disaster response cooperation.



Members of the Melissa Relief Team in Jamaica unloading goods.



Additional Activations

Throughout 2025, the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) was activated for multiple incidents including a missing person major incident and an Avian Influenza response. The Avian Influenza activation marked the first time the department activated for such a biological hazard, requiring HMCI to adapt existing frameworks and develop new coordination protocols. Daily Tactical Coordinating Group (TCG) and Strategic Coordinating Group (SCG) briefings were convened to ensure coordinated response across all involved agencies.

The Avian Influenza response yielded valuable lessons learned regarding the adaptation of the NEOC structure for biological hazards, communication protocols for emerging health threats, and multi-agency coordination in non-traditional emergency scenarios. HMCI worked closely with the Department of Agriculture (DoA), the Ministry of Planning, Agriculture, Housing, Infrastructure, Transport and Development (PLAHITD), and the Ministry of Health throughout the activation, establishing new pathways for animal and public health emergency coordination that will strengthen future response capabilities.



HMCI and NWS Hurricane season preparedness session.



HMCI team being trained on radio usage.

Internal Team Training and Capacity Building

HMCI invested significantly in internal staff development through comprehensive training programmes. Staff received training in Duty Officer protocols, participated in a surprise severe weather simulation exercise, and completed courses in radio communications, WebEOC emergency management software, and blue light vehicle operations. Critical training was also delivered in Incident Command at both the TCG and SCG levels, as well as specialised oil spill response training. These training initiatives enhanced team readiness and ensured staff competency across core operational functions.



Recovery

2025 marked a strategic shift toward establishing recovery as a distinct and deliberate focus area within HMCI, recognising that effective recovery is essential to restoring social, economic, environmental, and institutional systems following disasters.

National Recovery Plan Revision

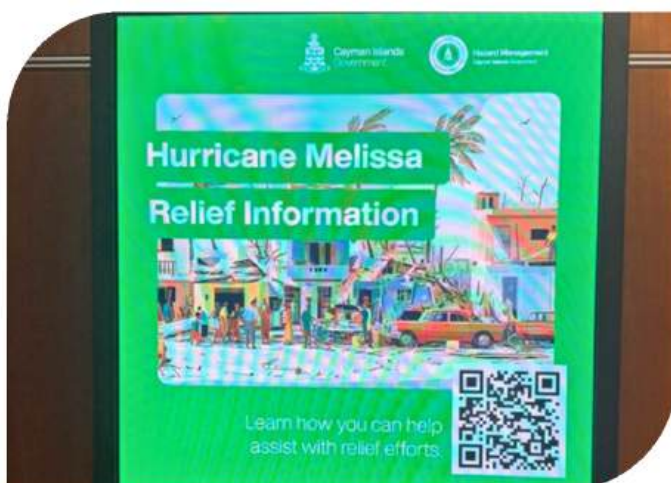
Work commenced on revising the National Recovery Plan (2017), presenting an important opportunity to modernise recovery arrangements, clarify roles and responsibilities, and align recovery planning with contemporary risk and resilience practices. This revision process will ensure that recovery planning reflects current best practices and addresses the evolving hazard landscape facing the Cayman Islands.

Business Continuity Integration

Consideration is being given to integrating Business Continuity within a broader Disaster Recovery Framework, ensuring that government services, critical infrastructure, and the private sector are better positioned to deliver essential services and resume operations following disruptive events. HMCI is responsible for reviewing all Cayman Islands Government Business Continuity and Operations Plans (CIG BCOPs), utilising the C2 platform to ensure comprehensive coverage and compliance across government entities. This holistic approach will support a more effective transition from response to sustainable recovery.

Relief Hub Development

The establishment of the Relief Hub in 2025 represented a significant advancement in the Cayman Islands' capacity to support regional disaster recovery efforts. Primarily utilised to coordinate support for Jamaica following Hurricane Melissa, the Relief Hub facilitated the management of relief aid and coordination of pledged assistance in close partnership with the Office of the Premier and the Cabinet Office. This infrastructure positions the Cayman Islands as a responsible regional partner capable of providing meaningful support to Caribbean neighbors during times of crisis.



Relief Hub artwork.



Governor Mrs Jane Owen and Premier Andre' Ebanks record Hurricane message.



Week of Gratitude

HMCI introduced the inaugural Week of Gratitude in 2025, recognising and celebrating the contributions of emergency services personnel, volunteers, and community partners who strengthen the Cayman Islands' resilience. This new initiative reflects HMCI's commitment to acknowledging the dedication of those who serve the community during emergencies and throughout the year in preparedness activities.



Together, We're Ready

Thank you for your
dedication to our Culture
of Readiness.

Audits and Governance

III Code Audit - Oil Spill

HMCI successfully completed the III Code audit for oil spill response preparedness, being recognised as best practice in this critical area. This achievement validates HMCI's comprehensive approach to oil spill planning, training, and partnership development.

Internal Audit - Hurricanes

An internal audit of hurricane preparedness and response protocols was conducted in 2025, identifying areas of strength and opportunities for continuous improvement. Findings from this audit will inform planning and operational enhancements for the 2026 hurricane season.

Conclusion

2025 was a landmark year for Hazard Management Cayman Islands, characterised by unprecedented community engagement, infrastructure expansion, and strengthened operational capacity across all four pillars of emergency management. From training more than 11,000 participants in the Caribe Wave 2025 exercise to establishing the Relief Hub for regional humanitarian support, HMCI demonstrated its commitment to both local resilience and regional solidarity.

The expansion of monitoring infrastructure, advancement of the National Emergency Notification System (NENS), and revision of the National Recovery Plan position HMCI to meet evolving challenges with enhanced capability. The establishment of the CERT Council, the successful completion of governance audits, and the brand refresh reflect organisational maturation and strengthened governance frameworks.

HMCI extends sincere gratitude to all our partners for their continued commitment and partnership throughout the year. Through multi-agency collaboration, active community engagement, and strategic partnerships with regional and international organisations, HMCI remains committed to its mandate of protecting lives, property, and the well-being of all residents and visitors to the Cayman Islands. As we look toward 2026, HMCI is better positioned than ever to build upon these accomplishments and continue strengthening national resilience.