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SAN DIEGO BLOOD BANK CALLS FOR BLOOD AND PLATELET DONATIONS

*Donations Needed Immediately to Replenish Products Sent to
Blood Bank of Hawaii During Storm*

SAN DIEGO (April 20, 2023) San Diego Blood Bank is asking San Diegans to donate blood and platelets immediately to replenish supply sent to the [Blood Bank of Hawaii](#) in the wake of thunderstorms and flooding across the state.

As a result of the storms, Blood Bank of Hawaii's main generator lost power, which could potentially cripple their existing inventory. Despite routine maintenance, the generator failed to maintain the load required to sustain power to the building. As of this morning, San Diego Blood Bank has sent platelets and may need to provide additional components, such as red blood cells. Blood Bank of Hawaii anticipates needing additional supply for a few more days until they can restore power, phone, and internet.

"Our community always responds when we put out the call for blood donations locally, and we hope for continued support in case further assistance is needed in Hawaii" said San Diego Blood Bank CEO Doug Morton. "San Diego Blood Bank is committed to helping with this effort and we will stay in touch with Blood Center of Hawaii to help however we can."

Blood donations are critical to patients undergoing various medical treatments, such as bone marrow transplants, chemotherapy, surgeries, and organ transplants. Platelets, which help control bleeding, have a limited shelf life of only five days and are urgently needed to save lives. Donating platelets takes approximately 75 to 90 minutes.

Similarly, red blood cells play a vital role in delivering oxygen to the body and are often used in emergency and operating rooms, especially for accident victims and anemia patients. Donating a double unit of red blood cells takes about 45 minutes.

Maintaining sufficient supply of both platelets and red blood cells is paramount, notably during emergencies.

To be eligible to donate blood, you must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 114 pounds, and be in general good health. Appointments will be honored first, walk-ins welcome. Eligible blood donors are encouraged to schedule an appointment at www.sandiegobloodbank.org or by calling 619-400-8251.

About the San Diego Blood Bank

San Diego Blood Bank is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization also operating as Southern California Blood Bank, serving hospitals throughout Southern California. San Diego Blood Bank is dedicated to community health by providing a reliable supply of blood to patients in need. Our

vision is to further ensure the health of our community by simultaneously delivering related health and wellness education and services and collaborate with various partners in medical research. San Diego Blood Bank currently operates nine fixed site donation locations and 10 bloodmobiles. For more information about San Diego Blood Bank, visit SanDiegoBloodBank.org or connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

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