

Sample Classroom Meeting Script*

Give Basic (and reassuring) Facts

As you know, there is a wildfire from Hurricane Dorian currently on Maui that has now been mostly controlled. Maui has done a great job of keeping people safe and healthy. Adults in charge of keeping us healthy and safe are making sure kids and families have the things they need during this time.

Reaffirm Safety

The wildfires are currently under control and not expected to harm other buildings. Help is being sent to those in need. On the island of (Oahu, Big Island, Kauai, etc.), where we had less damage from the Hurricane, schools and communities are safe and open. Schools continue to be safe places for students to be.

Addressing Emotions

Sometimes when there are big events like hurricanes or wildfires, people get upset or worried. You may be worried, you may not—both reactions are perfectly OK, as are all those in between. Right now, what is very important for you to know, is that if any of you would like to talk to an adult here at school about what is happening right now, we are happy to do so. Just let me know.

Allow Questions

You might have questions, and I would like to answer them. However, I may respond by saying that I will need to get back to you with an answer, or I may suggest that you need to ask your parents, or that something is a rumor and restate the facts. Also, remember, if you want to talk to someone about your feelings or reactions to what is happening at school and in Maui, tell me at any time and I can make sure to excuse you to a counselor who is available to help.

Does anyone have any questions?

[Insert here a fact sheet and responses to anticipated student questions]

**This script is adaptive from NASP PREPaRE curriculum for teachers to read to their classroom as a whole group. Please identify students who may need additional from the large group, assistance and refer to a school counselor, bhs, or school psychologist within your school. You may ask a mental health provider to be present while reading the script, but please know there are limited mental health providers at this time.*