



FIRE CHIEFS REPORT FY21-22: JULY

Hawai'i Fire Department

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TO THE FIRE COMMISSION

State of the Department

The State of the Department is good. Although challenges seem to pop up regularly, the dedicated staff are champions in managing the issues. As I enter my fourth month as the Chief, I am humbled by all of the efforts of the Department, to go above and beyond, to ensure we provide the community with the best possible emergency response and program administration. This is not to say everything is perfect, quite the contrary. We continue to have staffing issues in Dispatch and EMS, the Stations in general are in deplorable conditions, and much of our front-line equipment is past its lifecycle replacement date. Compounding these issues is the minimal funding in the training program. In short, we have a lot to do to resolve these long-standing issues. Key to that, is developing a Community Risk Assessment. We will be working over the next several months to develop a timeline and implementation program to engage the community on this assessment. Now, on to the summary for the past month's highlights.

Response Highlights

The following are the highlights from July 2021. The complete list of responses will be provided in the Emergency Operations Division Update.

- Incident # 13590 - 7/9/2021 Missing Swimmers Humuhumu Point. At approximately midnight, a call of two (2) missing swimmers was reported in District 20. Companies 20 and 7, Battalion Chief 2, and the US Coast Guard (USCG) responded and searched for the missing swimmers. Two (2) bodies were located by USCG, approximately half-a-mile north of the campsite. Company 7 personnel in Sea-Legs 7 were able to recover the bodies and take them to the Miloli'i Boat ramp, where they were turned over to HPD.





- Incident # 13927 - 7/13/21 Kamuela View Wildland Fire. On or about 2058 hours, the Department was dispatched to a runaway wildland fire at the Kamuela View Subdivision. Fire was above the community being blown by strong winds into the subdivision. No structures lost and fire was estimated to be 200 acres in size.



- Incident # 14199 - 7/17/21 DKI 43.5mm Wildland Fire. On or about 1430 hours, Battalion Chief 2, Company 9, 16, 14, 50, Chopper 1 & 2, five (5) Dozers, three (3) Black Hawk helicopters responded for brush fire that engulfed approximately 1800-2000 acres. Initial operations

with DOFAW and PTA took two (2) days to contain fire.

- Incident # 15240 - 7/30/21 Mana Road Wildland Fire. A fire which originated adjacent to Mana Road, was quickly spread by 20 to 25 mph winds in dry fuel, which spread into the community of Pu'u Kapu Farm Lots. The intensity of the fire and strong winds fanned the flames in the direction of Waiki'i Ranch and Waikoloa. This Multi-day and Multi-Agency incident stressed all resources to bring the fire under control. Three (3) structures were lost in the Pu'u Kapu Farm Lots subdivision. Over 40,000 acres burned.



Community Outreach

July was a busy outreach month with support of Fireworks permitting and the annual aerial displays.

The new Big Dog wildland engine was blessed on the 31st of July at Station 15. This was a donation by the Sayre Foundation. The ceremony was performed by Kahu Daniel Akaka.

BUDGET

FY 2021-2022

FY 2021-2022 - County Budget:

Total spending through July 31st is at 13.61% with 8.33% of the fiscal year completed.

Salaries and Wages

Closed at 13.48% Fire and 12.17% EMS

OCE expenditures closed at 21.28% in Fire, and 7.59% in EMS

State Funded Budget Items:

EMS reimbursements for FY 20-21 current to January for reimbursements. Remainder of the year is in progress and should be submitted by July 31st.

Alternative Funding and Grants

SAFER Grant - Grant submitted for six (6) Captain Positions and three (3) FF positions. No updates.

National Forest Service Grant (50/50 matching for \$50,000).

- a. Submitted for reimbursement for FY 18-19 (Received).
- b. Submitted for reimbursement for FY 19-20 (Pending).
- c. Submitted for reimbursement for FY 20-21 (Pending).
- d. Working on application for FY 21-22 (Completed and Submitted).

FEMA AFG for Covid-19 - grant period extended another year. No Updates.

FEMA AFG for 2021 has been completed and submitted we have submitted for extractors for all of our fire stations. No updates.

Grant from State of Hawai'i, Department of Health, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division. Training has started.

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) and the Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant opens on 30 September 2021 thru 28 January 2022 for submittals.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Internal Recruitment within Department:

- a. Fire Captain (Emergency Operations) - Pending scheduling of interview/assessment center.
- b. Fire Equipment Operator - 21 candidates passed the written exam. Pending interview/assessment center.
- c. Fire Prevention Inspector I - Pending scheduling of interview/assessment center.
- d. Fire Rescue Specialist - 16 candidates referred to participate in the Physical Assessment Exercise. PAE to be announced.
- e. Fire/Hazardous Materials Specialist - Fire Fighters Sean H. Tamura and Waylen Towata promoted effective August 1, 2021.
- f. Fire Radio Dispatcher III - Fire Radio Dispatchers II Richard Arias and Sandee Ozeki promoted effective August 1, 2021.
- g. Human Resources Assistant - Account Clerk Audra Paiva promoted effective August 1, 2021.

Internal Recruitment within the County:

- a. Accountant I - One (1) temporary position opened on August 8, 2021, and will close on August 17, 2021.
- b. Account Clerk - Submitted Request to fill-form for temporary position.

Open-Competitive Recruitment:

- a. Fire Fighter Recruit - 18 FFR candidates hired on August 2, 2021.
- b. Fire Radio Dispatcher I - Five (5) applicants received conditional offers. Medical exams have been scheduled. Tentative start date is September 1, 2021.

Classification:

- a. Reallocation of Prevention Bureau positions are still in process.
- b. Two (2) Water Safety Officer II (1/2T) positions temporarily reallocated to Water Safety Officer I (1/2T) effective August 1, 2021.
- c. One (1) Fire Radio Dispatcher I reinstated to Fire Radio Dispatcher II effective August 3, 2021.

Employee Development:

- a. Reasonable Suspicion Training July 26, 2021 - Four (4) employees attended.
- b. New Hire Orientation August 2, 2021- 18 Fire Fighter Recruits attended.



EMERGENCY OPERATIONS DIVISION

Total Calls for CY 2021

Type	July	YTD
Fire	109	589
Rescue and EMS	1,824	11,045
Hazardous Cond. (no fire)	27	136
Service Call	188	1,191
Good Intent calls	347	2,155
Fire Alarm / False calls	34	187
Severe Weather	1	10
Special Incident Type	2	2
Totals	2,193	15,321

BATTALION 1, East Hawai'i:

Apparatus updates:

- Rosenbauer build (BT-17), No recent updates from vendor.
- Recent discussions with the Dept. of Finance to identify the next units that need to be replaced through our apparatus replacement program. Next purchase anticipated for FY 2023.
- Recently working with Council Member Ashley Kierkiewicz and the Planning Department to purchase a new SCBA filling compressor, tow vehicle and spare tanks with PGV funds.

The recently donated Wildland Firefighting apparatus has been working out really well for our Wildfire responses. They have been heavily used and relied on at the recent fires that we had.

Working on acquiring a trailer for recently donated UTV by the Sayre Foundation for Capt. Cook Fire Station. Personnel completing ATV familiarization training.

Incidents:

- July 1, 2021, Inc# 12845; **Fire:** Upper Puna, District 5, Vehicle Fires, 3-vehicles on fire. No injuries or fatalities reported.
- July 2, 2021, Inc# 12939, **Fire:** Upper Puna, District 5, Structure Fire, 600 square foot residence, no occupants at scene.
- July 10, 2021, Inc# 13646, **Rescue:** Hāmākua, District 17, Fall from Cliff, diver fell from cliff approximately 50 ft. into ocean. Chopper 1 picked out of water with deployed rescue swimmer and brought to M01 pulseless and apneic. One (1) fatality. No other reported injuries.
- July 13, 2021, Inc# 13881, **Fire:** Hilo, District 3, Structure Fire, front lanai area of single-story residence, no occupants at the time of the fire. No injuries or fatalities reported.

BATTALION 2, West Hawai'i:

Apparatus updates:

Station 15 received a new Big Dog wildland fire response vehicle.

Incidents:

- July 1, 2021, Inc# 12861; **HazMat:** C07, BC2, and C021 assisted HPD and ATF with health monitoring for a possible drug lab in Kona Apartments.
- July 1, 2021, Inc# 12909; **Fire:** Brush Fire Hwy.190-13mm. C016, BC2, C09, C014.
- July 2, 2021, Inc# 12943; **HazMat:** Hazmat spill at Hwy. 190 and Waikoloa Rd. C016, BC2, and C021 assisted with clean-up and decon of 100- gallons of corrosive substance on Hwy.190.
- July 9, 2021, Inc# 13590; **Rescue:** Missing Swimmers Humuhumu Point in District 20, C020, BC2, C07, USCG. Two (2) bodies located by USCG, approximately .5 mile North. Two (2) male bodies recovered by C07 personnel using Sea-Leg 7 and taken to Miloli'i Boat ramp and turned over to HPD.
- July 13, 2021, Inc# 13927 **Fire:** Kamuela View Brush Fire.
- July 17, 2021, Inc# 14199 **Fire:** DK1 43.5mm Brush Fire. BC2, C09, C016, C014, C1, C2, five (5) Dozers, three (3) black hawk choppers responded for brush fire that engulfed approximately 1800-2000 acres. Initial operations with DOFAW and PTA took two (2) days to contain fire.
- July 20, 2021, Inc# 14433 **Fire:** Hwy. 190 Brush Fire 4mm. Companies 9, 16, 14, BC2, C1, C2, & volunteers responded for a brush fire Makai of Hwy.190, contained by responding units to four (4) acres.

Hazardous Materials Response:

- Confined Space Training scheduled in October for all HazMat personnel.
- Working on potential CAMEO training opportunity for HazMat personnel.

Ocean Safety:

- Water Safety Officer I (WSO I) vacancies: Working on filling additional vacancies for WSO's with Summer hires as of August 15, 2021. Two (2) positions to be filled.
- Street LG program for Ocean Safety incident reporting preparation continuing.
- RWC procurement status: Still awaiting sleds and mounting hardware. The second SKI anticipated for possible delivery in August.
- Storage container for Punalu'u Ocean Safety equipment storage has been delivered. Working on shelving for storage of equipment.
- Purchased a replacement ATV trailer for Punalu'u.
- Working on retrofitting and securing the new Office trailer for Kahalu'u that we received from State Highways. This one is twice as big as the previous office.
- Working on repairs for Hāpuna, Kahalu'u and La'aloa PA systems.
- New PA system for Kua Bay has been requisitioned. Awaiting installation by vendor.

Rescue:

- Rescue Boat 7 (Radon) impeller repairs have been completed and boat is back in service.
- Rescue Boat 7-7 (Force) awaiting scheduling availability with Force marine. **Status quo on scheduling with Force Marine.**
- Confined Space Training for Rescue Personnel has been scheduled for October.

SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

Training Bureau:

- The 50th Fire Fighter Recruit Class is underway with 18 recruits.
- All operations personnel have been assigned virtual training to prevent vehicle accidents.
- Annual HAZMAT Technician retraining has been assigned virtually to meet OSHA requirements.
- Application to provide Confined Space Rescue training for all assigned Fire Rescue Specialists and Fire HAZMAT Specialists has been submitted and targeted to take place in October 2021.
- Vehicle extrication demonstration with Genesis Rescue Systems scheduled for this month in Hilo, Kona, Waimea, and South Kohala.
- BC Springer and Captain Roback attended Mental Health First Aid Training.
- All Training Bureau Personnel and Recruit Training Officers attended forcible entry training at the Hilo ARFF station.

Volunteer Bureau:

- Continued printing and distributing PAS (Personnel Accountability System) ID cards for volunteers.
- Began volunteer portable and mobile radio updates. Anticipated completion by end of next month.
- Added one (1) new volunteer to Company 8-A Pa'auilo. We currently have 16 volunteer candidates in various stages in their recruitment process.
- This month's training has been focused on portable fire extinguisher training and safety. Training consisted of a class followed by a hands-on drill using portable fire extinguishers.

Fire Prevention Bureau:

- Fire Prevention Bureau completed the 4th of July events. This would include all fireworks shows. All events were successful without any major incidents.
- The Fire Prevention Bureau participated in training for the new electronic plan review system.
- The Bureau has continued working on reviewing plans and site inspections for various large construction projects e.g., Kona Village, Waikoloa Plaza, and Kona Brew to mention a few.

- One of our Prevention Bureau staff attended a 6-day class at the National Fire Academy entitled Managing Effective Fire Prevention Programs.
- The Fire Prevention Bureau investigated two (2) fires.

Maintenance Shop

Apparatus and equipment repair

- Sixty-seven (67) total repairs/service.
- Seventeen (17) service calls or trouble calls.
- Seven (7) contracted out and tows.

Received new Medic 14.

Auxiliary Services Bureau

- Still working with the Training Bureau to get all recruits sized and outfitted with gear for the start of recruit training.
- Fire Radio Dispatcher III (FRDIII) recruitment and interviews were completed and finalized. FRDII Sandee Ozeki and FRDII Richard Arias were promoted to FRDIII.
- Fire Radio Dispatcher I (FRD I) assessments and interviews have been completed. Final candidates are being sent letters of acceptance.
- A/BC Kelly Minami continuing to learn about the procurement process.
- A/BC Minami attended a radio programming class.
- Assisted with acceptance and inventory of donated equipment from Honolulu Fire.

Capital Improvement Projects:

1. Hawai'i County Emergency Communications Center
 - a. Anbe Aruga & Ishizu is the architect.
 - b. Hensel Phelps is the contractor.
 - c. Not finished with permitting review and plan approval. During this period DPW is reviewing the drawings to ensure that construction material and installation is coordinated and appropriate.
 - d. No official start date.
2. Waiakea Fire Station Electrical Upgrade
 - a. Engineering Partners Inc (EPI) is the engineering firm.
 - b. HELCO application for service upgrade submitted on June 28, 2021.
 - c. Preparing to submit for building permit.
3. Pāhala Fire Station
 - a. Engineering Partners is the architect/engineer.
 - b. Contract and funding approved. Awaiting schedule by consultant.
4. Hawaiian Paradise Park Fire Station Dormitory Addition
 - a. Department of Public Works (DPW) is the lead. EPI is the supporting engineering firm for mechanical and electrical.
 - b. In receipt of civil and plumbing proposal. According to the Purchasing Division, we have to go thru procurement again for the civil engineering portion.
 - c. Preparing additional (supplemental) services contract for EPI for plumbing.
 - d. DPW will submit for permitting while we are awaiting the contract for the civil component.
5. Central Fire Station Rehabilitation Project
 - a. Scott Fleming is the Architect.
 - b. The design contract has been approved and funding for the design phase has been allotted.

6. Kailua Fire Station
 - a. Will be purchasing a new generator through emergency procurement.
 - b. Civil Defense will loan us a generator. DPW to install temporary transfer switch.
 - c. Electrical permit will be required.
7. Waikoloa Fire Station/ Civil Defense Antenna
 - a. DPW is the architect/engineer.
 - b. The design is complete. Drawings are in the pre-final stage and being reviewed by project coordinator.
8. Kaumana Fire Station Plumbing Improvements
 - a. Inaba Engineering is the engineering firm
 - b. Design contract approved and we are waiting on the schedule for the design phase.
 - c. Survey to start in about 3 weeks (end of July).
 - d. Inaba will prepare schedule and submit.
9. Kaumana Fire Station Improvements
 - a. Scott Fleming is the Architect.
 - b. The contract has been awarded.
 - c. Awaiting funding.
10. Waiakea Fire Station Improvement
 - a. Scott Fleming is the Architect.
 - b. The contract has been awarded and we are waiting for funding for the design phase.

Chief's Briefing and New Business:

1. Transitioning Fire Commission meeting to Council Chambers:
 - a. Need to set up training for sites
2. EMS Downgrade/Paramedic Shortage:
 - a. Pro-pay being reviewed by DHR, working on a formal routing through Diane Noda.
3. Fire Prevention Statistics:
 - a. Will be transitioning to 8-hour schedules as of August 16th.
 - b. Moving to Electronic plan review.
 - c. Office re-org in Hilo location.
4. Currently starting the fiscal needs departmental analysis in preparation for the start of FY 22-23 planning.
5. Central Fire Station:
 - a. Property management looking for alternate location.
 - b. Looking at bringing in Forensic Engineer to determine long term stability of building.
6. MDT units, data on scene, GIS, and ICS

End of Report