

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Hawai'i Fire Department
25 Aupuni St., Suite 2501
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
fire@hawaiicounty.gov



TABLE OF CONTENTS:

- August 8th 2
- Budget 4
 - Fiscal Year 2023-2024 4
- Personnel Report 5
 - Internal Recruitment within Department 5
 - Open-Competitive Recruitment 5
 - Classification 5
- Operations 6
 - Statistics and Analytics 6
 - Emergency Operations Highlights 7
 - Battalion 1, East Hawai‘i 7
 - Battalion 2, West Hawai‘i 7
 - Special Operations 8
- Support Services 9
 - Emergency Medical Services Branch 9
 - Training Services Branch 10
 - Volunteer Training Section 11
 - Fire Prevention Branch 13
 - Logistics, Emergency Communications, and Vehicle Maintenance Section 13
 - Emergency Communications 13
 - Vehicle Maintenance Shop 14
 - Information Technology Highlights 15

AUGUST 8TH

For the better part of a week, we saw the accumulation of several factors that raised the attention of wildland responders of the threat that the atmospheric conditions were combining into a “worst case” scenario for much of the island. Hurricane Dora was predicted to pass south of the islands while a high-pressure system was settling in north of the islands. This was anticipated to create a vortex that had meteorologists anticipating winds of greater than 50mph and gusting as high as 80mph. This, coupled with extreme dry conditions, KDBI of 600, prompted the National Weather Service to issue a Red Flag warning for most of the island between 8/7 and 8/9.



02:46 – On 8 August 2023, HFD Dispatch receives a call from a motorist that was on the Akoni Pule Highway, between mile markers 7 and 8, reporting that there was visible smoke and flame in 10x10 foot grassy area on the side of the road. The winds were gusting, and the fire was growing. Companies 14, 15, and 9 were included on the initial response. It was reported that the fire was approximately a ½ acre in size and burning in grass/shrub mix. Company 14, first on scene, began a direct attack on the fire which was being pushed by gusty winds which kept changing directions. The Battalion Chief

requested T16 and the Volunteers to respond at 03:43. At 03:47, the fire jumped the Akoni Pule Highway and was burning on both sides of the road. Conditions continued to deteriorate as the winds continued to strengthen. At 03:52, the decision to evacuate residents from the path of the fire was made. This totaled 546 homes from the threatened subdivisions. Throughout the morning additional units were brought in to bring the fire under control. At the height of the fire there were 32 apparatus and more than 75 personnel.

05:02 – HFD Dispatch received a report of a brush fire in the Lalamilo Farm Lots, District 09 Waimea. Hawaii Fire Department (HFD) personnel from M09, E08, BR08, E17, BR17, BR01, T03, C1, BC2, F2 were the primary response along with Volunteer Companies 08A, 09B, 09A, 16B and Company 50. Winds were approximately 40-50 mph and the fire spread towards the Southwest from the area of origin. At the height of the fire there were 19 Apparatus and 49 personnel. This fire threatened 36 structures and could have had an impact in area electrical services.



15:25 – HFD Dispatch received a report of two brush fires burning adjacent to Spencer Beach Park and the Mauna Kea Beach Resort. It was reported that the two fires were growing rapidly and spreading towards the beaches. E14, T14, E16, E9, T9, T15 and BC2. At 15:35 the decision to evacuate the Mauna kea Beach resort was made, impacting approximately 220 homes. An intense firefighting effort was made in and around structures and critical resources. Numerous apparatus were reassigned from the Lalamilo and Akoni Pule Fires.



Impacts: With any large fire, let alone 4 burning simultaneously, there will be impacts. The most common hazards that are realized following these fires are the loss of vegetation, soil erosion, run-off impacts, and invasive/non-native species re-vegetation pressures. Additionally, when the fire burns within and around structures and infrastructure, capital losses are often realized. Where there was damage to several residences, no homes were lost in any of the fires. This is a credit to the aggressive and coordinated attack of the fire response crews. Unfortunately, there were losses to industrial and commercial structures, as well as infrastructures such as bridges, power, and waterlines.

Conclusions: This was a herculean effort by many organizations. Responders included the HFD, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife, National Park Service, Pōhakuloa Training Area, and community volunteers. This list additionally includes the various County, State and Federal partnerships which supported this effort. Numerous lessons have been gleaned from this series of events and has resulted to several changes to the pre-event posture and the response order during Red Flag events. The biggest change these fires have impacted is in how we preplan for these events. As global temperatures increase, the size and frequency of these fires is anticipated to be a more common occurrence. We are taking steps to prepare for this eventuality and developing measures to mitigate the anticipated risks.



BUDGET

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

COUNTY	Adj Appropriation	YTD Expenditures	% Used	Goal
S&W ONLY	\$40,379,243.00	\$8,048,223.51	19.93%	20.83%
OCE	\$6,370,972.15	\$1,609,247.65	25.26%	16.67%
EQUIPMENT	\$1,773,034.89	\$385,652.15	21.75%	33.33%
TOTAL	\$48,523,250.04	\$10,043,123.31	20.70%	

State-Funds

EMS

State grant award for FY 2024 remains at the same level as FY 2023 for a total of \$23,184,337.

Hāpuna Beach State Park

State grant award pending for FY 2024.

Kua Bay, Kekaha Kai State Park

State grant award pending for FY 2024.

Federal Funds

Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)

Federal Grant of \$3,511,641 for six (6) Captain positions and three (3) Fire Fighter positions for 36 months. As of 8/31/2023, we have expended 60.96% of the grant funds with 17 months remaining.

USDA, Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, State & Private Forestry

Federal grant award of \$156,120 (with County match of \$156,120) for FY 2023. This grant includes funds for two laptops, personal protective equipment, hoses and fittings, firefighting foam, a brush truck for Volunteer Station 20A and training. The bid for the brush truck for Volunteer Station 20A was awarded to Orchid Isle Auto Center for \$177,674.27. The grant period is extended through March 31, 2024. There is 6% of the grant award remaining.

USDA, Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, State & Private Forestry

Federal grant award of \$278,590 (with County match of \$278,590) for FY 2024, for a total award of \$557,180. We will use the funds to purchase PPE and three brush trucks.

FY 2021 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG)

Federal grant award of \$494,900 (with County match of \$49,490) for the period August 29, 2022, through August 28, 2024. The award for 17 30-pound Washer/Extractors and 21 Cabinet Air Dryers was awarded to Hawaii PPE Services, LLC in June. The grant is 71% expended as of 8/31/23.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Internal Recruitment within Department

Fire Rescue Specialist

Assessment center has not been scheduled yet.

Fire/EMS Specialist II

Internal recruitment will open on September 10, 2023 and will close on September 19, 2023.

Fire/EMS Specialist I

Fire Fighter David De Carvalho, Fire Fighter Aaron Knell, and Fire Fighter Tyson Pili reallocation to Fire/EMS Specialist I effective September 16, 2023.

Open-Competitive Recruitment

Fire Safety Specialist

DHR referred five names. Interviews have been scheduled for three candidates on October 2, 2023.

Fire Communications Officer I

Pending letter of interest and realistic job preview to be sent out.

Fire Fighter Recruit

New recruitment opened on August 27, 2023 and closed on September 5, 2023. Pending referred names from DHR.

Fire/EMS Recruit

New recruitment will open on September 10, 2023 and will close on September 19, 2023.

Professional Trainee I

Makena Ahuna hired effective September 1, 2023.

Senior Account Clerk

Lene Labrador promotion effective September 16, 2023.

Account Clerk

Kelly Lee hired effective September 18, 2023.

Water Safety Officer I

Interviews held on August 25, 2023 for nine candidates.

Classification

- One Accountant I temporary reallocation to Professional Trainee I effective September 1, 2023.
- One Water Safety Officer I reinstated to Water Safety Officer II effective September 1, 2023.
- Three Fire Fighter positions reallocated to Fire/EMS Specialist I effective September 16, 2023.

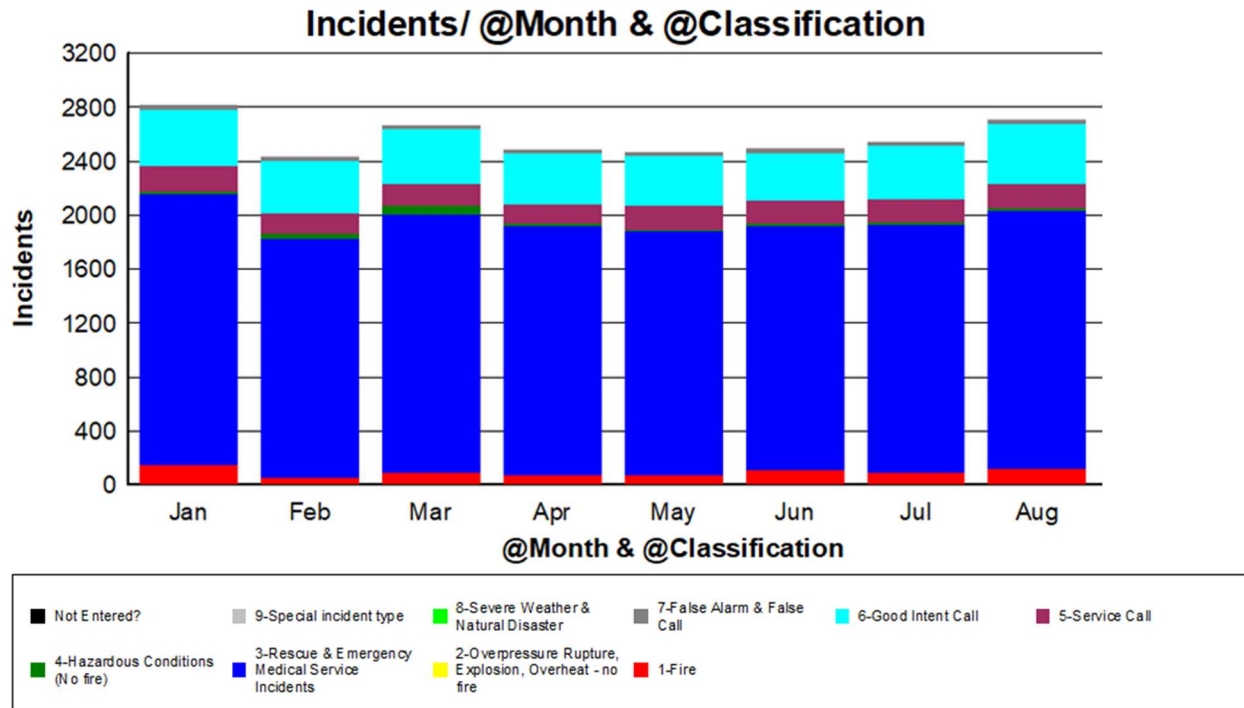
OPERATIONS

Statistics and Analytics

Total Calls for Calendar Year 2023

Type	August	%	YTD	%
Fire	119	4%	749	4%
Overpressure, Rupture, Explosion- no fire	0	0%	3	0%
Rescue and EMS	1,912	71%	14,910	72%
Hazardous Cond. (no fire)	22	1%	197	1%
Service Call	175	6%	1,347	7%
Good Intent calls	450	17%	3,150	15%
False Alarm / False calls	29	1%	237	1%
Severe Weather	0	0%	6	0%
Special Incident Type	3	0%	13	0%
Other (not completed yet)	0	0%	0	0%
Totals	2,710	100%	22,027	100%

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Est. 2023
Total Calls	25,331	26,869	25,015	27,398	29,594	33,041



Response Times CY 2023

Statistic	August	% that meet....	YTD	% that meet...
Avg. Turn out time (Fire)	3:33	(80 sec.) 9.79%	3:25	(80 sec.) 9.79%
Avg. Turn out time (EMS)	2:28	(60 sec.) 14.97%	2:28	(60 sec.) 13.85%
Statistic	August	% that meet 4 min.	YTD	% that meet 4 min
Avg. Response Time (Fire)	13:07	20.17%	11:49	20.32%
Avg. Response Time (EMS)	9:06	33.00%	9:16	31.30%

Fire Impacts CY 2023

Call Type	August	YTD
Wildland calls (140, 141, 142, 143)	27	145
Acres burned	1201	3,417
Structure Fires (110 & 111)	6	56
Property and Contents - Loss	\$1,152,725.00	\$5,123,030.00
Property and Contents - Save	\$514,775.00	\$1,495,515.00
Other fires (all other 100 series)	86	548
Property and Contents - Loss	\$7,500.00	\$143,300.00
Property and Contents - Save	\$2,500.00	\$3,000.00

Emergency Operations Highlights

Battalion 1, East Hawai‘i

- 8/9, Inc#18740, 18742 Brush Fires: Naalehu/ Pahala District 11, no injuries or fatalities. Pahala Fire suspicious in nature.
- 8/11, Inc#18922, Rescue: South Point/District 11, swimmer in distress, one victim self-rescued, no injuries, or fatalities.
- 8/13, Inc #19050, Structure Fire: 87 Kawaiilani St/District 03, structure fire at restaurant while closed with no reports of injuries or fatalities.
- 8/29, Inc#20409, Rescue: Shipman Beach, Ha‘ena/District 5, swimmer in distress, 1 fatality.

Battalion 2, West Hawai‘i

- 8/6, Inc #18431 Swimmers in Distress: Mahukona – rescued by company 15, Ski2, boats in area, C2

- 8/8, Inc# 18595, 18601, 18648 Brush Fires – Akoni Pule (750 ac.), Lalamilo (20 ac.), and Mauna Kea Beach (390 ac.) High winds, multiple structures threatened, 1 loss at Mauna Kea, no reported injuries or fatalities.
- 8/16, Inc# 19360 Rescue: Hiker Fell – Waimea, White rd., 18 y.o. male trespassing on illegal hiking trail, fell 80ft, multiple injuries.

Special Events: 9/19 Joy Mills Surf for Special Needs event at Kahalu’u beach. Kailua, Keauhou stations and Ocean Safety assisted.

Special Operations

Haz-Mat

- Finalizing specifications for new Hazmat 4 apparatus and pickup trucks for both stations.
- Kaumana ACE ID and Hazmat ID units completed repairs.

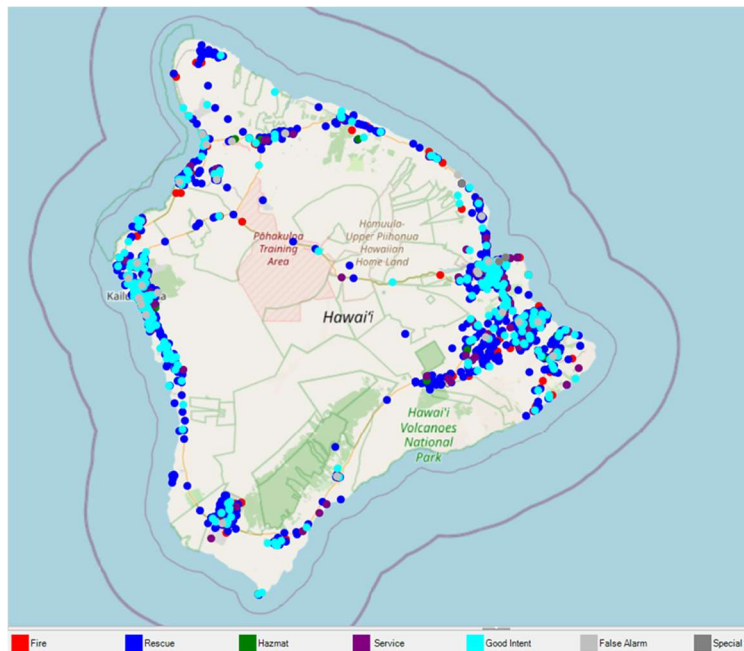
Ocean Safety

- WSO I Recruitment PAE and interviews completed on August 21 and 25.
- Jr Lifeguard program: 16 participants and 3 Instructors attended the state championships on August 19 on Oahu.
- Preparing for new Clerk recruitment

Rescue

- RB7 (Radon) update. All scheduled repairs have been completed. The boat was taken out in Hilo bay and tested. All repaired components works well. Completing minor trailer repairs and it will be placed in service. Trailer fenders need replacement.
- Finalizing X-Vehicle specs for both stations

Incident heat map for August 2023



SUPPORT SERVICES

Emergency Medical Services Branch

Controlled Substance Authorization Certification Renewal

We are currently working with the State Narcotics Enforcement Division to renew our controlled substance authorization certifications (Chapter 329 HRS). Once we receive the new certifications, it will be distributed to all medic stations for posting.



New Cargo Delivery Truck

Our new cargo delivery truck has arrived and will replace our current 12-year-old delivery truck. This bid was awarded to International Trucks of Hawaii at \$110,417. This cargo truck is used weekly to deliver EMS and warehouse supplies to all stations across the island. It was purchased with FY 22-23 funds.

Panasonic Toughbook Technology Seminar

Personnel from the EMS Branch attended the Panasonic Toughbook Technology Seminar in Honolulu that was held on August 15, 2023. This seminar focused on upcoming ESO updates and new computer hardware.

Hands-Only CPR Training

EMS Branch personnel assisted with a Hands-Only CPR training for the Waiakeawaena Elementary School staff. Approximately 70 people participated in this training.

Fall 2023 Paramedic Class

Our Fall 2023 paramedic class has begun and we have a total of 9 personnel enrolled in this class.

Ka'u Hospital Quarterly Meeting

The EMS Branch participated in our quarterly operations meeting with Ka'u Hospital. This meeting focused on a review of operational protocols, critical case reviews, and required chapter 72 pharmaceuticals.

New Helicopter In-Service Training

EMS Branch personnel are assisting with our new helicopter in-service training for the department. The training objectives and schedule will be distributed shortly.

Community Paramedicine Program

Our Community Paramedicine program continues to address high utilizers of the 911 system.

West Hawaii Kupuna Expo

The EMS Branch participated in the West Hawaii Kupuna Expo held at the West Hawaii Civic Center on Friday, August 25, 2023.

Training Services Branch



Recruit Class 52

Hawai'i Fire Department Recruit Class 52 started their year-long training process on August 1. The class is comprised of 20 total firefighter recruits, with 18 HFD, 1 HI-DOT ARFF, and 1 Pohakuloa Fire and Emergency Services candidates. The class has completed a significant portion of Essentials of Firefighting in accordance with Job Performance Requirements set forth in NFPA 1001 and will be gearing up for written and practical skills examinations to obtain Pro-Board Firefighter I certification.

Engine Company Operations I

Captain Keone Roback attended Engine Company Operations I at the Fire Department Training Network in Fairland, Indiana. The class consisted of three days of live-fire evolutions, to include fire streams, hose deployments, fire suppression, multi-story buildings, and stairwell operations. Fire Department Training Network is one of the premiere training centers in the nation with highly experienced and published instructors.



Virtual Training

Training provided three on-duty virtual training sessions to Operations personnel to digitize and improve data collection and documentation pertaining to structural firefighting, driver training, HAZMAT, and officer training. The "ISO: HFD Drill Report" initiative should provide more detailed reporting on training, improve operational safety, and provide the County with increased protection against litigation.

HFD Personnel Recognized



Firefighter Jordan Victorine was recognized while instructing Recruit Class 52 by Captain Mark Stephenson of Pohakuloa Fire and Emergency Services for off-duty actions taken to assist at a critical motor vehicle collision with multiple occupants entrapped on April 11, 2023 at mile marker 18 of the Daniel K. Inouye Highway. Firefighter Victorine was awarded the Hurst Green Cross for effecting a successful vehicle extrication rescue of a pinned victim. Several other off-duty personnel stopped on scene to assist and provide triage. On-duty HFD personnel were also recognized in the nomination letter for exceptional service to include Captain James Pacheco and Company 4, Medic 3, Medic 5, and AMR 1.



Volunteer Training Section

Support at Recent Brush Fires

Volunteer Companies 7-Bravo Kalaoa, 8-Alpha Pa'auilo, 9-Alpha Waiki'i, 9-Bravo Kanehoa, 14-Alpha Kohala, and 16-Bravo Pu'uana'hulu all played an instrumental role in ensuring the amount of land and structures lost was kept to a bare minimum during the Lalamilo, Kohala Ranch, and Mauna Kea Beach Hotel wildland fires. Had it not been for these volunteer companies' presence, the wildland fires' outcome would have been significantly worse. Over the course of several days that the operational period ran for these fires, these volunteer firefighters logged over 400 man-hours supporting fire operations.

AHA Heartsaver Training

The process of training Volunteer Firefighters in the American Heart Association's Heartsaver First Aid/CPR/AED began in July and continued into August. It required the completion of an online training course as well as an in-person CPR evaluation.

1-Alpha (Pepeekeo)

Performed a monthly training where they inspected and serviced their power tools, hydraulic tools, and performed station maintenance.

5-Charlie (Fern Forest)

responded to multiple callouts for vehicle/structure fires, a brush fire caused by downed utility lines, and even went to the Ka'u South Point brush fire.

5-Delta (Fern Acres)

Responded to multiple callouts for vehicle and nuisance fires. Two new volunteers were added with two more in process.

7-Bravo (Kalaoa)

Conducted 5 trainings and station maintenance on their own during the month of August. They also responded to a brush fire on Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway and another brush fire on Hualalai Road.

8-Alpha (Pa'auilo)

Responded on 8/21/23 via POV to "wires down with possible brush fire" in Pa'auilo Mauka. The volunteers were first on the scene and reported there was no arcing and no fire. Captain 8 stood down all other responding units via their report and assisted in firefighting operations at the Kukuihaeli Brush Fire and Pa'auilo Mauka Brush Fire. They were also toned out to six other small rubbish fires.

9-Alpha (Waiki'i)

Held blessing of the new Tanker 9A at Waiki'i Ranch on 8/27/2023. The truck was blessed by Kumu Akaka and funded by the community's generous donations. Company 9-Alpha conducted one other training on their own with their new tanker.

9-Bravo (Kanehoa)

Conducted 3 wet drills on their own during the month of August.



10-Delta (Ainaloa)

Volunteer firefighter Sheldon Santiago attended the Ainaloa Association meeting and requested funding from them to perform maintenance and upkeep on the Volunteer building which houses their vehicles and equipment. Painting of the exterior is underway.

(Pictured: VFF Kevin Orozco – Co. 10 Delta)

11-Alpha (Na'alehu)

Held a monthly training at their station and assisted in multiple brush fires in Ka'u.

11-Charlie (Discovery Harbour)

Assisted in the multiple brush fires in Ka'u.

16-Bravo (Pu'uanahulu)

Conducted two Saturday trainings on 8/19 and 8/26. They also responded to a brush fire on 8/18.

20-Alpha (HOVE)

Responded to and assisted in firefighting operations at the South Point fire on 8/8-9/2023.

Fire Prevention Branch

Highlights

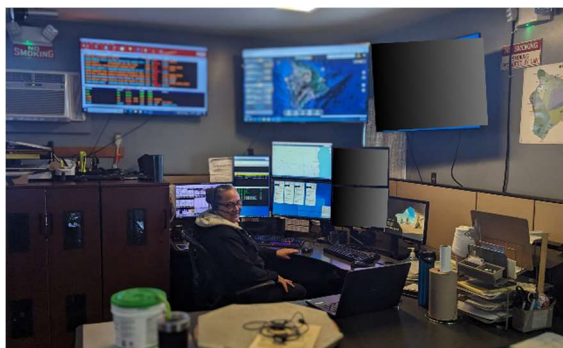
- The Fire Prevention branch investigated forty-six (46) complaints, conducted seventeen (17) fire investigations and two (2) residential safety inspections, gave two (2) public education presentations, and reviewed one-hundred seven (107) plans.

Fire Prevention Inspections

Inspection Type	August	FYTD
Commercial	73	102
Re-Inspections Commercial	30	61
Complaint Investigation	46	63
Fire Protection System Acceptance Testing	13	29
Educational	7	8
Re-Inspections Educational	0	0
Certificate of Occupancy	2	6
Tent Site Inspection	2	5
Fireworks Site and Storage	0	12
DOH Ag Burn Site Inspection	0	0
AST/UST/LPG Site Inspection	0	0
Occupancy Load Enforcement	0	0
Total	173	286

Logistics, Emergency Communications, and Vehicle Maintenance Section

Emergency Communications



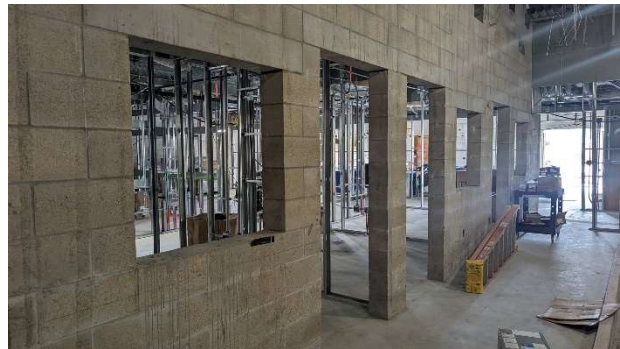
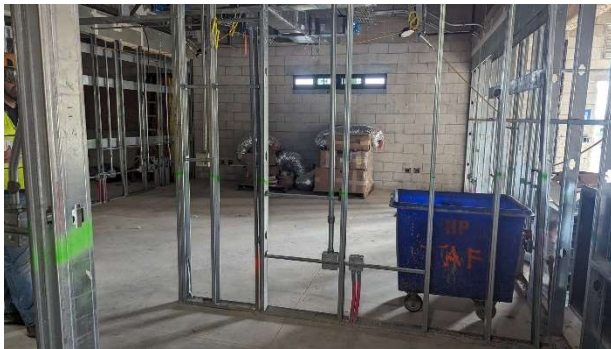
Fire Communications Officer I Class

We still have five FCO Is who are progressing and started having more radio time.

Pictured: Captain Domingo supporting the trainees in their live training.

Hawai'i County Emergency Call Center

Construction continues on the new Hawai'i County Emergency Call Center, with occupancy slated for May 2024. Photos provided by Assistant Chief Ian Chadwick.



Warehouse Help

FEO Gomes has been on light duty in warehouse and has been able to repair many stations small equipment issues. We appreciate his mechanical skill set!

New Ordering System

The new store site is up and running. We are continuing to work through the growing pains of yet another new ordering system. Thank you for your patience.

Records Requests

Our clerk L. Labrador completed 19 record requests for the month. Thank you!

In The Works

Multiple large projects are underway - replacement air bags, extrication tool replacements, and bed replacements are some of them.

Vehicle Maintenance Shop

Apparatus and Equipment Repair Updates:

Type	August
Repairs/Service Completed	83
Service/Trouble Calls	26
Contracted Out and Tows	11

Information Technology Highlights

- MDT installations for X08 and X09.
- Completed virus scan of Fire Department computer as requested by IT Department due to being flagged by county's firewall
- Joint Communication Center meetings
- Viper (Intrado) upgrade project meeting
- Haihai station site visit with Civil Defense about fire station radio setup.
- Attended Panasonic Technology Conference in Oahu
- Panasonic meeting about ESO (DOH mandated medical record reporting software) upgrades on State of Hawai'i managed Toughbooks for medics
- Fire hydrant mapping for Waikoloa Village to be added in to Spillman. New CAD workstations (for fire and police) initial specs for Joint Communication Center.
- Completion of RFP for new NFIRS software vendor.
- Finalize new eCommerce site and timeline established for site switchover.

END REPORT