

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

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COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

Brush Truck Blessing

April marked two significant apparatus blessing ceremonies for our department. On April 10th, the Akaka family led a traditional ceremony to welcome four brand new brush trucks to our fleet, thanks to generous donors and the Daniel R. Sayre Memorial Foundation. Attended by state and county officials, as well as philanthropists Marc and Lynne Benioff, the ceremony honored the vital role of these trucks in combating fires, including the Mana Fire of 2021.



Rescue Boat Blessing

On April 27, 2024, the Kailua Fire Station was the site of an important event with the inauguration of a new rescue boat named *Palekana* meaning "safe and protected" in Hawaiian. This event, marked by traditional Hawaiian rituals involving salt and water, underscored the community's unity and

commitment to enhancing safety. The Daniel R. Sayre Memorial Foundation donated the vessel, which will serve the island's leeward side, improving response capabilities to maritime emergencies. The boat will operate from the Kailua-Kona Fire Station, providing critical support to the local fishing and boating communities with its advanced equipment. The community's role in funding and support for the boat shows a shared dedication to safety and effective emergency responses. The new boat is equipped with state-of-the-art technology, including advanced navigation systems and rescue equipment, ensuring that the crew can execute high-efficiency operations under various conditions. During the ceremony, Mayor Mitch Roth conveyed deep appreciation to the Sayre Foundation and all who supported the project, highlighting the difficulty of funding such crucial equipment through usual budgetary processes and praising the community's spirit of collaboration that brought the project to fruition.

Wildfire Safety Symposium

The Hawaiian Electric Wildfire Safety Symposium, held on April 10-11, 2024, at the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center, UH Hilo, brought together wildfire safety experts from various sectors. The symposium focused on reducing wildfire risks in Hawaii by sharing insights on collective actions and discussing near-term mitigation strategies. Key topics included grid and wildfire safety strategy processes, identifying wildfire risk areas, and the role of climate change in wildfire risks. Participants also explored lessons learned from industry practices and discussed long-term strategies for improving safety and resilience. Of note, is the possibility of implementing a Public Safety Power Shut-off (PSPS) process. The PSPS program identifies areas that may be prone to wildfire ignitions due to downed powerlines and develop trigger points that would be utilized to de-energize portions of the grid prior to the probability of powerlines falling and creating fires.



ADMIN DIV: FISCAL BRANCH REPORT

Program Budget Goals	April	YTD	GOAL
Invoice Settlement within 30 days	94%	94%	90%
Pay-out of CILV's within 90 days	100%	84%	95%
Records Retention Schedule	0	0%	Mid-Year
Transition to Electronic Records	75.0	75%	75% Qtr
Option Years for Contracts	100.0	100%	45-Days

Budget	Category	Adj Appropriation	YTD Expenditures	% Used	Goal
Fire	S&W	36,958,536.00	30,952,135.94	83.75	87.50
6221-6225	OCE	5,825,464.83	5,068,269.92	87.00	83.33
	Equipment	2,098,805.38	1,970,344.35	93.88	83.33
Grants & Misc	S&W	1,408,679.03	810,038.98	57.50	87.50
6226	OCE	365,325.24	66,850.83	18.30	83.33
	Equipment	766,035.63	762,476.99	99.54	83.33
EMS	S&W	14,799,686.00	13,380,807.02	90.41	87.50
6227	OCE	2,870,647.77	2,080,748.52	72.48	83.33
	Equipment	1,724,417.50	1,657,173.64	96.10	83.33
Ocean Safety	S&W	5,273,052.07	3,457,042.04	65.56	87.50
6228	OCE	317,498.83	223,811.95	70.49	83.33
	Equipment	397,443.16	341,314.06	85.88	83.33
Total Budget		72,805,591.44	60,771,014.24	83.47	

Grant	Update
2023 CDBG	The bid was awarded to Orchid Isle Ford for three (3) Brush Trucks \$625,693. Delivery pending.
CDBG- MIT Wildfire Mitigation	The Planning Department is tasked with acquiring this equipment.
FY 2021 AFG	We are procuring items for the Fire Base Station Refresh Project. The grant is 94% obligated as of 4/30/24 with 4 months remaining.
FY 22 USDA Volunteer Fire Capacity Project	The bid for one brush truck for volunteer station 20A awarded, pending delivery.
FY 23 USDA Volunteer Fire Capacity Project	The bid was awarded to Orchid Isle Ford for two (2) Brush Trucks \$411,097. Delivery pending
Kohanaiki Lifeguard Tower (Fair Share funds)	Delivery expected at the end of the year.
Leleiwi Lifeguard Tower (Fair Share Funds)	Requisition with specs submitted to Purchasing.
Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)	This grant funds three Fire Captain and six Fire Fighter positions. As of 4/30/2024, we have expended 88.28% of the grant funds with 9 months remaining. Funding expected to run out in August 2024.

ADMIN DIV: HR BRANCH REPORT

Program Budget Goals	April	YTD	GOAL
Process actions within 15 working days	67	354	100%
Recruitment Actions >30 days	1	23	90%
Promotion Actions >30 days	4	26	90%
Personnel Actions within 30 days, <10% error	43	277	10%

Internal Recruitment within Department

Position	Status Report
Battalion Chief (Emergency Communications)	Interviews held for two candidates on April 5, 2024.
Fire Captain	16 candidates scheduled for written exam in Hilo and 7 candidates scheduled for written exam in Kona on April 30, 2024.
Fire Equipment Operator	Pending interview/Assessment Center schedule.
Fire/Hazardous Materials Specialist	One candidate passed the written exam.
Water Safety Officer III	Interviews held for 10 candidates on April 23-24, 2024.
Water Safety Officer V	DHR referred three names. Pending interviews.

Open-Competitive Recruitment

Position	Status Report
Fire Communications Officer I	New recruitment closed on March 31, 2024. Realistic Job Preview was held on April 26, 2024. Thirteen candidates participated. Pending scheduling of interviews.
Fire Equipment Mechanic	Hired Richard Furtado effective April 3, 2024.
Water Safety Officer I (Temp)	Conditional offer given to one candidate for summer hire. Pending pre-employment appointments.
Water Safety Officer I	New open recruitment closed on April 9, 2024. DHR referred 50 names. Letter of interest sent out informing candidates of PAE scheduled for May 9, 2024.
Fire Fighter Recruit (Temp)	Nine conditional offers and five alternate conditional offers were sent out to the candidates. All candidates have accepted the offer by the April 30, 2024 deadline.
Fire/EMS Recruit (Temp)	Two conditional offers were sent out to the candidates. One candidate accepted the offer by the April 30, 2024 deadline. The other candidate declined the offer as he has accepted the Fire Fighter Recruit conditional offer.

OPERATIONS

Emergency Operations

Total Calls for Calendar Year 2024	April	%	YTD	%
Fire	72	3%	320	3%
Overpressure, Rupture, Explosion- no fire	0	0%	3	0%
Rescue and EMS	1914	74%	7565	74%
Hazardous Cond. (no fire)	13	1%	71	1%
Service Call	154	6%	624	6%
Good Intent calls	377	15%	1472	14%
False Alarm / False calls	45	2%	153	1%
Severe Weather	0	0%	1	0%
Special Incident Type	3	0%	11	0%
Other (not completed yet)	5	0%	5	0%
Totals	2487	100%	10,225	100%

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (est.)
Total Calls	26,869	25,015	27,398	29,594	30,738	30,720

Response Times CY 2024

Statistic	April	% that meet...	YTD	% that meet...
Avg. Turn out time (Fire)	2:31	(80 sec.) 15.49%	2:43	(80 sec.) 13.38%
Avg. Turn out time (EMS)	2:13	(60 sec.) 15.92%	2:15	(60 sec.) 15.98%
Statistic	April	% that meet 6 min.	YTD	% that meet 6 min
Avg. Response Time (Fire)	2:31	15.28%	2:42	13.13%
Avg. Response Time (EMS)	2:13	19.08%	2:14	18.98%

Fire Impacts CY 2024

Call Type	April	YTD
Wildland calls (140, 141, 142, 143)	20	66
Acres burned	17	65
Structure Fires (110 & 111)	6	20
Property and Contents - Loss	\$288,700.00	\$2,853,700.00
Property and Contents - Save	\$87,500.00	\$2,377,600.00
Other fires (all other 100 series)	46	234
Property and Contents - Loss	\$18,101.00	\$1,668,802.00
Property and Contents - Save	\$5,000.00	\$35,100.00

Emergency Operations Highlights

Battalion 1, East Hawai‘i

- 4/15, Inc #24008985; **Structure Fire:** Kaumana Dr. /Dist. 4, single family structure with significant damage throughout, which also had a 120gal propane cylinder venting and on fire. Fire controlled and extinguished with Gas Company called to cap cylinder. One occupant evacuated prior to arrival and with no injuries.



- 4/18, Inc#24009185; **Structure Fire:** Hakalau/Dist. 1, Structure located in a remote area with limited access due to bridge closures. All exterior walls collapsed prior to arrival, 911 system down, Aircraft in the area called this incident into the Air Traffic Control Tower. No injuries or fatalities.

Battalion 2, West Hawai‘i

- 4/4, Inc#24008023; **Brush Fire:** Puako, High winds, ½ acre. No homes damaged.
- 4/22, Inc#24009563; **Brush Fire:** 14.5 MM Akoni Pule. 10 X 200ft. No homes or property damaged.
- 4/25/2024 Inc#24009799, **Brush Fire:** 12 MM Akoni Pule, ¼ acre. No homes or property damaged.

Special Operations

Haz-Mat

- CST training for Hazmat companies completed on April 15-19
- Planning for Full scale multi-Agency drill exercise with CST in June
- Planning also for HazMat sapling training with Dept. of Health for Sept.

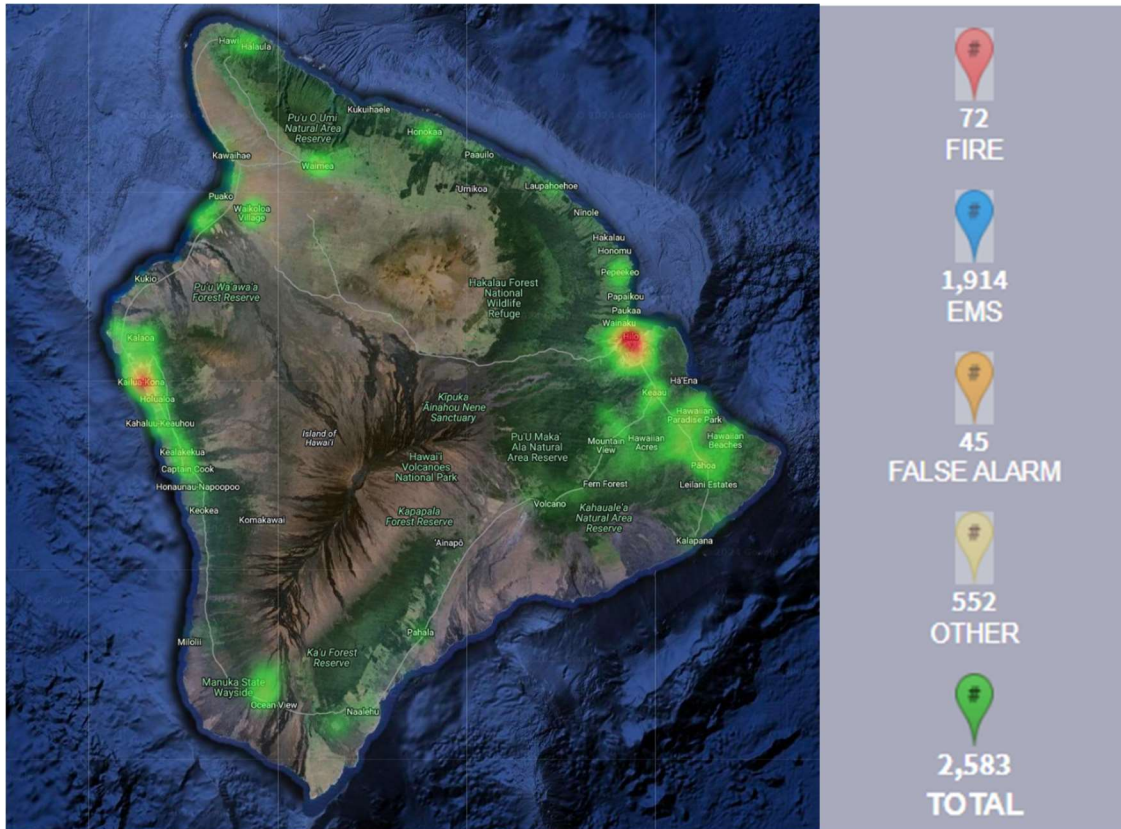
Ocean Safety

- 1 WSO I candidate to be hired on May 16.
- Second WSO I PAE was scheduled for May 9, interviews scheduled for May 29-30
- WSO III recruitment interviews were completed April 23-24, promotions to take effect on June 1.

Rescue

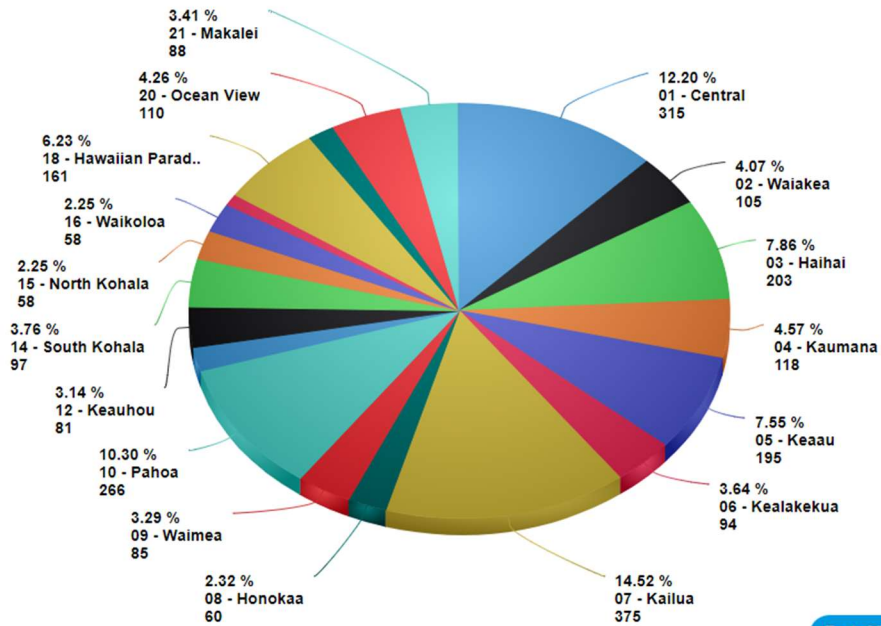
- Radon scheduled to go into Riddle Marine the week of May 13-17.
- New 27' Hoku Rescue boat for Kailua Fire station blessing conducted on April 27. Working on transfer of ownership and final equipment calibration.

Incident heat map and YTD stats for April 2024



[Link for Station Call Volume Breakdown](#)

Incidents by Stations
04/01/2024-04/30/2024



Total of Station: 2,583

SUPPORT SERVICES

Emergency Medical Services Branch

ESO Wave Conference

Captain M. Lam attended the ESO Wave Conference in Austin, TX. At this conference Captain M. Lam received extensive training on data gathering and report generation. His attendance at this conference was funded by the State Department of Health.



ALERRT Training

Both EMS Branch and Training Branch personnel assisted HPD with a three-day ALERRT Active Shooter Training on April 8th – 10th. Approximately 30 personnel from HPD and HFD participated in this training.



I-Gel Airway Webinars

The EMS Branch facilitated three I-Gel Supraglottic Airway webinars. These optional webinars provided an opportunity for more education and time for HFD personnel to familiarize themselves with this new airway device.

State DOH Meeting

The EMS Branch personnel participated in the quarterly State Department of Health Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee meeting held on April 17th.

FMS II Assessment Center

A Fire Medical Specialist II assessment center was held on April 18th.

Waiakea High School Health Academy

EMS Branch personnel participated as voluntary judges for the Waiakea High School Health Academy senior project presentations.

Fall 2023 Paramedic Class

The eight personnel in the Fall 2023 paramedic class completed their second rotation of internship at the end of April. They will begin their third rotation at the beginning of May.

52nd Firefighter Recruit Class

The 52nd firefighter recruit class has completed EMT training and is currently back with the Training Branch.

Training Services Branch

53rd Recruit Class

53rd Recruit class interviews were conducted on April 1-3, with names referred to Fire HR to provide conditional offers for employment.

Active Attack Integrated Response (AAIR) Training

The Active Attack Integrated Response (AAIR) training was opened to operations personnel, designed to improve the safety and survivability of victims of active attack / shooter events and increase the effectiveness, coordination, and resource integration between law enforcement, fire, tele-communications, and EMS when responding to these events. Twelve personnel attended the three-day training held at the old Hamakua Court House and the Hilo Civic.



52nd Recruit Class Updates

The 52nd Recruit Class completed Fire Ground Survival. Curriculum included Mayday prevention, preparing for the Mayday, self-survival procedures, self-survival skills, and expectations of command. Recruits studied near-misses and fatalities to reinforce the learning of each of the five parts.

The 52nd Recruit Class and HFD Volunteer Firefighters attended Wildland Firefighting Training at Pohakulo'a April 29th to May 3rd. Lessons included wildland fire behavior, recognition of potentially hazardous situations, and human performance concepts as part of basic wildland firefighter training. The week was concluded with a pack exercise consisting of a 45-pound pack over a distance of 3 miles in 45 mins or less.

Volunteer Training Section

Quarterly Captains' Meeting

The Volunteer Captains' meeting was held at Ainaloa on 4/20/24. In attendance were Deputy Chief Moller and County Councilmember Ashley Kierkiewicz. More volunteer issues were discussed, and volunteers were recognized for years of service. Various personnel took their oaths.





Multi-Company Drill

Volunteer Companies 7B-Kalaoa, 8A-Pa’auilo, 9A-Waiki’i, 9B-Kanehoa, 14A-Kohala, and 16B-Pu’uanahulu participated in a multi-company drill held at Mauna Lani. The exercise was a simulated large brush fire rapidly approaching a heavily populated area. During this drill, an emphasis on the Incident Command System (ICS), communications, apparatus placement, water usage and conservation, wildland urban interface firefighting, and safety was implemented.



1-A (Pepeekeo)

Company 1A – Pepeekeo Volunteers - responded to two structure fires and participated in both the Merrie Monarch Parade, and the Boys Scout’s Makahiki Festival.

7-B (Kalaoa)

Volunteer Company 7B-Kalaoa responded to a smoke sighted call out and two rubbish fires. Their training for the month of April focused on the wildland urban interface.

8-A (Pa'auilo)

Volunteer Company 8A-Pa'auilo responded to a smell of smoke call out and attended a multi company training in Mauna Lani.

9-B (Kanehoa)

Volunteer Company 9B-Kanehoa focused on wildland firefighting this month with an emphasis on pump and roll capabilities. Co. 9B also participated in retired HFD Assistant Chief Ralph Yawata's Junior Fire Program at Honoka'a High School. Co. 9B brought their Big Dog 9B to supply water for their hose drills, spoke with students about the volunteer program, and showed them their apparatus.

19-A (Volcano)

Company 19A – Contributed 75 hours of volunteer time towards the County Fire Department.

Fire Prevention Branch

Fire Investigations

The Fire Prevention Branch investigated one structure fire during the month of April. The incident happened in District 4. The fire in District 4 is being classified as Undetermined, as the structure was not stable enough for Investigator entry, and most of the area of origin was almost completely destroyed by the Fire.



In a recent report by the ATF, evidence recovered in a high-profile structure fire in July 2023 in Holualoa, North Kona was examined by ATF laboratory and was deemed a capacitor with no evidence of an electrical failure. The cause of the fire remains Undetermined.

Public Education

We continued to push out information on our social media channels. We started a podcast called “Fire Tip Tuesdays” where we pick a topic and educate the public on the subject. See the podcasting series and other videos on our YouTube channel here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@HawaiiFireDepartment>



Wildfire Preparedness

Two residential home assessments were conducted in April. A meeting was held with Waikoloa Hills HOA officials and HWMO regarding wildfire preparedness such as defensible spaces, hardening their homes, creating a safe home in the Wildland Urban Interface area, Evacuation Plans, Fire Department Resources, and point out areas of concerns within the subdivision. We continue to partner with HWMO to reduce the impact of wildfire on our Island.

Prevention met with Kamehameha School Officials who provided information on their fuel reduction efforts in North Kona. Fuel reduction efforts have been completed on Hualalai Road below Queen K. Highway Extension and near the Walua walking trail.

Discussions have begun with the company N5 to install imaging cameras in high frequency wildfire areas. Although discussions are still ongoing, we hope to have progress soon as wildfire season is upon us, and early detection is key to our wildfire suppression efforts. See a little bit about the sensors here: <https://n5sensors.com/wildfire-monitoring/>.

Monthly Totals (All Inspectors)	April
Certificate of Occupancy	2
Commercial	8
Re-Inspections Commercial	26
Educational	11
Re-Inspections Educational	4
Fire Protection System Acceptance Testing	29
Complaint Investigation	2
AST/UST/LPG Site Inspection	14
Tent Site Inspection	3
Total	99
Plan Review	81

Logistics, Emergency Communications, and Vehicle Maintenance Section

Emergency Communications

Recruitment and Personnel Updates

- Three FCO I were promoted to FCO II, we are continuing class with 5 FCO I
- The Realistic Job Preview was done on 4/26 for the upcoming FCO class.
- Captain Domingo was promoted to Battalion Chief of Fire Communications Section effective May 1st. Congratulations BC Domingo!
- Please welcome new Fire Equipment Mechanic Richard (Aka) Furtado

Apparatus and Equipment Repair

- One-hundred fifty (150) total repairs/service.
- Fifteen (15) service calls or trouble calls.
- Seven (7) contracted-out and tows

Information Technology Highlights

- Finish MDT setups for engines received from Honolulu Fire Department. When these spare engines are going in service for an engine they can dock the MDT from that engine.
- Complete required Spillman patch on all MDTs.
- MDTs for E21 and X08 sent to Panasonic for repairs.
- Work with Hawaiian Telcom on phone lines repair at Central Fire Station.
- Joint Communication Center (JCC) meeting. Tentative building completion date 6/24/24. Occupation date TBD.
- ProQA meeting about adding fire module.
- 2nd NetMotion (VPN) meeting.

SAFETY SPECIALIST REPORT

During April, the Safety Specialist oversaw various safety initiatives. Despite ongoing efforts to obtain updates on the Central Fire Station inspection from HiOSH, progress remained elusive. Nonetheless, Safety remained proactive, disseminating notices regarding potential hazards like a Recall of Hyundai and Kia Vehicles due to fire risk, Elide Brand Fire Extinguisher Balls, Avian Influenza, a Pertussis outbreak, E. coli outbreak linked to walnuts, and nighttime runway maintenance at Hilo International Airport. Additionally, through collaborations with the Warehouse, Treadmill Safety Flyers have been distributed with each new treadmill, and Field Decontamination Kits were distributed throughout the island. Collaboration remains a crucial focus, evident in meetings such as the HFD/HFFA Joint Safety Committee, which recommended several program renewals and policy approvals. The Committee is conducting a department-wide Health and safety culture survey beginning the last week of April through May 8th.



Safety assumed some duties related to coordinating continuity of operations planning, ensuring the department's ability to function effectively during unforeseen circumstances. HFD Admin exercised the COOP plan coinciding with a state-wide tsunami exercise on April 25th (photo below). During April, Safety reviewed seven Incident/Accident Reports (3-Incident, 4 Accident). Five of the seven involved Fire Ops, and the other two involved Ocean Safety. Four vehicle/equipment/property damage reports were reviewed in April.

END REPORT