

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

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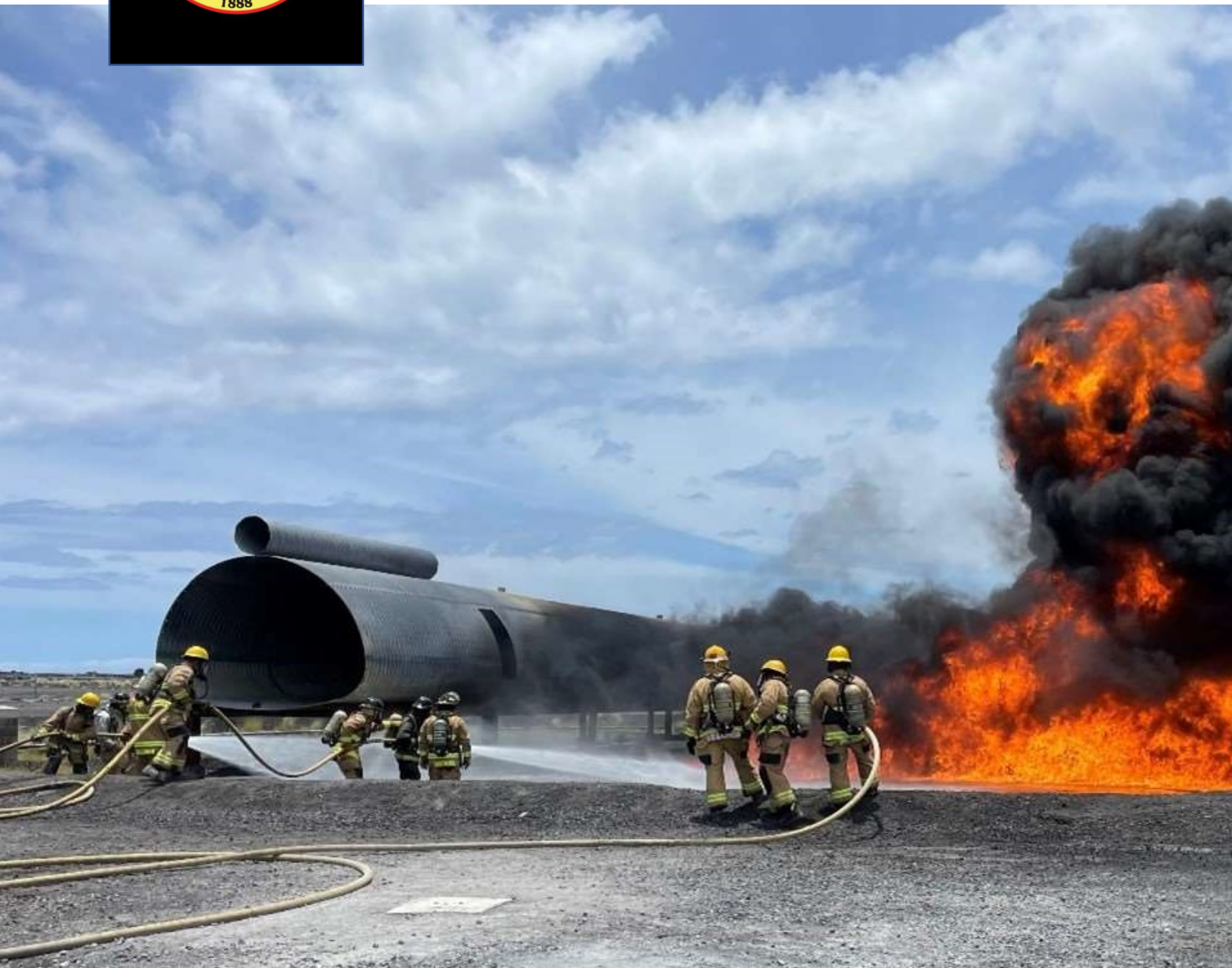


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MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

Team Rubicon's OP Kōkua Waikōloa

Operation Kōkua Waikōloa is a crucial initiative aimed at disaster preparedness and wildfire mitigation in Hawaii, reflecting Team Rubicon's commitment to supporting communities before, during, and after disasters. By leveraging the skills of veteran and civilian volunteers known as Greyshirts, the operation focuses on training, preparedness, and direct action to mitigate the risks associated with wildfires and natural disasters. Volunteers from across the islands and the mainland, including residents who received specialized training in vegetation clearance, participated. This approach ensured that disaster response skills and knowledge remained within the community, enhancing its long-term resilience.



Hawaii Fire Department played a vital role in supporting the operation by providing 5-gallon coolers, backpack firefighting pumps, and ice, ensuring that volunteers were equipped to handle any fire-related emergencies. This collaboration between Team Rubicon and the local fire department underscores the importance of coordinated efforts in disaster preparedness and response, enhancing the overall effectiveness and safety of the operation. The operation's success demonstrates the effectiveness of combining veteran expertise with civilian enthusiasm to address complex challenges like wildfire prevention and disaster preparedness, highlighting the importance of community involvement and capacity-building initiatives.

COH Leadership Engages in TEEEX Training for Enhanced Crisis Management

In a proactive move to bolster the island's disaster preparedness and crisis management capabilities, leaders from the County of Hawaii participated in a comprehensive training program conducted by the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX). The training sessions took place from May 7th to 9th, 2024, at the County Civil Defense. It focused on critical aspects of emergency management, Crisis Leadership, Senior Officials Workshop, and Whole Community Emergency Management Planning.

The TEEEX training program is renowned for its rigorous and practical approach to emergency management education. During the three-day event, county leaders engaged in a series of workshops and simulations designed to enhance their strategic and operational readiness. The Crisis Leadership module aimed to equip officials with the skills necessary to lead effectively during emergencies, ensuring clear communication, decisive action, and efficient resource management.

The training sessions also highlighted the importance of community engagement and the use of local resources in disaster preparedness. By involving community leaders and stakeholders, the program aimed to foster a culture of preparedness that extends beyond government agencies.

Participants left the training with a deeper understanding of their roles and responsibilities in emergency management, as well as practical tools and strategies to implement in their respective jurisdictions. This enhanced preparedness is expected to lead to more effective and coordinated responses to future emergencies, ultimately safeguarding the residents of Hawaii County.

ADMIN DIV: FISCAL BRANCH REPORT

Program Budget Goals	May	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	33,804,070.16	91.46	95.83
6221-6225	OCE	5,826,864.83	4,395,001.92	75.43	91.67
	Equipment	2,098,805.38	1,732,178.52	82.53	91.67
Grants & Misc	S&W	1,408,679.03	889,896.83	63.17	95.83
6226	OCE	365,325.24	109,361.50	29.94	91.67
	Equipment	766,035.63	635,713.54	82.99	91.67
EMS	S&W	14,799,686.00	14,426,353.51	97.48	95.83
6227	OCE	2,870,647.77	2,411,051.17	83.99	91.67
	Equipment	1,724,417.50	1,657,173.64	96.10	91.67
Ocean Safety	S&W	5,273,052.07	3,780,861.96	71.70	95.83
6228	OCE	317,498.83	240,303.83	75.69	91.67
	Equipment	397,443.16	308,518.71	77.63	91.67
Total Budget		72,806,591.44	64,390,329.87	88.44	

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 5/31/24 with 3 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 5/31/2024, we have expended 91.77% of the grant funds with 8 months remaining. Funding expected to run out in August 2024.

ADMIN DIV: HR BRANCH REPORT

Program Budget Goals	May	YTD	GOAL
Process actions within 15 working days	62	416	100%
Recruitment Actions >30days	1	24	90%
Promotion Actions >30days	6	32	90%
Personnel Actions within 30 days, <10% error	36	313	10%

Internal Recruitment within Department

Position	Status Report
Battalion Chief (Emergency Communications)	Fire Captain Stacy Domingo promotion effective May 1, 2024.
Fire Captain	Six candidates passed the written exam. Pending interview/Assessment Center schedule.
Fire Equipment Operator	Pending interview/Assessment Center schedule.
Fire/Hazardous Materials Specialist	Pending interview/Assessment Center schedule.
Fire Training Specialist	Recruitment opened on May 12, 2024 and closed on May 21, 2024. DHR referred one candidate. Pending interview/Assessment Center schedule.
Water Safety Officer III	Four candidates received Formal Offers. Promotion effective June 1, 2024.
Water Safety Officer IV	Submitted Request to Fill to DHR for recruitment.
Water Safety Officer V	Pending scheduling of interviews.

Open-Competitive Recruitment

Position	Status Report
Fire Communications Officer I	Interview and practical assessment letters scheduled on June 10, 2024 and June 12, 2024 sent out to 13 candidates.
Water Safety Officer I (Temp)	Hired William Petrovic effective May 16, 2024 NTE August 12, 2024.
Water Safety Officer I	13 candidates passed the PAE held on May 9, 2024. Interviews scheduled on May 29, 2024 and May 30, 2024.
Fire Fighter Recruit (Temp)	Orientation held on May 23, 2024 for 14 candidates. Pre-entry medical appointments scheduled on May 28-31, 2024.
Fire/EMS Recruit (Temp)	Orientation held on May 23, 2024 for candidate. Pre-entry medical appointments scheduled on May 28-31, 2024.
Account Clerk (Temp)	Submitted Request to Fill to DHR for recruitment.

OPERATIONS

Emergency Operations

Total Calls for Calendar Year 2024	May	%	YTD	%
Fire	55	2%	375	3%
Overpressure, Rupture, Explosion- no fire	0	0%	3	0%
Rescue and EMS	2,029	76%	9,594	74%
Hazardous Cond. (no fire)	9	0%	80	1%
Service Call	180	7%	804	6%
Good Intent calls	391	14%	1,863	14%
False Alarm / False calls	34	1%	187	1%
Severe Weather	0	0%	1	0%
Special Incident Type	2	0%	13	0%
Other (not completed yet)	9	0%	9	0%
Totals	2709	100%	12,929	100%

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (est.)
Total Calls	26,869	25,015	27,398	29,594	30,738	31,030

Response Times CY 2024

Statistic	May	% that meet...	YTD	% that meet...
Avg. Turn out time (Fire)	3:22	(80 sec.) 12.96%	2:49	(80 sec.) 13.32%
Avg. Turn out time (EMS)	2:24	(60 sec.) 14.81%	2:17	(60 sec.) 15.73%
Statistic	May	% that meet 6 min.	YTD	% that meet 6 min
Avg. Response Time (Fire)	3:19	8.93%	2:47	12.50%
Avg. Response Time (EMS)	2:23	20.01%	2:16	19.20%

Fire Impacts CY 2024

Call Type	May	YTD
Wildland calls (140, 141, 142, 143)	13	79
Acres burned	6	71
Structure Fires (110 & 111)	6	26
Property and Contents - Loss	\$165,700.00	\$3,019,400.00
Property and Contents - Save	\$00.00	\$2,377,600.00
Other fires (all other 100 series)	37	271
Property and Contents - Loss	\$10,800.00	\$1,679,602.00
Property and Contents - Save	\$1,000.00	\$36,100.00

Emergency Operations Highlights

Battalion 1, East Hawai‘i

- 5/2, Inc #10394; HazMat: Aloha Island Mart/District 1, Carbon Dioxide leak which activated the alarm, all employees and customers evacuated, CO2 shutoff, store ventilated and closed for the evening. No injuries or fatalities.
- 5/10, Inc #11060; Rescue: “Narnia”/District 1, Two (2) people trapped by flood waters were located and extricated via Chopper 1. No injuries or fatalities.
- 5/19, Inc #11871; Search & Rescue: Cloud Rest off of Cane Haul Rd/District 11, Two (2) maile pickers lost in forest were located and extricated via Chopper 1. No injuries or fatalities.

Battalion 2, West Hawai‘i

- 5/11, Inc. # 240011133; Swift Water Rescue: Two parties stranded by flash flooding in KWHE harbor area. Rescued by Co14, BC2, & Rescue 7. No Injuries. KWHE area and businesses with multiple flooded areas.
- 5/16, Inc. #240011537; Structure Fire: Kawaihae Rd. Storage Building. Large refrigeration storage container, converted to household utility and storage building. Offensive strategy due to adjacent warehouse and residential exposures. Fire contained to involved building.
- 5/18, Inc. #240011757; Structure Fire: Units responded to washerette to find smoke and flames from building. Offensive operations limited spread to other businesses. No injuries.

Special Operations

Haz-Mat

- Full scale multi-Agency drill exercise with CST scheduled for June 4.
- Preparing for next fiscal year’s equipment purchases.

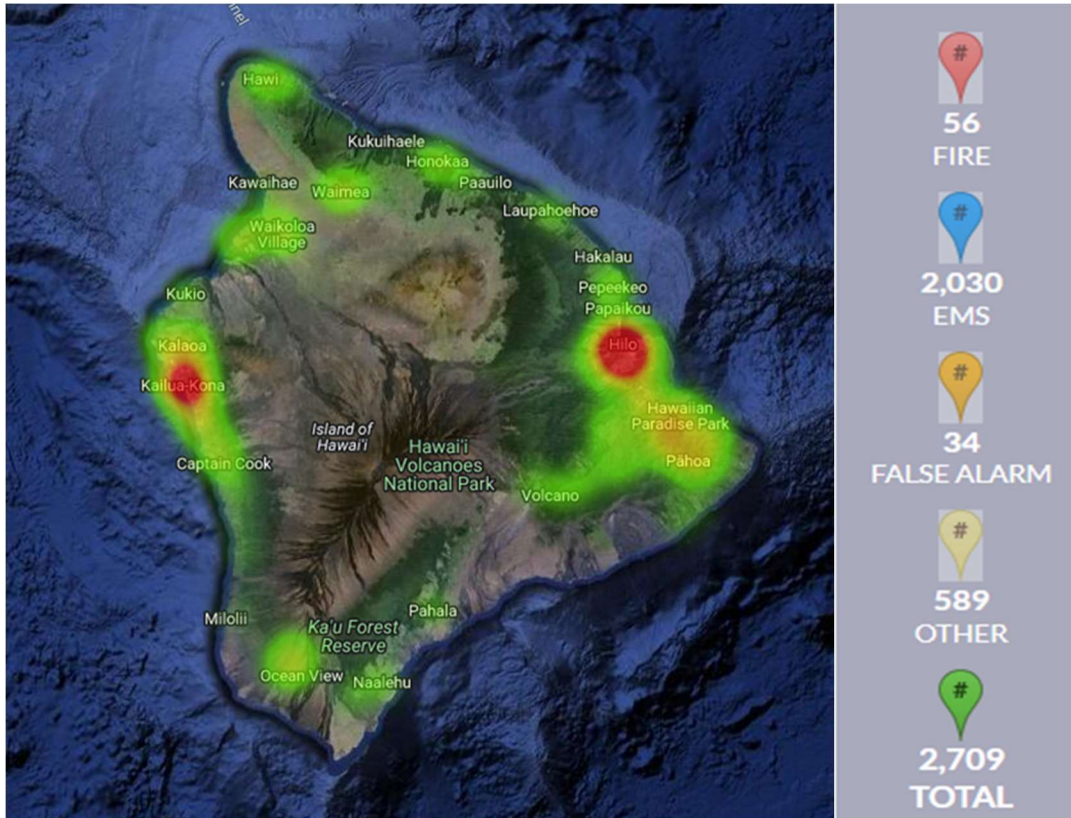
Ocean Safety

- WSO I interviews completed on May 29-30.
- WSO III promotions to take effect on June 1.
- Jr. Lifeguard program planning ongoing.

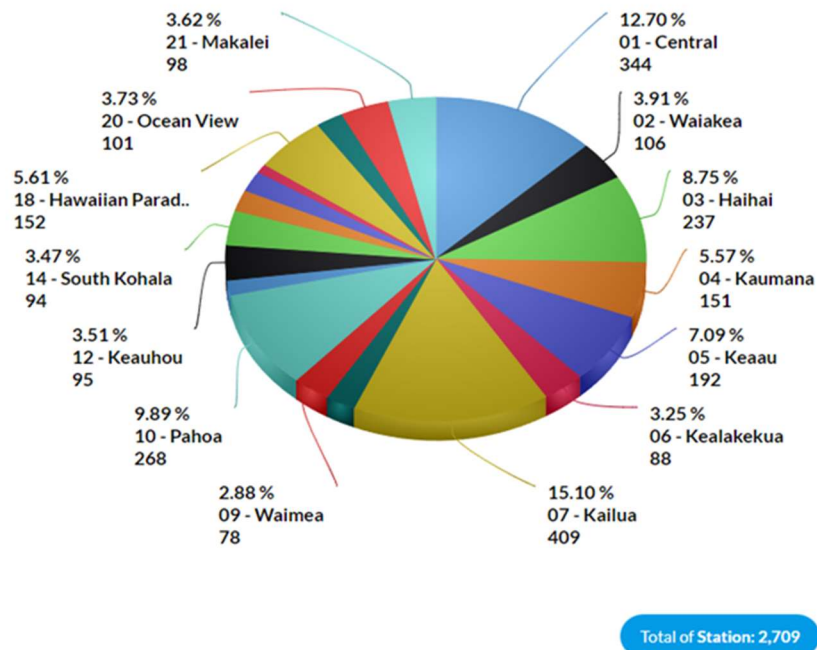
Rescue

- Training for new RB7 (Hoku) has been completed, and mechanical issues have been repaired. Vessel is ready to be placed into service upon transfer of ownership.
- Preparing for Light Rescue vehicle replacements next FY.

Incident heat map and YTD stats for May 2024



[Link for Station Call Volume Breakdown](#)



SUPPORT SERVICES

Emergency Medical Services Branch

Paramedic Internship Progress

The eight personnel enrolled in the Fall 2023 paramedic class have started their 4th internship rotation which ends in mid-June. This is the final internship rotation before they go back to the classroom to complete their state and national certification testing requirements.

Firefighter Recruit Orientation Assistance

The EMS Branch assisted with the 53rd Firefighter Recruit orientation held on May 23rd at the HFD training classroom. During this orientation, EMS Branch personnel assisted with mandatory EMT training vaccination documents and titer requirements.

50th Anniversary of EMS Week

May 19-25, 2024, marked the 50th Anniversary of EMS Week. This year's theme, "Honoring Our Past. Forging Our Future," reminds us to acknowledge the foundational work of those who came before us, while also striving to build and lead the EMS system in the way that we envision for our future. In recognition of EMS Week, the EMS Branch distributed Holy Bakery pies throughout our department to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication.



EMS Week Proclamation

On Friday, May 24th, Battalion Chief Honda and Captain Lam participated in the EMS Week proclamation at the State Capitol with Governor Green and EMS providers from across the state.





Hands-Only CPR Training at Kealakehe Elementary

EMS Branch personnel held a Hands-Only CPR class at Kealakehe Elementary School.

National Police Week Participation

In honor of National Police Week 2024, the EMS Branch, along with other West Hawai'i Civic Center personnel participated in sign waving in Kona.

CARES Report Highlights

The CARES Report for 2023 has been released and we are proud to announce that Hawai'i Island had an increase in prehospital cardiac arrest saves. In 2023, we were 2.4% higher than the national average for cardiac arrest survival to discharge percentages (12.6% to National 10.2%). This is truly a team effort, and we would like to acknowledge the hard work of all our personnel. We believe that this is also a direct reflection of everyone's continued implementation of hands-only CPR in our communities and the increased number of AEDs throughout our communities.

Relocation of West Hawaii EMS Branch

The EMS Branch office on the west side has been relocated in the West Hawai'i Civic Center. They are now located in the Kohala Room which is on the first floor below building D facing the parking lot.

Airon Ventilator Presentation

EMS Branch personnel participated in an Airon ventilator presentation as part of our evaluation process of pre-hospital ventilators. We hope to move forward with a decision and purchase the new ventilators this upcoming fiscal year.

Employee Wellness Event

Community First sponsored an employee wellness event at the West Hawai'i Civic Center on Wednesday, May 29th. EMS Branch personnel assisted with blood pressure screening and diabetes awareness education.

Training Services Branch

Fire Instructor I Course

Hawai'i Fire Department delivered our second Fire Instructor I course to personnel during the week of May 6-10, 2024. Sixteen (16) personnel attended along with one Hilo Aircraft Rescue Firefighter (ARFF) and WSO Bradley Young. The course is based on NFPA 1041 "Standard for Fire Service Instructor Professional Qualifications" designed to give personnel the information needed to teach and deliver instruction utilizing instructional aids and evaluation instruments.

Battalion Chief Patrick Springer and Fire Equipment Operator Jeremy Tekurio delivered the curriculum to the students. Personnel who attended and passed the final examination will receive a ProBoard Fire Instructor 1 certification.



52nd Recruit Class Updates

The 52nd Recruit Class completed their Driver Training Competency Certification. This consisted of forty (40) hours of classroom training based on the HFD Driver Improvement Manual. The class spent an additional week practicing on the competency course which focuses on parallel parking, reversing, and alley dock procedures, qualifying recruits for on-road driving. Recruits then completed sixteen (16) hours of on-road driving and passed the final driver audit consisting of a fire apparatus pre-trip and on-road driving exam.

The 52nd Recruit Class attended and completed a three-week Aircraft Rescue Firefighting (ARFF) course held at Hilo and Kona international Airport. During this course the recruits were given fundamental knowledge and skills to effectively manage and mitigate an aircraft emergency. The final day of training was held at Ellison Onizuka Kona International Airport with 5 liquid fuel burns. All recruits will receive a ProBoard Certification in accordance with NFPA 1003.



53rd Recruit Class Updates

The 53rd Fire Fighter Recruit Candidates had an orientation with Fire HR. There are fifteen (15) candidates are currently completing medical clearances. The class has a projected start date of August 1, 2024.

Live Fire Instructor Training Program

Battalion Chief Springer and Captain Roback spent two days observing Honolulu Fire Department's Live Fire Instructor Training Program. Topics included fire behavior, heat reading, thermal imaging, door operations, hose management, and ventilation. The trainer consists of seven shipping containers with two burn cells designed to allow realistic practice of multi-company tactical evolutions.



Volunteer Training Section

1-A (Pepeekeo)

Company 1A-Pepeekeo added a new volunteer, and lost one volunteer to the upcoming HFD fire recruit class, congratulations to Trent Hanzawa!

5-B (Hawaiian Acres)

Company 5B-Hawaiian Acres extinguished a vehicle fire and with the help of County Council member Matt Kaneali'i-Kleinfelder and the Hawaiian Acres Community Association finalized the installation of a standpipe to allow them to refill water at their station.



5-C (Fern Forest)

Company 5C-Fern Forest added one new volunteer.

5-D (Fern Acres)

Company 5D-Fern Acres responded to a car fire and a trash fire, recently added two volunteers and recruited two more. They are actively working on ways to improve participation and attendance with training and callouts.

7-B (Kalaoa)

Company 7B-Kalaoa responded to one rubbish fire during the month of May. Co.7B's training in May has been focused on the wildland urban interface, all 15 members have been training on hose lay techniques, fire shelter deployment, vehicle placement, and pump operations. They have been focusing on the Red Flag response or high wind brush fires to better serve their community and department as the brushfire season approaches.

8-A (Pa'auilo)

Company 8A-Pa'auilo performed driver training and vehicle maintenance.

9-B (Kanehoa)

Company 9B-Kanehoa conducted two simulated fire training scenarios for the month of May with emphasis on tactics and strategy for fires along the Wildland Urban Interface.

10-D (Ainaloa)

Company 10D-Ainaloa focused on in-company training including fireground radio communications, station and apparatus-equipment familiarization & maintenance. They also supported the Ainaloa Community Association with their Monthly Yard Sale as well as the installation of a brand new 80" TV in the Ainaloa Longhouse for the Family Activities Committee.



11-C (Discovery Harbour)

Company 11C-Discovery Harbour said goodbye to longtime Volunteer Captain Kenneth Shisler who is moving to Georgia with his wife. He dedicated over 12 years to the VFD. Members also performed grilling services for the Association's annual Memorial Day Picnic.

16-B (Pu'uanahulu)

Company 16B-Pu'uanahulu performed 31.5 hours of training and maintenance during the month of May. Co. 16B also did a community clean up in partnership with Firewise in [Pu'ulani Ranch](#).



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 two structure fire during the Month of May. The first incident happened in District 4. The fire in District 4 is being classified as Undetermined, most of the structure was collapsed by the Fire. The second fire was in a commercial occupancy, in District 7 (photo). The fire damaged portions of the ceiling and structure of the Laundromat. No injuries or fatalities were reported at either incident.



Public Education

The Month of May was filled with various Public Education events! The Prevention Branch participated in both the Hilo and Kona D.A.R.E. events put on by the Hawaii Police Department. We also teamed up with Old Navy to spread Fire awareness and Fireworks safety! Inspector Kawasaki and Inspector Requelman gave the Students at Waimea Elementary School a great presentation on what it takes to become a Firefighter.



Wildfire Reduction and Education

Chief Kurashige had the opportunity to work with Team Rubicon, an organization known for voluntarily serving communities around the United States that have experienced natural disasters. The team arrived in Waikoloa on April 9 and began work in the Waikoloa Village area. Team Rubicon cut down many Kiawe trees and vegetation approximately 100 feet mauka of the Waikoloa Village Fuel Break spanning 9 days until April 18th. There were approximately 30 volunteers from across the United States that provided manpower and rented trucks, skid steers, and chippers to eliminate fuels. Many of the volunteers expressed interest in coming back to Hawaii Island and continuing fuel reduction work.



Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) along with fire officials from across the state, large landowners, and land stewards participated in a 3-part learning series regarding wildfire preparedness. The virtual seminars were hosted on May 7, 14, and 21. Topics discussed were developing a wildfire mitigation plan, developing best practices for land management, and understanding Fire

codes relating to open land areas. Also presented were insights from land managers and fire agency personnel regarding grants and other related resources. The seminar provided participants an opportunity to divide into different breakout rooms allowing everyone to connect and develop contacts around the island.

Logistics, Emergency Communications, and Vehicle Maintenance Section

Logistics

- Annual inventory lists have been sent out to the stations. Thank you for working on them.
- The bed replacement program is underway, and stations should be getting Nectar beds. The beds come with a lifetime warranty. Please contact Warehouse if you have issues with the beds.
- Pahoa Fire Station's kitchen AC has been replaced
- Stations' computer replacements have been completed. If you have old CPUs please send them into warehouse for disposal

Apparatus and Equipment Repair

- One-hundred eighty seven (187) total repairs/service.
- Thirty-two (32) service calls or trouble calls.
- Sixteen (16) contracted out and tows

Emergency Communications

Recruitment and Personnel Updates

- May 1, 2024 marked the first day for the new position of Battalion Chief of Emergency Communications.
- We have started to lay the foundation for implementing Emergency Fire Dispatch (EFD), which is a protocol for our dispatchers to use to interrogate callers for fire type calls. This will work similarly to our EMD protocol and will help our dispatchers to filter calls consistently, identify safety concerns early on, and dispatch the appropriate resources necessary for the incident.
- Our Joint Communication Center is moving along in construction, with a targeted acceptance date in late June. There will still be a process to move in, but we are excited to see the progress of this project steady with momentum.
- All 5 of our current Fire Communications Officer I personnel successfully completed their EMD certification.
- We have 8 candidates on a list for interviews slated for June. Our goal is to start another class of Fire Communications Officer I in September.

Apparatus and Equipment Repair

- One hundred and eighty-seven (187) total repairs/service.
- Thirty two (32) service calls or trouble calls.
- Sixteen (16) contracted out and tows

Information Technology Highlights

- Computers not compatible with Windows 11 PC replacement project with Department of Information Technology completed except for a few computers at Central/Dispatch location.
- MDTs for E21 and X08 received back from Panasonic after repairs, sent back to apparatus.
- MDTs for M03 and M18 sent to Panasonic for repairs.
- Joint Communication Center (JCC) meetings. Tentative building completion date 6/24/24 delayed, date TBD. Occupation date TBD.
- Network scanning of computer, monitor, and printer serial numbers for inventory.



SAFETY SPECIALIST REPORT

In May 2024, the Safety Specialist continued efforts to enhance safety and address ongoing concerns within the Hawaii Fire Department. Communication with HiOSH regarding the Central Fire Station inspection remains pending, with follow-up calls on May 2nd and 24th awaiting responses. A new injury/complaint was submitted on May 10th. Documentation submitted on May 10th is under review, and procedures for mold management in stations are being drafted.

The Safety Culture Survey concluded on May 8th, and its results were reviewed during the HFD/HFFA Safety Committee Meeting on May 15th. A response memo and the survey results were disseminated by the end of May, with the full results published on June 3rd. The Committee also addressed water rescue awareness, the Respiratory Protection Program, and in-station decontamination processes.

A tabletop exercise for the Continuity of Operations Plan was held on April 25th, with the After-Action Report completed on May 2nd. Planning for the next exercise in October 2024 has begun. Several safety bulletins and alerts were issued, including notices on increased seismic activity at Kilauea, an E. coli outbreak linked to organic walnuts, hurricane season preparedness, and potential lead exposure from vintage Corelle dishware.

Safety inquiries included accident reviews from May 10th and 17th, an ergonomics evaluation at HPD Communications, and current COVID/respiratory return-to-work recommendations. Effects of both G4 solar storms and Kona-low were managed, and an ongoing poll of stations with active washers/dryers versus extractors continues, with 13 out of 21 stations responding so far.

We are engaging with vendors regarding potential EMILY Rescue Robot demos and drafting in-station decontamination procedures. A draft Risk Analysis for the Ironman Triathlon was circulated, and a draft Mold Awareness & Abatement Training/Procedure is being developed.

Incident reviews included follow-ups on accidents from May 11th and 17th. Potential exhaust issues in stations when operating generators were investigated, with proposed solutions to enhance ventilation and install CO detectors.

The Safety Division remains committed to proactively addressing health and safety concerns and improving safety protocols. For further questions or detailed information, please reach out.

OTHER UPDATES

Daniel R. Sayre Custom Enforcer HDR Pumper

- Wk 2 Production ending May 24, 2024
- The cab continues weld operations at the IPP plant
- The pump is staged to begin assembly at the IPP plant
- The body has begun weld operations at the IPP plant



National Fallen Firefighter Memorial Weekend



National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend was observed May 4-5, recognizing those in the fire community that have paid the ultimate price and serving as a solemn reminder of the inherent risks faced by firefighters each day. In a gesture of solidarity with firefighters nationwide, and to pay special tribute to our own who have passed while in the department, including one in the line of duty, the Hawaii County Building was illuminated in red and a memorial wreath placed for viewing.

END REPORT