



FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

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52ND RECRUIT CLASS GRADUATION



Graduation of the 52nd Recruit Class: A Milestone for Hawaii's First Responders

On July 12, 2024, a significant event marked the culmination of a rigorous year-long journey for a group of dedicated individuals. The 52nd Recruit Class Graduation brought together the newest members of the Hawaii Fire Department, the Hawaii Department of Transportation Airports Division Fire Department, and the United States Army Garrison, Pōhakuloa Fire Department. This momentous occasion was not only a celebration of achievement but also a testament to the resilience, determination, and commitment required to serve as first responders in Hawaii.

A Year of Intensive Training

The graduation ceremony marked the end of a comprehensive 12-month training program designed to prepare recruits for the demanding responsibilities of fire response and emergency services. The program, known for its intensity and high standards, tested recruits in various critical areas including fire response, rescue operations, aquatic tasks, emergency medical services, and wildland fire response.

A Unified Effort Across Agencies

This graduation was particularly notable for bringing together recruits from three different fire departments, reflecting the collaborative spirit and shared mission among Hawaii's emergency services. The Hawaii Fire Department, responsible for fire protection across the Big Island, the Airports Division Fire Department, ensuring safety in Hawaii's vital transportation hubs, and the Pōhakuloa Fire Department, which protects the expansive military installation and its surrounding areas, all contributed to the training and development of this recruit class.

A Celebration of Achievement

The graduation ceremony in Hilo was a proud moment for the recruits, their families, and their instructors. It was an opportunity to reflect on the challenges overcome and the skills acquired over the past year. The ceremony was attended by leaders from all three fire departments, who commended the recruits for their perseverance and dedication.

In his address, the Hawaii Fire Department Chief emphasized the importance of continuous learning and adaptability in the ever-evolving field of emergency services. He encouraged the graduates to carry forward the values of teamwork, integrity, and service that had been instilled in them during their training.

ADMIN DIV: FISCAL BRANCH REPORT

Program Budget Goals	July	YTD	Goal
Invoice Settlement within 30 days	100%	100%	90%
Pay-out of CILV's within 90 days	100%	100%	95%
Dollar value of grants applied for	\$22,433,000	\$22,433,000	\$5,000,000
Dollar value of grants received	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$5,000,000

Budget	Category	Adj Appropriation	YTD Expenditures	% Used	Goal
Fire	S&W	40,078,922.00	4,899,413.55	12.22	12.5
6221-6225	OCE	6,493,060.96	1,153,656.21	17.77	8.33
	Equipment	3,531,007.61	1,342,206.50	38.01	8.33
Grants & Misc	S&W	257,161.00	81,832.56	31.82	12.5
6226	OCE	1,105,012.00	341.92	0.03	8.33
	Equipment	659,560.45	417,324.74	63.27	8.33
EMS	S&W	15,630,607.00	1,712,660.43	10.96	12.5
6227	OCE	2,889,425.33	196,667.61	6.81	8.33
	Equipment	3,220,637.02	1,570,637.02	48.77	8.33
Ocean Safety	S&W	5,437,913.00	528,974.77	9.73	12.5
6228	OCE	327,305.82	186,313.68	56.92	8.33
	Equipment	462,905.32	165,736.95	35.80	8.33
Total Budget		80,093,517.51	12,255,765.94	15.30	

Grants	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 7/31/24 with 2 months remaining.
FY 22 USDA Volunteer Fire Capacity Project	The bid for one brush truck for volunteer station 20A awarded, pending delivery by the end of the calendar year.
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.
Lelewi Lifeguard Tower (Fair Share Funds)	Requisition with specs submitted to Purchasing. Expected to go out to bid in August.
Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)	This grant funds three Fire Captain and six Fire Fighter positions. As of 7/31/2024, we have expended 98.81% of the grant funds with 6 months remaining. Funding expected to run out in August 2024.

ADMIN DIV: HR BRANCH REPORT

Program Budget Goals	July	YTD	GOAL
Process actions within 15 working days	28	500	100%
Recruitment Actions < 30days	2	28	90%
Promotion Actions < 30days	1	37	90%
Personnel Actions within 30 days, <10% error	10	357	10%

Internal Recruitment within Department

Position	Status Report
Fire Captain	Assessment Center letters were disseminated to the six candidates.
Fire Equipment Operator	Assessment Center letters were disseminated to the 16 candidates.
Fire/Hazardous Materials Specialist	Pending interview/Assessment Center schedule.
Water Safety Officer IV	Request to Fill was cancelled.
Accountant I	Internal recruitment opened on July 7, 2024, and closed on July 16, 2024. No candidates. Submitted request to temporary reallocate down to a Professional Trainee I.

Open-Competitive Recruitment

Position	Status Report
Fire Communications Officer I	Seven candidates who were interviewed were not selected.
Water Safety Officer I	Conditional offers were sent out to eight candidates. Three permanent and five temporary positions.
Fire Fighter Recruit (Temp)	Hired 13 candidates effective August 1, 2024.
Fire/EMS Recruit (Temp)	Hired one candidate effective August 1, 2024.
Professional Trainee I	Submitted Request to Fill to DHR.
Account Clerk (Temp)	Interviews held on July 25, 2024 for three candidates. Pending interview results.

Classification

Submitted allocation packet for Battalion Chief (Special Ops).

OPERATIONS

Emergency Operations

Total Calls for Calendar Year 2024	July	%	YTD	%
Fire	85	3%	529	3%
Overpressure, Rupture, Explosion- no fire	1	0%	5	0%
Rescue and EMS	1905	72%	13437	74%
Hazardous Cond. (no fire)	14	1%	108	1%
Service Call	192	7%	1161	6%
Good Intent calls	402	15%	2645	15%
False Alarm / False calls	27	1%	246	1%
Severe Weather	0	0%	4	0%
Special Incident Type	3	0%	26	0%
Other (not completed yet)	11	0%	9	0%
Totals	2640	100%	18170	100%

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (est.)
Total Calls	26,869	25,015	27,398	29,594	30,738	31,149

Response Times CY 2024

Statistic	July	% that meet...		YTD	% that meet..	
Avg. Turn out time (Fire)	2:47	(80 sec.)	18.07%	2:49	(80 sec.)	13.93%
Avg. Turn out time (EMS)	2:44	(60 sec.)	14.51%	2:20	(60 sec.)	15.65%
Statistic	July	% that meet 6 min.		YTD	% that meet 6 min	
Avg. Response Time (Fire)	12:13	12.94%		10:47	12.62%	
Avg. Response Time (EMS)	9:28	20.17%		9:12	19.01%	

Fire Impacts CY 2024

Call Type	July	YTD
Wildland calls (140, 141, 142, 143)	22	108
Acres burned	82	156
Structure Fires (110 & 111)	8	38
Property and Contents - Loss	\$235,000.00	\$3,393,816.00
Property and Contents - Save	\$457,400.00	\$2,835,000.00
Other fires (all other 100 series)	55	385
Property and Contents - Loss	\$57,000.00	\$1,818,602.00
Property and Contents - Save	\$4,000.00	\$40,100.00

Emergency Operations Highlights

Battalion 1, East Hawai'i

- 6/29, Inc #15432; **Rescue:** Kehena Beach/District 10, drowning, 1-fatality.
- July 2, 2024, Inc#15774; **Fire:** HPP 29th Avenue/District 18, Structure Fire, no injuries or fatalities.
- 7/7, Inc #16246; **Rescue:** Leleiwi Beach/District 2, drowning, 1-fatality.
- 7/19, Inc #17223, **Fire:** HPP 29TH Avenue/District 18, 2-story residential structure fire, 3-injured and no fatalities.
- 7/22, Inc #17488, **Fire:** Kamaili Road/District 10, brushfire approximately 3-acres, no structures threatened, no injuries or fatalities.

Battalion 2, West Hawai'i

- 7/5/2024 Inc# 16018 **Brush Fire:** started by fireworks at Kekumu in Waikoloa village. Quarter acre scorched right behind and adjacent to Kekumu low income housing. Company 16 extinguished.
- 7/21/2024 Inc# 17401 **Rescue:** Missing Swimmer – Maha'iula, located by C2
- 7/28/2024 Inc# 17980 **Brush Fire:** Pua Melia Waikoloa. 7.5 acres burned. Extinguished by companies 16, 14, 9, BC2, & C2.
- 7/28/2024 Inc# 17981 **Rescue:** Missing Hikers Mana Rd. Extricated by C1

Special Events

- Co.14 participated in a Firewise community orientation and survey in Puako

Special Operations

Haz-Mat

- 5 personnel selected to attend 2024 Hazmat Continuing Challenge in Sacramento, Sept 3-6
- Hazmat Technician Refresher by end of Sept.
- Beginning planning for next Hazmat Technician class

Ocean Safety

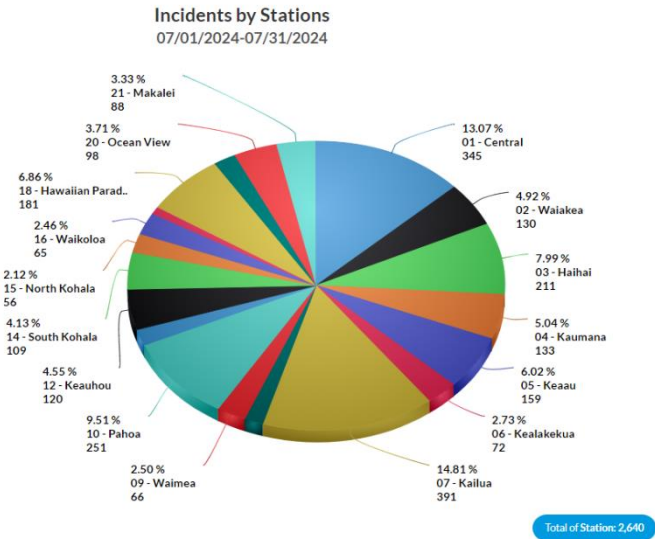
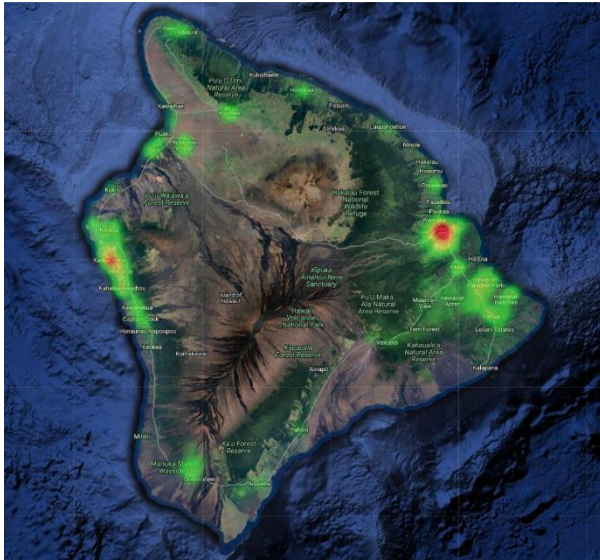
- WSO III grievance decision made, initial promotions will be cancelled and recruitment will be redone. Demotions will take effect September 1.
- Working on adding Education and Experience point system to WSO recruitments.
- WSO I hires delayed and amended due to grievance. Proceeding with amended conditional offers.
- Jr Lifeguard Island Championships held on July 27, planning for State Championships at Hapuna on Aug 10.



Rescue

- Working on Chopper pilot evaluation criteria for mission specific tasks.

Incident heat map and YTD stats for July 2024
[Link for Station Call Volume Breakdown](#)



SUPPORT SERVICES

Emergency Medical Services Branch

Paramedic Class Progress

The Fall 2023 paramedic class is in the process of completing all national and state testing requirements to acquire state licensure.

Quality Control and Future Products Meeting

The EMS Branch met with the FERNO service team regarding quality control and future products.

Mass Casualty Incident Preparedness Conference

Assistant Chief Chadwick and EMS Branch personnel attended a one-day Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Preparedness Conference in Honolulu.

This conference was hosted by the City and County of Honolulu Emergency Services Department.

Keynote speakers included Dr. Glenn Asaeda, medical director for FDNY and Dr. Sophia Dyer, medical director for Boston EMS.



Active Attack Integrated Response Training

EMS Branch personnel assisted with a week-long Active Attack Integrated Response (AAIR) train-the-trainer course for HPD and HFD personnel that was held at Hilo Union School. We have 18 newly certified AAIR instructors.



Hāweo Award Recipient

We would like to congratulate Captain Michael Lam on being honored as this month's Hāweo Award recipient. Thank you, Captain Lam for all your hard work and dedication.



Statewide Emergency Medical Advisory Committee Meeting

EMS Branch personnel participated in the quarterly statewide Emergency Medical Advisory Committee meeting held on Wednesday, July 17th.

Firefighter Recruit Class Family Orientation

EMS Branch personnel participated in the 53rd firefighter recruit class family orientation night held on Wednesday, July 31st at the Haihai Fire Station.

Medic 12 Repower Project Completion

The Medic 12 repower project has been completed. This repower project entailed installing a new motor and transmission system into Medic 12. When Station 12 receives their new ambulance in January, this repowered ambulance will become their new spare unit.

Training Services Branch

52nd Firefighter Recruit Class Final Training at Pōhakuloa

The 52nd Firefighter Recruit Class rounded out their year-long training conducting coordinated fire attack at Pōhakuloa. A comprehensive skill review culminated in evolutions which incorporated fire suppression, forcible entry, search, ventilation, and MAYDAY/Rapid Intervention Operations.



52nd Firefighter Recruit Class Graduation Ceremony

The 52nd Firefighter Recruit Class Graduation Ceremony took place on July 12, 2024 at Auntie Sally's Lū'au Hale. The event honored the achievements and accomplishments of the twenty recruits, eighteen of which will be assigned to County fire stations island-wide, with the new title of "Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician". Recruit Performance Recognition was as follows:

- Firefighter David Paopao was recognized as "Most Outstanding Recruit"
- Firefighter Nicholas Tran as recognized for winning the Combat Firefighter Fitness Award.
- Firefighter Michael Dudoit Junior was recognized for the "Highest Physical Training Score"
- All graduates of the 52nd Firefighter Recruit Class, their families, a support networks put forth a monumental effort to rise to the challenges of the Recruit Training Program. We wish them the very best in the next chapter of their fire service journey!

53rd Firefighter Recruit Class Training Commencement

The 53rd Fire Fighter Recruit Candidates began their training on August 1, 2024 with 13 HFD Firefighter Recruits, one HFD Fire/EMS Recruit, and one HI-DOT ARFF Firefighter Recruit.

Volunteer Training Section

Company 1A – Pepe'ekeo

Responded to one unauthorized controlled burn, performed driver training, and conducted ladder training.

Company 5D – Fern Acres

Volunteers responded to 3 fire calls and participated in their community association's annual picnic. A booth was set up, and they spoke with people about the importance of having a volunteer department and how to join. Some local politicians dropped by to talk story, and lots of keiki colored pictures to win prizes.



Company 6B – Kona Paradise

Volunteer Company 6B had a meeting with Civil Defense Staff Officer J. Sceppe regarding various topics, including strategically placed shipping containers with CERT supplies, the status of Volunteer Company 6B, and the history of significant events in the district.

Company 7B – Kalaoa

Volunteer Company 7B had four callouts during the month of July: one brush fire, one structure fire, and two smoke sightings. Their training for July consisted of Wildland Urban Interface training, water supply, exposure protection, ICS, LCES, fire shelters, and preplanning for Wildland fires. Company 7B also participated in the 4th of July Kona parade and held their annual 4th of July pancake breakfast fundraiser with the Sayre Foundation.



Company 9B – Kanehoa

Volunteer Company 9B assisted Retired Battalion Chief Ralph Yawata in training members of the Hapuna Prince Hotel Security staff in the use of 1 3/4" fire hoses operated from a fire apparatus and a pressurized water source. They also received

training in setting up a ground monitor with 2 1/2" hoses. Volunteer Company 9B stood by on Firewatch for the evening of July 4th while also holding a "Meet and Greet" for the neighbors.

Company 10D – ‘Ainaloa

Volunteers responded to a 2-acre brush fire in Opihikao and assisted by providing water shuttle operations, moving 500 gallons of water and helping with mop-up. Volunteers also responded to a fully engulfed car fire on an empty lot in their community. Additionally, 10D participated in a family community event, "Lā ‘Ohana O Pohoiki" held at Isaac Kepo‘okalani Hale Beach Park (Pohoiki) and was available for first aid response. Classroom instruction in the use and deployment of fire shelters was also completed. Efforts are continuously being made to improve the station and apparatus.



Company 11C – Discovery Harbour

Former Captain Kenneth Shisler (and wife Dina), who recently relocated to the mainland, were celebrated for his years of service as an active member of both the Volunteer Fire Department (13 years) and the Discovery Harbour Board of Directors. His dedication and mechanical/general building expertise will be dearly missed by both entities. Dina served as 11C's unofficial "Den Mother," selflessly supporting the Company in many ways. Her absence will be obvious. After four months on medical leave, Acting Captain TJ James has been cleared to return to duty without restrictions and continues to conduct company training and administrative duties. Captain James is currently the only authorized driver for 11C (one of 3 in the Ka'u district) and has resumed training personnel on their assigned apparatus to remedy that situation.

Company 16B – Pu‘uanahulu

Volunteer Company 16B had a total of 17 volunteer hours conducting vehicle maintenance, ensuring readiness of PPE, and wet drills.

Fire Prevention Branch

Fire Investigations

The Fire Prevention Branch investigated two structure fires during the Month of July.

- Fire #1 was in a residential occupancy, in District 10. No injuries or fatalities were reported at the incident. The Home was inhabited by squatters.
- The second Fire resulted in a criminal investigation by HPD. A Fire Investigation led by Lt. Tyson Goo resulted in a determination after a male in the home stated he was attempting to set himself on Fire in the residence. Injuries were documented.



ISLAND NEWS Arson fire in Hawaiian Paradise Park leaves 3 hospitalized
Island News · 857 views · 3 weeks ago

Public Education

Our Social Media efforts continue to highlight the department. This month we were led by Lt. Goo, who had the privilege of working with the Training Branch on numerous recruit training videos and Graduation!

Project Updates

- Plan review continues to be conducted at 100% within the 14-day review window as dictated by our Key Performance Indicators.
- The buildout of the EPR Property list is ongoing. We are hitting our target of 30 EPR Inputs a month. We expect to begin assisting the Company level officers with their Preplans by the end of the year.
- No major injuries or fatalities of major Fires were reported for the Fourth of July holiday.
- Chief Kurashige and Fireworks Auditor Moraes conducted numerous Fireworks inspections for the 4th of July shows. All shows were conducted safely and were monitored.

Logistics, Emergency Communications, and Vehicle Maintenance Section

Logistics

- Annual inventory has been completed.
- Fire ordering site:
 - 323 customers
 - 47 orders for the month of July
 - Approximate gross order sales, 19.6k of product
- Water stations have come in and will be working on the installs for stations
- Work almost complete for the replacement and repair of the Pahoia AC
- Apparatus and equipment repair
 - One hundred and eighty five (185) total repairs/service.
 - Twenty-five (25) service calls or trouble calls.
 - Thirty-four (34) contracted out and tows

Emergency Communications

- Emergency Fire Dispatch training was held in July, where 4 FCO I participated along with 3 Battalion Chiefs. We are slowly working through the implementation process of EFD for our department.
- There is continued progress of the JCCC project. Several meetings have been held with the various vendors to coordinate installation of equipment.
- FCO Is are progressing through their training.
- Two personnel were able to attend the NENA conference in Orlando, FL

Information Technology Highlights

- Configuration of 2 new laptops for MSA testing, 1 laptop for Battalion 1 (East) and 1 laptop for Battalion 2 (West).
- Change bunker gear ordering on HFD Warehouse Shopify website. A separate form is no longer needed, all bunker gear options can be done directly from website.
- Meetings and site visits for Joint Communications Center. Dispatch operational date TBD.
- CradlePoint change out on E03 due to MDT VPN not being able to connect.
- Start new iPad setups for Ocean Safety.
- ProQA Medical updated to version 5.1.1.50 logic 14 from version 5.1.1.48 logic 14.

SAFETY SPECIALIST REPORT

July saw continued progress across multiple safety initiatives. The Mold Awareness Training/Procedure underwent revisions and is now in the final stages of approval before being uploaded to Target Solutions for department-wide implementation. The draft In-station Gear Decontamination Policy has also been updated and reconciled with previous versions, and it is currently awaiting formal approval.

The Water Rescue GAP Analysis was successfully completed and submitted to Administration for review. Our Respiratory Protection Program has achieved 95% compliance with fit testing on the west side, while efforts continue on the east side to train additional personnel to alleviate the burden on current staff.

In other developments, we successfully submitted an application to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for field testing the C-THRU technology, with a decision expected by August 31st. Planning for the October 17th Continuity of Operations (COOP) exercise is well underway, focusing on a hypothetical hurricane scenario, though the status of the new Fire Communications & Control Center may affect final plans.

The Safety Committee meeting in July highlighted the need for additional personal flotation devices (PFDs) and discussed the adequacy of the current orientation program for new rescue pilots, emphasizing the importance of ensuring thorough preparedness. We are also reviewing our personal protective equipment (PPE) policies in response to a request from County Finance.

Importantly, only one new Incident/Accident Reports and Vehicle/Equipment/Property Damage Reports were received this month, respectively, which is a positive indicator of our ongoing safety efforts.

Thank you for your continued dedication to maintaining a safe and effective working environment.

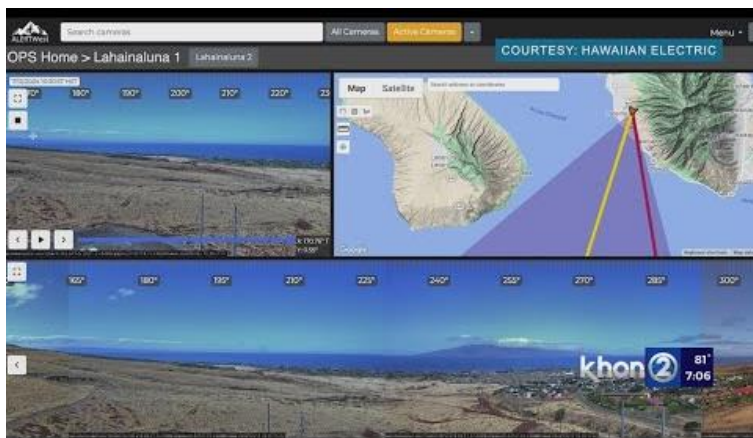
OTHER UPDATES

AI Fire Detection Cameras Launched to Enhance Emergency Response

A significant advancement in fire detection and situational awareness capabilities is underway on the island, as Artificial Intelligence (AI) fire detection cameras are being installed to enhance emergency response. Efforts to deploy these cameras, which began in January 2023, gained momentum following discussions with Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) after the August fires in Lahaina. HECO has now taken decisive action by purchasing and deploying the first set of AI-



equipped, high-resolution cameras that will monitor high-risk fire areas around the clock, providing real-time video feeds to dispatchers, responders, and emergency



managers. The public can also access live camera feeds, with the initial installation starting in Lahaina and plans to expand to 78 stations across the five islands HECO serves. Each station will feature two cameras for full 360-degree coverage, and additional initiatives are in place to install cameras at hotels, beaches, and other key locations. This project represents a growing trend in utilizing AI technology to enhance community safety and emergency response efforts.

Friends of First Responders Family Fun Day- July 27, 2024

Friends of First Responders hosted a Family Fun Day at New Hope Church, providing free popcorn, hot dogs, and shave ice, as well as a waterslide, jumping castle, and live entertainment to attendees. Mahalo to Friends of First Responders for the good fun and great memories!



Update on HFD Pumper

Assembly of HFD Pumper continues at the 41 Plant. Photo as of July 19, 2024.



Ka 'lo Featured in Vertical Magazine

Ka 'lo, our H125 helicopter, appeared in the latest Vertical Magazine H125 Special Edition, pages 44-45. Link to article is [here](#).



END REPORT