

The Best Preparation for Tomorrow is Doing Your Best Today

H. Jackson Brown Jr.



FIRE CHIEFS REPORT FY20-21: MAY

Hawai'i Fire Department

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

TO THE FIRE COMMISSION	<u>3</u>
Atmospheric Outlook for The Island of Hawai'i	<u>3</u>
Drought: _____	3
Fire: _____	3
Tropical Cyclones: _____	3
Highlights _____	4
Outreach _____	4
BUDGET	<u>5</u>
FY 2021-2022 _____	5
Alternative Funding and Grants _____	5
HUMAN RESOURCES	<u>6</u>
Internal Recruitment within Department _____	6
Internal Recruitment within the County _____	6
Open-Competitive Recruitment _____	6
Classification _____	7
Labor Relations _____	7
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS DIVISION	<u>7</u>
Total Calls for CY 2022 _____	7
Updates: _____	7
Battalion 1, East Hawai'i _____	8
Battalion 2 West Hawai'i _____	9
Special Operations: _____	9
SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION	<u>10</u>
Emergency Medical Services Branch: _____	10
Training Branch: _____	11
Volunteer Training Section: _____	12
Fire Prevention Branch: _____	13
Logistics, Emergency Communication Section, and Vehicle Maintenance Sections: _____	14

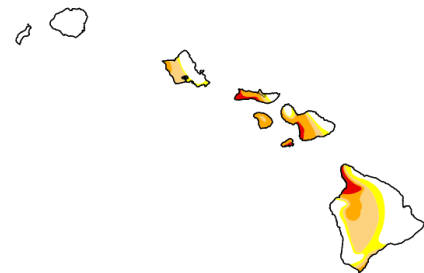
TO THE FIRE COMMISSION

Atmospheric Outlook for The Island of Hawai‘i

The persistent La Niña conditions developed during 2020 and continued through 2021, which has led to dry summer and fall conditions, is anticipated to continue through 2022. This dry cycle was observed in 2021 all the way through December. In January, drought conditions subsided due to return to wetter conditions. The persistent trade winds have suppressed leeward rainfall, causing drought development quicker than anticipated. By May 9th, vast areas of drought conditions were being experienced on the leeward side of the Island.

Drought:

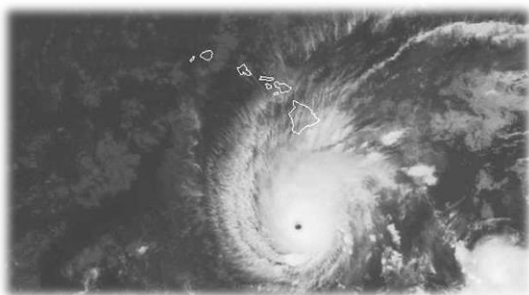
By the end of May 2022, almost half of the Big Island was in Abnormally Dry to Extreme Drought conditions. These drought conditions significantly increase wildfire risk in Hawai‘i. The longer-range modeling has predicted continued dry weather through November. This has led to the prediction that the peak fire conditions and Red Flag Warnings will happen earlier in the year and may extend the peak fire season into late fall. Additionally, the availability of water in catchment dependent areas will be impacted by limited availability. This may lead to limited resources for firefighting efforts.



Fire:

These drought conditions associated with the La Niña have cured massive amounts of potential wildland fuel on the leeward side of the Island. The short period of wet conditions has allowed an explosion of light flashy fuels which has increased the threat of a large-scale fire for this year. To put the threat into context, the conditions this year are more favorable for a Mana Road type fire than last year. And this dryer than normal period may last longer than last year. The fall months of September and October are typically the most prone to wildfire starts in Hawai‘i. However, there are no longer these normal Fire Seasons. This will stretch our already limited resources.

Tropical Cyclones:



One of the bright notes of the forecast is that during La Niña seasons, there are fewer Tropical Cyclones experienced. As the National Weather Service points out, it only takes one to make landfall to be disastrous, the fewer potential storms are a welcome message. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts 2 to 4 Tropical Cyclones compared to the 4 to 5 in a normal season.

Highlights

The following are the highlights for the last month. The complete list of responses will be provided in the Emergency Operations Division Update

- May 2, HFCA Conference Update
- May 4, County Council Appearance Bill 166 \$3.4M S&W
- May 4, Aviation Meeting
- May 6, Tsunami Preparedness Planning
- May 9, HFCA Conference General Meeting
- May 10, Assessment Center Meeting (Support Services)
- May 11, County Cabinet Meeting
- May 11, HFCA Association Meeting
- May 12, Drought Outlook Meeting
- May 18, Civil Defense Salamander Training
- May 20, HFCA Conference Update
- May 25, County Cabinet Meeting
- May 26, Farewell Potluck for Liz Johns
- May 27, Meeting w/ Retiree Joe Farias
- May 27, Meeting with Retiree Glen Honda
- May 31, COVID-19 Meeting

Outreach

- May 2, Mayor's Prayer Breakfast
- May 3, Interagency IMT Meeting
- May 4, Japanese Counsel of Security Meeting
- May 5, Homeless in the Park Task Force
- May 12, Ethics Mediation
- May 12, Managing Director Meeting
- May 13, Drone Operations Meeting
- May 16, Police Week Memorial Ceremony (East)
- May 17, National EMS Week Photo Shoot
- May 18, Honoring the Baseball State Championship
- May 18, 2nd Reading of Bill 166 \$3.4M S&W
- May 18, Police Week Memorial Ceremony (West)
- May 23, Joint Wildland Training at Pōhakuloa Training Area

BUDGET

FY 2021-2022

FY 2021-2022 - County Budget:

Total spending through May 31, 2022, is at 94.01% with 92% of the fiscal year completed.

County funded budget

Salaries & Wages closed at 94.49% Fire.
OCE expenditures closed at 92.38% in Fire.

We received additional funding in our overtime budget of \$3,450,000 through Ordinance No. 22-60, which passed Council on May 23, 2022. There continues to be a liability of \$200,000 in dozer rental costs for FY 2022.

State Funded Budget Items:

The second quarter billing for State EMS costs were completed on May 31 and submitted to the State for reimbursement. We have received \$5.4 million in reimbursement. We have billed the State for costs through December 2021, for a total of \$11.1 million, or 49% of the award. We expect to complete the third quarter billing by the end of June, and the final billing at the end of July.

FY 2022-2023

The Budget for FY 2023 passed Council on June 2, 2023. Our final budget with modifications is expected at the end of June. We received an additional \$143,000 from Council Member Kierkiewicz to have a Strategic Master Plan prepared.

Alternative Funding and Grants

Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant

Federal Grant of \$3,511,641 for six (6) Captain positions and three (3) Fire Fighter positions for 36 months. Current expenditures as of 5/31/22 is \$426,689.01.

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

Federal grant award of \$197,637 (with County match of \$197,637) for FY 2022. The budget is amended to reflect 100% purchases of supplies and the grant period is being extended through February 2023. Current expenditures as of 5/31/22 is \$96,097.16, plus \$174,448.75 in encumbrances. There is 32% of the grant award remaining.

Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program FY 2020 (AFG-S) COVID-19 Supplemental

Federal grant award in the amount of \$379,910.66 for the period 8/6/2020 - 8/5/2022 (\$345,373.33 Federal funds, \$34,537.33 County match). Current expenditures as of 5/31/22 is \$330,141, or 96% of the grant award.

Hāpuna Beach State Park

State grant award of \$895,505 for lifeguard services for FY 2022. Personnel Costs at 86% expended as of 5/31/22. The state has reimbursed \$671,628.75 as of April 30, 2022.

Kua Bay, Kekaha Kai State Park

State grant award of \$480,000 for lifeguard services for FY 2022. Personnel Costs at 59% expended as of 5/31/22. The state has reimbursed \$360,000 as of April 30, 2022.

FY 2021 Assistance to Firefighters: Grant application was submitted 12/17/21 to FEMA to purchase extractors for all fire stations. No update.

CDBG-MIT: HFD has been allocated \$1.8 million and will be purchase an incident command vehicle, brush trucks, and a trailer.

HMGP - Post Fire Grant: FM-5404-HI is set at \$584,083.00 for post fire recovery. Application submitted to HIEMA on April 29, 2022.

HIEMA HMGP Funding: Request submitted to HIEMA for excess Federal funding to cover station hardening, generators, and a portable station. Ask is approximately \$4,420,000.

Geothermal Fund: Council approved Resolution no. 328-22 on March 23, 2022, to transfer \$300,500 to the Geothermal Fire Equipment account for use by the Fire Department to purchase a mobile self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) compressor unit, 20 SCBA bottles, and an F-450 for towing and transport to be housed at Station 10 in Pahoa.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Internal Recruitment within Department

- Fire Captain (Emergency Communications) - Fire/EMS Specialist III Stacy Domingo promoted effective June 1, 2022.
- Fire Captain (Fire Prevention Bureau) - Fire Prevention Inspector II Royd Henderson promoted effective June 1, 2022.

Internal Recruitment within the County

- Storekeeper - Two names were referred. Interview scheduled for June 22, 2022.
- Account Clerk (Permanent) - Exhausted internal list. Submitted a request for an Open-Competitive Recruitment.
- Account Clerk - Recruitment opened on May 29, 200 and will close on June 7, 2022.

Open-Competitive Recruitment

- Fire Communications Officer I - Three names were referred. Interview and assessment have been scheduled for July 11, 2022.
- Water Safety Officer I - Three candidates were hired on May 16, 2022, and one candidate was hired on June 1, 2022.
- Fire Fighter Recruit - PAE letters were emailed to 89 candidates scheduled for July 23, 2022, at Hilo High School.

- Account Clerk (Temp) - Six names were referred. Interview/assessment have been scheduled for June 8, 2022.
- Account Clerk (Permanent) - Ten names were referred. Pending interview.
- Fire Communications Officer I - New recruitment will open on June 5, 2022, and will close on June 14, 2022.

Classification

1. Extension of temporary reallocation of two Water Safety Officer I (1/2) positions effective June 1, 2022.
2. Transfer of Account Clerk Position to change the supervisor from the Senior Account Clerk to the Accountant I.

Labor Relations

1. Notice of Internal Investigation for noncompliance with COVID-19 testing requirements - Certified mail to Fire/Hazardous Materials Specialist (2) and Fire Equipment Operator.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS DIVISION

Total Calls for CY 2022

Type	April	YTD
Fire	81	455
Overpressure, Rupture, Explosion- no fire	1	1
Rescue and EMS	1,919	8,670
Hazardous Cond. (no fire)	22	82
Service Call	165	800
Good Intent calls	374	1,726
Fire Alarm / False calls	41	162
Severe Weather	0	2
Special Incident Type	2	8
Other (not completed yet)	1	1
Totals	2,606	11,907

Updates:

- SCBA compressor for West HI: All training has been completed and unit has been placed in service.
- CDBG-MIT grant funding update: Chief Okinaka had meetings with DWS and the grant committee to discuss plans for South Point Water Supply tank installation. Next is a meeting with DHHL to see if the South Point plans will be feasible or not. Funding timelines remain the same for July. Also working on building Specifications for other approved items.

- Grant application for a community Chipper Day event. We have received notice that this grant has been denied.
- We have reached out to HVNP and State DOFAW regarding frequency of lost hikers on Mauna Loa. Looking to see if there is a possibility of installing trail markers to help hikers find their way back and also assist with better identifying actual location of those who are unable to get back to the trail.



- Chief Okinaka along with BC2, Company 9 and Company 14 participated in a district familiarization field trip with a few large landowners/property managers in the South Kohala, and Kawaihae areas. They met with representatives from Parker Ranch, Forest Solutions (re: Queen Emma Lands), Kohala Ranch, and Ponoholo Ranch. Goal of the trip was to familiarize with the lands and work to better collaborate for future of Wildland Fire Mitigation.

- LEPC meeting held on May 12. Approval granted for 6 Hazmat personnel to attend Chemical Safety Days workshops on Oahu.
- We are working with a fire radio vendor to reprogram rescue and BC radios to add additional USCG frequencies to increase communication capabilities.

Battalion 1, East Hawai'i

- May 9, 2022, Inc #10059; **Fire:** Hilo, Kaiao Street/District 3, structure fire, no injuries or fatalities.
- May 9, 2022, Inc #10059; **Fire:** Naalehu, Ohai Road/District 11, structure fire, no injuries or fatalities.
- May 11, 2022, Inc #10214; **Fire:** Pa'auilo, 33MM Hwy 19/District 8, brushfire, no injuries or fatalities and no structures threatened.
- May 11, 2022, Inc #10246; **Fire:** Pahoia, Kahakai Blvd/District 10, structure fire, no injuries or fatalities.
- May 14, 2022, Inc #10471; **Rescue:** Whittington Beach Park/District 11, swimmer in distress, 1 injured party transported by medic, no fatalities.
- May 15, 2022, Inc #10574; **Fire:** Hawaiian Acres Hopue Road/District 5, structure fire, no injuries or fatalities.
- May 16, 2022, Inc #10608; **Fire:** Hawaiian Beaches Kahakai & Malolo/District 10, structure fire, no injuries or fatalities.
- May 18, 2022, Inc #10872; **Fire:** South Point, Lio Lani Rd/District 11, brushfire, no injuries or fatalities and no structures threatened.
- May 19, 2022, Inc #10922; **Rescue:** O'okala/District 17, missing maile pickers, 2 people located and retrieved via Chopper 1, no injuries or fatalities.
- May 20, 2022, Inc #10995; **Brushfire:** Honokaa/District 8, brushfire, no injuries or fatalities and no structures threatened.
- May 21, 2022, Inc #11087; **Rescue:** Maku'u and Beach Rd/District 18, overdue 'opihi picker, located by Chopper 1 in no distress, no injuries or fatalities.
- May 21, 2022, Inc #11157; **Fire:** Kamana Elderly Housing/District 1, multiple vehicle fires due to arson/attempted theft of gasoline, no injuries or fatalities reported.

- May 22, 2022, Inc #11182; **Brushfire:** Honokaa/District 8, 2-separate brushfires at the same location, no injuries or fatalities and no structures threatened.
- May 22, 2022, Inc #11220; **Search:** Mauna Loa/Dist. 4, lost hiker, found uninjured and declined any HFD assistance.
- May 23, 2022, Inc #11291; **Brushfire:** Honokaa/District 8, brushfire started by a downed power line. Power line de-energized by HELCO and fire extinguished, no injuries or fatalities and no structures threatened.

Other events:

- May 18, 2022, Hazmat survey; **Special Service:** Hazmat Company 4 went to the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, checking potential radiological or heavy metal items stored in archive vaults at the park. Negative findings for concerning radiation levels

Battalion 2 West Hawai'i

- May 16, 2022, Inc #10692; **Structure Fire:** Dist. 20. Fire extinguished, no injuries
- May 17, 2022, Inc #10765; **Rescue:** Missing Boater Kawaihae, Dist. 14. Co14, BC2, C2, Rescue 7 did search for overdue boaters. CG did call outs. Parties located. No injuries
- May 19, 2022, Inc #10887; **Rescue:** Kailua Bay, Dist. 7. Paddle boarders in Distress. C2 did search in for 3 paddle boarders. Parties in distress were safely picked up by commercial vessel. No injuries.
- May 23, 2022, Inc #11276; **Rescue:** Lost Hiker Puakō Petroglyph Trail. Co14, Co7, C2 located lost hiker and escorted missing party back to safety. No injuries.
- May 26, 2022, Inc #11503; **Structure Fire:** Alii Dr. Dist. 7 Companies responded to a fully engulfed structure fire. No occupants home. Adjacent parties on North and South exposures protected. No injuries or loss of life.

Other Events:

- Hydrogen Training at NELHA and Blue Planet Research (Pu`u Wa`a Wa`a Ranch) on May 16 in preparation for Hydrogen Fuel Cell busses.

Special Operations:

Hazmat

- Hazmat Captain's meeting completed. Discussions on replacement for Hazmat 4 and X-vehicle, Position assigned PPE, training opportunities on the mainland, and replacement schedules for Hazmat equipment.
- Equipment needs: Personal Radiation detectors, push to talk units, site categorization camera equipment, weather station, specifications for new Hazmat 4.

Ocean Safety

- Transfers and new hires including summer hires completed on May 16.

- Ocean Safety participated in SAREX with USCG and other agencies (see rescue) and both Rescue companies. Great experience for the RWC units to be a part of.
- USLA RWC Training Program Certification still pending.
- 2 new RWC and single trailers were received on May 5th. Units have been titled and registered. Currently being retrofitted to incorporate rescue Sleds and will be placed in Service upon completion.



Rescue



- USCG Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) have been completed the week of May 16-20, with great success. As stated previously, it was done on both sides of the island for all rescue personnel with a presentation and static display of assets to gain familiarization with agency equipment. Agencies that participated in the exercise were HFD Rescue, C-1, C-2, and Ocean Safety RWC's, USCG helicopter and Cutter, and DLNR DOCARE vessels. Established great partnerships and have a better

understanding of each agency's capabilities. We also identified short comings that we will be working on the minimize challenges on real life incidents.

- Rescue Boat 2 (Force) engine replacement. Bid Specifications have been sent out for bids. IFB has been re-issued with better clarity on needs.
- RB7-7 repairs: awaiting scheduling with the vendor.
- RB7 (Radon) O/C due to oil leak, parts are on back order. Still waiting on delivery of parts, delivery timeline is June 2022.

Sayre Foundation

- Funding of additional Apparatus.
 - New Engine at South Kohala: tentative completion in the fall of 2023. Status Quo
 - Replacement for C-2: Status Quo
- New Rescue Watercrafts and Rescue Sleds have been received.
- The Foundation has partnered with a few Councilmembers to support needs at Kailua and South Kohala fire stations. New Ice machines and water filtration systems have been procured.
- Solicitations for 2021 Awards ceremony have been sent out. Fundraiser dinner is on for Labor Day weekend (September 3) at the Fairmont Orchid.

SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

Emergency Medical Services Branch:

Training and Education:

- The 50th fire recruit class has completed EMT training. They are currently back with the Training Branch.
- We are in the process of registering our 51st fire recruit class in the EMT program at Kapi'olani Community College. All required books have been ordered and received.
- Our fall 2021 MICT students are currently in their 3rd rotation of internship.
- Our bi-monthly MICT prep classes are in progress, and we have had great participation.
- We have 7 personnel currently in the registration process for the upcoming Fall MICT class that will begin in August 2022.

Operations:

- Braun Northwest Ambulance fabrication company has notified us that our 2 new ambulance builds are projected to be completed in November of this year. The completion date for these vehicles has been pushed back due to the lack of chassis availability from Ford. These 2 new medics will be assigned to Stations 5 and 15.
- Our quarterly base station meeting was held on May 3 at the Kona Community Hospital. This meeting has been recorded and will be put onto Target Solutions for anyone interested in reviewing this meeting.
- May 15 - 21 was EMS Week. This year's theme was "Rising to the Challenge." This is particularly meaningful during these challenging times. We truly appreciate all of our personnel for their hard work and dedication. EMS Week duffel bag appreciation gifts from Queens Medical Center were distributed to all personnel.
- We are currently working with the State Department of Health on laptop upgrades for our patient reporting documentation. EMS Branch personnel will be stopping by each medic station to install ESO updates.

Injury Prevention:

- Our Community Paramedicine program will be utilizing Unite Us which is a new software program for data tracking. This new platform also serves as a vital communication link with our partnering agencies to enhance our ability to streamline our patient care.
- The EMS Branch has seen an increase in requests for participation in our Project Lifesaver Program. With this increased interest from our community, we have been working with our state and county partners here on Hawai'i Island to increase our capacity to meet this demand.

Training Branch:

- The MSA G1 Care Technicians have started long overdue repairs and maintenance on our breathing apparatus and air cylinders. Captain Matthew Komata, Captain Jon Boteilho, and FEO Darrick Iida have played a significant role in implementation of this program thus far. Systems Analyst IV Chris Cerrone is working with our technicians to develop and pilot a parts ordering, repair, maintenance, and annual testing database for record-keeping.

- Coordinated a day of training with Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute, US Hybrid, and Blue Planet Research on the topic of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, production, fuel stations, and fixed storage facilities on May 16th. Company 7 and 21 personnel attended, along with Chiefs Todd, Toyomura, and Springer. State DOT ARFF and PTA Fire and Emergency Services also attended this event. This training provided key information and intelligence as it pertains to hydrogen emergency response. Other shifts have also coordinated and completed similar site visits for familiarization. Hydrogen training for all members is currently being developed.
- AFEO George Purdy from State ARFF, Lana'i, gave a presentation on drone use in the fire service. HPD and other county departments were invited to listen in to a presentation that covered program rules, laws, management, and administration. A significant takeaway was the cost and risk reduction when compared to traditional aviation. The drones are capable of real-time GIS mapping, pre-scheduled flights and flight plans, and thermal imaging capability.
- The 50th Recruit Class completed EMT training, passed National Registry, and are awaiting State of Hawaii EMT-B licensure.



- Pōhakuloa Fire and Emergency Services certified both 50th and 51st recruit classes in accordance with the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) S130, S190, and L180 Basic Wildland Firefighter course. The recruits also completed the NWCG Arduous Level Pack Test at elevation in accordance with these standards. Recruits learned firing operations, progressive hose lays, fire shelter deployment, and building fire line. HFD also coordinated with Volunteer 9A Yaku Kotaki,

for a day's worth of training on chainsaw operations at Waiki'i Ranch.

- ARFF live fire training was conducted at the Ellison Onizuka International Airport for both recruit classes. The live burns were the final step in concluding ARFF training for both classes.

Volunteer Training Section:

- The topic for May's training was Fire suppression and Fire extinguishers with an emphasis on wet drills. All east side volunteer companies participated in vehicle and equipment familiarization along with hose deployment and handling techniques.
- A lease agreement between the Fern Forest Community Association and the county was signed which will allow Volunteer Company 5-C to once again utilize their station located in the Fern Forest Subdivision.
- Volunteer Company 11-C assisted Company 11 and E-20 with battling a structure fire in Na'alehu in the early morning hours of May 10.

- Volunteer Company 1-A had an extensive station cleanup on the grounds and exterior of 1-A Pepe'ekeo on Saturday May 14. Volunteer Trent Hanzawa donated a full day's work with his excavator and skid steer. A lot of manual labor was put in by the other volunteers of 1-A and both Volunteer Captains.
- Volunteer Company 8A Pa'auilo, responded to 3 wildland/brush fires in the month of May.
- Captain Komata and Captain Taketa assisted in teaching NWCG S-130 and S-190 Basic Wildland firefighter to the 50th and 51st Recruit class along with other agencies at PTA.
- Captain Taketa attended NWCG S-131 Firefighter Type 1 training at PTA with the 50th and 51st recruit class.



Fire Prevention Branch:

- The Fire Prevention Branch investigated 6 structure fires during the month of May. The fires were located in Districts 1, 11, 10, 20, 7, and 2. There was another fire at Uncle Billy's Hotel that required an investigation.
- Fire Captain Clinton Baybayan attended a one-week class at the National Fire Academy and passed a Sprinkler Plan Review course.
- The Fire Prevention Branch conducted 5 Public Education Presentations and reviewed 63 Plans for Hawai'i Island.
- Fire Prevention Branch personnel conducted 189 inspections to include 63 commercial inspections, 35 commercial reinspection's, 12 Certificate of Occupancy, 3 Educational, 0 Educational Reinspection's, 41 Fire Protection System Acceptance Testing, 15 Site Inspections, 2 Fireworks shows, 6 Tent inspections, and 12 Tank inspections.
- Fire Prevention Branch personnel conducted 23 Request-For-Information and Comments combined.
- Fire Prevention Branch also investigated 9 complaints.
- 6 fire investigation records/reports were researched and sent to the requesting parties.
- The 2018 Hawai'i County Fire Code Amendments are still being worked on by Leslie Chow of the Legislative Research Branch. Ms. Chow has not completed the changes and is working on incorporating all of the changes made by HFD and the state fire code into one document. She is checking this document against the model fire code in order to insert proper prefatory language. For instance, "Sec. ___ of the model fire code is replaced with the following" After she finishes this part, she will return to the installation portion for BC Kurashige's review.
- Site visits to Eden Roc subdivision proved successful as a collaborative effort between Fire Prevention, Hawai'i Police Department, Department of Environmental Management and Eden Roc Homeowners Association. 23 vehicles were marked as Derelict Vehicles from Roads 23, 24, and 25. Problematic vehicles were towed away to make room for emergency vehicles to pass through.
- 20 Ready-Set-Go brochures were given to South Point Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) Point-Of-Contact person Jackie Kalua'u for distribution to other lessees.



These brochures aid in home preparedness for wildland fires and if need be, evacuation of areas. A Knox Box padlock was placed on DHHL lessee gate, after obtaining permission from the lessee, which allows HFD access to a water tank at the bottom of South Point Road.

Logistics, Emergency Communication Section, and Vehicle Maintenance Sections:

- MES Fire delivered two trial sets of Fire-Dex structural firefighting PPE to evaluate. Feedback so far is that the fit allows improved range of motion due to better design and cut than current PPE. This option is being explored mostly due to our current vendor experiencing raw material and supply chain challenges, causing delivery delays of approximately 10 months. This issue is significant, and it is affecting most manufacturers on a national level.
- Fire Captain for the Communication center interviews conducted, and Captain Domingo has been selected and will start on June first.
- The Fire communications center lost another Fire Communications Officer I, still have 3 ongoing.
- AC2 and FASO both attended the Station Design Conference in Chicago. It was a very informative conference.
- Received 2 new Waverunners for Ocean Safety.
- Apparatus and equipment repair:
 - Sixty-one (61) total repairs/services.
 - Nineteen (19) service calls or trouble calls.
 - Twelve (12) contracted out and tows.

End of Report