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## Hawai'i Volcanoes NEWS RELEASE

November 30, 2007

### **Alcohol Factor in Five-Fatality Accident**

A recently released investigation report on an accident that claimed five lives shows that the blood alcohol level of one of the drivers was more than three times the legal limit.

On November 10, 2006, Samuel Henry Furtado was driving his SUV near the 28-mile marker on Highway-11 when he crossed the center line and collided with two on-coming cars.

Toxicology findings reveal that Furtado's blood alcohol concentration at the time of the accident was 0.27 percent compared to the legal limit of 0.08 percent.

Drivers of the other two vehicles tested negative for blood alcohol.

Prior to this, the park's last traffic fatality was in June 2002.

#### **Background Information**

On Friday, November 10, 2006 at about 10:00 pm, a three-car accident near the park's Puna entrance claimed the lives of three women and two men.

A 2005 Porsche SUV was traveling in a Ka'u direction when, according to a witness, "it crossed the center line" and collided with two cars heading in a Puna direction. All three people in the SUV died. They include the driver, Samuel Henry Furtado (55) and his two passengers, Loretta Kae Rafferty (46) and Lucia Clearwater (60), all of Volcano, Hawai'i.

The man and woman traveling Puna-bound in a 2006 Chrysler convertible rental car also died. They are Candice Shonah Chisholm (32) and Owen Lloyd Romaine (33), both of Vancouver, British Columbia.

The male driver of the second car heading Puna-bound in a 2004 Chevrolet 2-door sedan, Antony Gross (37) of Kea'au, Hawai'i, was taken by ambulance to Hilo Medical Center and then flown to Queens Medical Center for treatment. The male passenger in the sedan, Daniel Roland Fisher (43) of Volcano, Hawai'i, declined medical treatment and was released at the scene.

Approximately 20 personnel from several agencies responded to the scene and assisted park rangers including Hawaii County Fire and Police and State Highways.

Rangers are assisted in their investigation by Hawai'i Police Department's Traffic Enforcement Unit.

The accident closed Highway-11 for about five hours.

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