



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

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Hawai'i Volcanoes News Release

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Firefighters and Air Operations Join Forces

On Tuesday, June 19th, a small outbreak of lava oozed from a new fissure in a remote area on the upper east rift of Kilauea. The flow is still and cooling. However, the threat of a lava-ignited wildfire from this lava breakout continues.

Fire is smoldering and creeping in layers of decomposed ground vegetation in at least three areas near the recent lava flow.

Today, firefighters from Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and Whiskeytown National Recreation Area hiked to the outbreak and are attempting to suppress the fires.

They are aided by aerial support. A helicopter with a 100-gallon capacity bucket is dropping water on the "hot spots."

Suppression efforts are necessary in order to protect the surrounding rainforest of native plants and animals in the park's 2,700 acre East Rift Special Ecological Area.

In anticipation of the need for a water source, firefighters set up five portable ponds with a capacity of 15,500 gallons of water at the Mauna Ulu parking lot, last Thursday.

This "dip site" is about four miles west of the new lava outbreak.

Park management continues to evaluate the risks of the Father's Day incident, which included a seismic swarm, volcanic outbreak, and wildland fire threat, and is working on a plan to safely reopen Chain of Craters Road.

The plan will include strategies for a safe and orderly evacuation of visitors and staff from the 18-mile stretch of road in the event of another significant volcanic event (eg. earthquake swarm, magma intrusion, or new lava outbreak)



Helicopter scoops up 100 gallons of water to douse hot spots on perimeter of recent lava flow. Photo by Sue Exline, US Forest Service

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