



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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National Park Service Fire Crew assists Maui County Fire Department

National Park Service firefighters from Hawai'i Island and Maui joined together to assist the Maui County Fire Department this week. In the morning hours of Sunday, September 24th National Park Service Ranger Keifer Gier was notified of a brush fire in the Kaupō area of Maui, which had the possibility of threatening Haleakalā National Park. In order to be ready when needed, wildland firefighters at Hawai'i Volcanoes and Haleakalā National Parks were alerted and put on standby to respond to the fire.

Willing to give up their weekend, firefighters gathered their gear and stood by for deployment to the Maui fire. By mid-afternoon Sunday, the Maui County Fire Department officially requested the Federal National Park Service firefighters and by late afternoon six firefighters from the Island of Hawai'i's Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park (HAVO) arrived in Maui. Monday morning more HAVO firefighters arrived, joining the others and creating a 20 person fire fighting hand crew with Haleakalā National Park firefighters.

The National Park Service Fire Crew worked Sunday and Monday protecting the previously evacuated Kahikinui Hawaiian Homelands area. The crew secured the fire's edge and put out hotspots along the dozer constructed fire-line that had potential for flaring up and creating problems. They also worked with helicopters, guiding the water bucket drops to extinguish and cool hot areas.

Burning in moderate brush and grass, the fire has been mostly contained through the coordinated efforts of Maui County Fire Department, fire crews from Makawao, Kula and Kahului, various water tenders, a crew from the Department of Public Works and Environmental Management, private firefighters and the Hawai'i Volcanoes and Haleakalā National Park crew. Mother Nature has also assisted by providing some overcast skies and slight precipitation.

Gregory Herbst of the NPS crew stated that many of the Kahikinui residents expressed gratitude for the assistance from the fire crews. He also stressed the importance of Hawai'i residents taking pro-active steps to protect themselves, their families and their homes from the threat of wildland fire. A good resource is the Firewise program with information available at Firewise.org.

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