



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Hawai`i Volcanoes National Park

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## Hawai`i Volcanoes NEWS RELEASE

April 23, 2008

### **Elevated SO<sub>2</sub> Levels Forces Temporary Closure of Hawai`i Volcanoes National Park**

Sulfur dioxide levels have for the second time this month reached the designated closure threshold in the summit area of the park.

Therefore, Park Superintendent Cindy Orlando has ordered the closure of the park until further notice.

“Our primary concern is for the health and safety of visitors and employees,” said Incident Commander Joe Molhoek. “We’re in close contact with the National Weather Service and look forward to favorable winds by week’s end.

For the safety of everyone, park operations have been curtailed and park rangers are in the process of closing the park, including the Volcano House hotel. Kilauea Military Camp (KMC) remains open.

There is no immediate threat to anyone’s safety.

National Park Service (NPS) emergency responders will remain on duty until further notice.

The park will reopen when favorable winds return and sulfur dioxide levels diminish.

Visitors are encouraged to enjoy the multiple opportunities available throughout Hawai`i island including locations in Hilo: Imiloa Astronomy Center, Lyman Mission House and Museum, Pacific Tsunami Museum, and Mokupapapa Discovery Center.



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