

**Annual Report**  
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Fire & Aviation Management - Region 5

By

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## I. State Fire Assistance Program (SFA)

A. **Goal.** To provide protection for forest, brush, natural areas, and grassland to the extent needed to hold fire damage below the level at which it would interfere with high-level, sustained yield of products and services from these lands.

B. **Objectives.**

1. Provide fire protection coverage on 3,360,000 acres throughout the State.

a. **Prevention**

**Mission.** To minimize man-caused fires by improving DOFAW's prevention program via training and adoption of contemporary techniques for public education measures.

- i. Carry out the Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention Campaign, e.g. brochures, posters, signing, etc.
- ii. Participate in fire prevention activities, e.g. Smokey Bear appearances at various parades, schools, farm fair venues, etc.
- iii. Work with the various county fire departments on statewide wildland urban interface issues.
- iv. Continue to develop a risk hazard analysis and prevention plan for the Hamakua community, Hawai'i.

**Accomplishments:**

*Items i-iii: Fully attained; item iv ongoing.*

- i-iii*
- 1) Smokey Bear has made appearances throughout the state during this period. Smokey made his annual appearance at the Honolulu City Lights tree lighting ceremony on December 2, visiting with over 1,500 children.
  - 2) Smokey was involved with the Federal Fire Department during Fire Prevention Week in October, visiting children at various military installations on Oahu.

- 3) Smokey assisted the Kauai Fire Department in their fire prevention campaign, making three appearances reaching 900 children.
- 4) Smokey made an appearance in Hilo during Fire Prevention Week, working with other fire management agencies on the island.
- 5) Participate in the County Fair Parade with the Maui County Fire Department (MFD). Three of our engines along with Smokey Bear, accompanied Sparky, and four County Fire engines and rescue craft.
- 6) Smokey made an appearance at the 4th of July parade in Kailua, placing second in the Special Units float category.
- 7) Participated in the Fire Prevention Week demonstration at the Kaahumanu Shopping Mall, Maui. Several schools attended this demonstration of vehicle rescue, aerial helicopter rescue, structural fire suppression, water cannons, and appearances by the prevention mascots.
- 8) Two fire prevention workshops were held in Laupahoehoe and Honokaa respectively to address concerns by these communities regarding the possible threat of wildfires from adjacent tree plantations. Approximately 65 people attended the two workshops.
- 9) Patrick Costales (Oahu Branch Manager), and Ed Brodie (HI Branch Asst. Protection Forester) attended a fire conference in San Diego, CA on Nov. 29- Dec. 2, 2000.
- 10) Prevention brochures and posters continue to be given out to the public statewide.
- 11) Attended the Governor's proclamation signing event declaring October 8-14, 2000 as Fire Prevention Week in Hawaii.
- 12) Attended the Mayor's proclamation signing for the City & County of Honolulu. Smokey Bear has made appearances throughout the state during this period. Smokey made an appearance at the Honolulu Youth Fair in October, where over 25,000 people visited

throughout the day. Smokey made his annual appearance at the Honolulu City Lights tree lighting ceremony in December. He also made appearances with the Kaua'i Fire Dept.'s Sparky the Fire Dog.

- 13) The Kaua'i Protection Forester made a presentation at a forestry symposium on "Protecting Tree Farms from Fire". Approximately 60 small landowners who have an interest in establishing a tree farm attended the conference.
- 14) Smokey Bear appeared at Koke'e Museum's "Banana Poka Festival" forest education fair, spreading the word on fire prevention and firewise homes in the urban interface. Approximately 100 people attended the festival.
- 15) Developed a fire prevention brochure which is being distributed through the Hunter Education program.

b. **Presuppression**

**Mission.** To improve the response and firefighting capability of the DOFAW organization and to integrate fire management as an integral part of natural resource management programs.

- i. Continue to improve and maintain the Remote Automatic Weather Stations on Kaua'i, O'ahu, Maui, and Hawai'i.
- ii. Conduct basic firefighting and specialized training statewide, based on Branch needs; collaborate with other fire agencies in the development and use of joint training opportunities.
- iii. Incorporate the Geographical Information System concept including the development and maintenance of fire maps, fire weather data, and other fire-related matters.
- iv. Participate in the Council of Western State Fire Managers, California-Nevada-Hawai'i Forest Fire Council, and the Hawai'i Fire Chiefs Association meetings.

- v. Conduct in-house statewide fire management core group meetings as needed to resolve protection issues, consolidate training, etc.
- vi. Continue to manage and use all Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) equipment statewide in accordance with program regulations; conduct onsite review; complete an annual physical inventory of all equipment.
- vii. Continue to integrate fire protection with other resource management programs, e.g .ecosystem management concepts.
- viii. Cooperate with the State Civil Defense, State Fire Council, and USDA Forest Service to augment fire data gathering and simulation, resource tracking and assignments, supporting technologies, etc.
- ix. Construct & maintain existing firebreak roads, trails, etc.

**Accomplishments:**

*Items i-ix:* Fully attained.

- 1) A series of basic and specialized training was done statewide over the course of the year.

The DOFAW Fire Cadre conducted three sessions of the S130/190 Basic Wildland Fire course. One session was conducted on Maui on Sept. 18-20, 2000 held for DOFAW, Americorps, and The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii employees (total: 27). The second session was held in Hilo on February 12-16, 2001 for Hawaii Branch DOFAW employees (total: 40). The third session was held in Lihue, Kauai on 7-11, 2001 for DOFAW and Kauai Fire Department recruits (total: 18).

A 16-hour Critical Firefighter Training session was held statewide at the DOFAW Branch level during the March-May, 2001. Each Branch was responsible for conducting the session using the guidelines established by the DOFAW training cadre.

The following classes/workshops were conducted by Region 5 personnel.

- a) A hose deployment/engine workshop was held on all Branches. County fire department, Navy, and DOFAW personnel were participants in the workshops (total: 74).
  - b) The S-290, Intermediate Fire Behavior, was conducted at the Hilo DOFAW training facility on March 5-9, 2001. Personnel participating came from DOFAW, the U.S. Army, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (total: 32).
  - c) The S-390, Introduction to Fire Behavior Calculations, was held on March 12-14, 2001 in Hilo. Participants included members of DOFAW, the U.S. Army, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (total: 14).
  - d) The RX-300, Burn Boss, was held on April 16-20, 2001 in Kona. DOFAW and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel were the participants (total: 7).
  - e) An Instructor 1A class was conducted on April 23-24, 2001 in Hilo. DOFAW, National Park Service, and Hawaii County Fire Dept. personnel were participants in the class (total: 18). All personnel have passed the final exam and are now certified "1A" instructors.
  - f) A "C" certification chainsaw workshop was conducted on Maui. Fifteen DOFAW personnel attended the workshop.
- 2) A Fire Management plan was initiated with the Maui Branch Game Biologist for the Lanai Game Management Area. A pipeline used for game management activities was recently extended. This pipeline will serve as a source for water for fire suppression activities.
  - 3) In-house inspections were conducted statewide on the FEPP equipment. FEPP equipment were inventoried and updated. Screening of equipment was done periodically at the Barbers Point DRMO on O'ahu for excess personal property. Acquisition, transfer, and disposition of equipment was also done during the fiscal year.

- 4) The Memorandum of Understanding between DOFAW and the Hawaii County Fire Dept. was updated.
- 5) Maintained 5 gammas, 1 5,000 gal trailer, 4 tankers and 2 CDF engines on the island of Hawaii.
- 6) Statewide fire caches were updated and maintained.
- 7) Maintained 23.2 miles of firebreak on Mauna Kea, and 16.0 miles of firebreak in Puuwaawaa on the island of Hawaii.
- 8) Maintained fire break roads in the Kuaokala & Mokuleia Forest Reserves, island of Oahu.
- 9) Performed fuel hazard reduction activities in and around T&E plant enclosures on the island of Hawaii.
- 10) Performed fuel hazard reduction along 12 miles of fire break roads in Puu Ka Pele Forest Reserve, Kauai.
- 11) Attended 2 North Kona Fuels Management meetings sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- 12) Hawaii Branch is in the process of mapping the Puuanahulu fire breaks and roads.
- 13) Fire training records were updated for all employees.
- 14) Continued to monitor fire weather for the Kula Forest Reserve, Maui with the use of *FireFamily*. This computer program is versatile and recommend training opportunities to follow up on other of its management options to monitor fire danger, aid in prescribed burn projects, and other activities. KBDI indicated 2000 was another drought year until it hit rock bottom with the recent November storm.
- 15) DOFAW personnel attended Helicopter Operations, Fire Behavior, and Prescribed Fire classes at the invitation of the U.S. Army at Schofield Barracks.

- 16) Participated in ICS *Resource Management* training at the invitation of the Maui County Civil Defense Agency. The agency wants to manage emergency incidents using ICS concepts.
- 17) Planned, prepared, and participated in the West Maui Power Line Wildland Fire Mitigation Project. Prevention Specialist Sue McCourt of the Plumas NF provided leadership in the technical and the cooperative management and mitigation aspects of the project. She composed a final report that was distributed.
- 18) Continued to provide technical assistance to Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission in aspects of their fire management program.
- 19) Participated in the blessing ceremony of a 24/7 lease H500D helicopter for Maui Fire Department. Aircraft will aid in the initial attack of wildland fires throughout the county. Previously, no rental initial attack helicopters were available on short notice, with the result being substantial loss of wildland values and expensive suppression costs.
- 20) Planned and conducted an abbreviated Firing Boss workshop for interested Maui Branch personnel.
- 21) Conducted a preplanning session to initiate suppression tactics with the use of the night shift concept. A tractor lighting kit was sent to DOFAW staff on the island of Molokai to aid in the versatility of the tractor for night work. In addition, we are investigating other logistical concerns to allow use of the night shift concept.
- 22) Attended a *Mobile Incident Command* training session sponsored by the Maui County Civil Defense Agency. The session illustrated the notion of 'life preservation' as the primary priority in emergency management. The training also illustrated the well-understood ICS concepts.
- 23) Provided comments to a draft Mutual Aid Agreement by the Marine Corps Base Hawaii, The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii, DOFAW, and Maui Fire Department. The Marines want to conduct helicopter training in the Lanai Game Management Area.

- 24) The State Protection Forester attended the California/Nevada/Hawaii Forest Fire Council meeting in Reno, NV held on October 25-26, 2000
- 25) Worked with R5 staff on the training schedule for Spring 2001 for Hawaii.
- 26) Established the Big Island Wildfire Coordinating Group (BIWCG). Agencies within the BIWCG include DOFAW, National Park Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Army, HI County Fire Dept., HI County Civil Defense Agency, and the HI Dept. of Transportation - Airports Div. Information regarding the BIWCG has been established on the DOFAW Fire Web Site.
- 27) Established the Maui Wildfire Coordinating Group (MWCG). Agencies include DOFAW, Maui Fire Dept., National Park Service, and the Maui County Civil Defense Agency.
- 28) Reviewed and provided comments to fire management plans for the U.S. Army (Schofield & Makua) and The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii.
- 29) Met with a consultant on the update of the fire management plan for the Kaneohe Marine Corp Base- Hawaii.
- 30) Provided technical assistance to the Riverside Fire Lab for sampling of fuels in the Kuaokala Forest Reserve. This is the first step in establishing a fire danger rating system for Hawaii.
- 31) The DOFAW Fire web site ([www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/fmp](http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/fmp)) was maintained and periodically updated.
- 32) Information gathering on Kaua'i and Maui continues. The Maui DOFAW Branch reconciled and archived the 1999 NFDRSTEST indices data for the Kula Forest Reserve remote weather station.
- 33) Fire maps were updated and digitized over the course of the year.
- 34) The Hawai'i Fire Chiefs' Association annual meeting was held at the Ritz Carlton Kapalua on Maui in November 2000. Two DOFAW personnel were able to attend the meeting. A presentation was made by the State

Protection Forester on the updates of the DOFAW fire program and what issues the agency faced over the last fiscal year.

- 35) The State Protection Forester attended the annual Western State Fire Managers meeting in Anchorage, AK. Issues that affect the 17 western states as well as the western Pacific territories were addressed at this meeting. Issue papers were written and presented to the Council of Western State Foresters in late May 2001.
- 36) The annual Fire Core Group meeting was conducted in February 2001 at the Oahu Branch DOFAW office in Honolulu. The DOFAW Fire Cadre reviewed the fire program which included the budget for FY01, accomplishments, training, and the review of cooperative partnerships with our agency counterparts.
- 37) Met with the State Fire Council to share information regarding wildland fire training, the VFA program, etc.
- 38) Implemented the initial stages of the Waianae Fuel Break. A temporary intern from the University of Hawaii was hired to assist in this project.
- 39) Provided assistance to the Honolulu Fire Dept. in identifying communities at risk in the wildland urban interface.
- 40) DOFAW staff reviewed over 100 environmental assessments, EISs, conservation district use applications and film permits. Comments and recommendations were made to these reviews to ensure that fire issues were identified and resolved before approval is given.
- 41) DOFAW participated in the annual Makani Pahili (Hurricane) exercise which is conducted by the State Civil Defense Agency. Various local, county, state, and federal agencies were involved in this important exercise. This exercise is a measuring stick on where the state stands in disaster preparedness.
- 42) Throughout the year, the Region 5 Fire & Aviation Management office is kept abreast of the DOFAW fire program through electronic mail, reports, and other means of telecommunication. Fire data is gathered and sent to the Region office for use in the national reporting system.

- 43) The Kauai Fire Dept. was the recipient of the Volunteer Fire Assistance grant this year. They purchase a brush rig. [see Section II - VFA in this report].

c. **Suppression**

Mission. To suppress wildfires in a safe manner and at a minimum cost consistent with land and resource management objectives and fire management direction.

- 1) Continue to gather statewide fire data and add to the existing database for data analysis and reporting fire history for each Branch.
- 2) Respond to each wildfire incident in a timely manner with appropriate forces as mandated by the provisions of the Land Fire Protection Law (Chapter 185, Hawai'i Revised Statutes). Continue to gather statewide fire data and add to the existing database for data analysis and reporting fire history for each Branch.

**Accomplishments:**

*Items 1-2:* Fully attained.

- 1) During FY01, 109 fires were reported statewide totaling 2,288 acres. Seven fires were reported on Kaua'i, 9 on O'ahu, 51 on Maui, and 42 on Hawai'i.

**Other accomplishments:**

- 1) In August and September, 2000, Six DOFAW personnel participated in two major wild fires on the continental U.S. They were sent to the Manter and Storrie fires in California. This year, three personnel from the Honolulu Fire Dept (2) and the Maui Fire Dept. (1) also participated with DOFAW.

## **II. Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA)**

- A. **Goal.** To organize, train, and equip the Kauai Fire Department firefighting force to efficiently and effectively prevent, control, and suppress fires in remote areas.
  
- B. **Activities.**

The Kauai Fire Department used the VFA grant to acquire a brush rig to supplement their firefighting fleet.