Annual Report

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Fiscal Year 2005-2006

Prepared for USDA – U.S. Forest Service
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, technical assistance, and utilization of contemporary techniques for public education measures.

Fully attained.

Accomplishments

1) Smokey made an appearance at the elementary schools on Hickam, Schofield, Kaneohe Marine Corps, and Pearl Harbor military bases with assistance from the Federal Fire Department during Fire Prevention Week. Smokey charmed the more than 2,500 adults and children that attended the events at the various bases.

2) Smokey Bear made a visit to the Kauai County Farm Bureau Fair. Approximately 800 residents and visitors stopped by to see Smokey.

3) Continued to promote and handout Fire Prevention materials and brochures to the public at the Administrative and Branch offices.

4) Participated in the Makawao Rodeo Parade on July 2, 2005. Approximately 6,000 to 8,000 spectators witnessed the event. DOFAW's float won 1st place in the 'Best Float' category. Master of ceremonies for the parade delivered a brief fire prevention message to the crowd. Eight volunteers joined our efforts.

5) Assisted MFD fire prevention captain with the blessing of the new fire prevention trailer on August 18, 2005. This educational trailer with be used to promote both urban and wildland fire prevention and use.

6) Participated in the Maui County Fair Parade (Sept. 29, 2005) to promote fire prevention and the Smokey Bear campaign. In cooperation with the Maui County Fire Department, DOFAW entered three fire suppression vehicles along with Smokey Bear. Approximately 10,000 spectators witnessed the event.

7) Participated with Smokey Bear at the 2005 Maui County Fair on Sept. 30, 2005 and Oct. 1, 2005. Approximately 25,000 spectators were present to meet and greet Smokey during the two-day event.

8) Worked in cooperation with the Maui County Fire Prevention Bureau to participate with Smokey Bear at the 2005 Arbor Day Tree giveaway on Nov. 3, 2005 at the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens to promote the wildland fire prevention campaign. Approximately 2,000 people were present to meet and greet Smokey Bear.

9) Participated with Smokey Bear in the 2005 Maui Association of Landscape Professionals Fair on Nov. 12, 2005 to promote wildland fire prevention campaign. Approximately 3,500 people were present to meet and greet Smokey Bear.

10) Worked in cooperation with Kali Arce of Molokai CTAHR Extension Service, to plan and organize a wildland fire prevention and resource protection presentation for approximately 300 grade school students from the Kualapuu Elementary School. Presentation is being planned for April 2006.

11) Created and presented a DOFAW wildland fire program powerpoint presentation to the Kamehameha High Schools Environment Science class. There were 18 students present.

12) A fire prevention display was set up in the Keeaumoku St. Wal Mart Store as part of their Safety Week program. Five hundred Firewise brochures and various Smokey Bear items were given out. Smokey Bear also made an appearance in the store.

13) The Kohala By The Sea community on the Big Island updated its status as a 2005 Firewise Communities USA community.

14) DOFAW participated in the Kona Farm Fair in September 2005 as part of the Big Island Wildfire Coordinating Group. DOFAW's Model 5 engine was on static display over the three-day event. Over 25,000 stopped by and reviewed the displays. Smokey Bear paraphernalia and Firewise brochures were given out.

15) Participated in BIWCG's fire prevention booth at the Hilo Jaycee's Springfest Carnival (May).

16) District personnel prepared vehicles and equipment for the 2006 4th of July, Makawao Rodeo Parade (Approximately 5,000 to 8,000 spectators are expected).

17) Installed four 'Smokey Bear-no camp fires in forest reserve' signs in the Kula State Forest Reserve and Polipoli Game Management Area. The idea was generated by the increasing frequency of people starting and leaving unattended camp fires in the area. Forestry officials and enforcement officers worked in cooperation to create and install these signs.

18) Removed 'Smokey Bear – Dry Area' signage from Kula State Forest Reserve access points due to low fire hazard conditions. Maui DOFAW is currently using fire danger rating outputs, specifically KBDI and fuel moisture readings as a management tool to guide fire prevention and presuppression activities.

19) Participated in the 2006 Lahainaluna High School Career Day Fair held January 25, 2006. Displayed fire prevention materials along with other forestry and wildlife interests and issues. Approximately 500 students/faculty attended the event and viewed the prevention material.

20) Participated as a presenter in the 2006 Kualapuu Elementary Arbor Day celebration with Smokey Bear. Purpose of the event was to educate students about fire prevention and the history of Arbor Day. Approximately 250 grade school students from K-4 were present for the event and Smokey Bear. The fire prevention message was 'saving the aina (land) and its' resources' by preventing wildfires.

21) Continue to monitor vegetation surrounding power line poles in the Ukumehame sector in West Maui.

b. **PRESUPPRESSION**

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

Fully attained.

Accomplishments

1) Continued to input fire reports into agency database files.

2) Continued to conduct field exercises with DOFAW Branch personnel on fire vehicle and pump operations.

3) Continued to monitor RAWS data statewide.

4) Updated PPE's for DOFAW personnel. This included firepacks, new generation fire shelters, and fire boots.

5) Completed maintenance of 10 miles of firebreaks in Puu Ka Pele FR.

6) Recertified all Oahu DOFAW personnel. This involved reviewing the 10/18, LCES, and Risk Management.

7) Transferred one Model 42 Engine from the Oahu Branch to the Honolulu Fire Dept.

8) Conducted a meeting with the Honolulu Fire Dept, The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii, U.S. Army, and the Federal Fire Dept. regarding response coordination for presuppression and suppression assistance.

9) Cleared and opened 2.5 miles of an old jeep trail access right of way to the Nanakuli Forest Reserve.

10) Conducted semi-annual inspection of the Ukumehame Powerline corridor via helicopter. The Maui Electric Company (MECO) continues to do a commendable job of vegetation control management around their powerline poles in this high fire hazard area. MECO has maintained the eight primary poles of concern, as well as an additional 15 poles along the Ukumehame-Olowalu corridor.

11) Completed the fire hazard tree removal/milling project with South Pacific Lumber Company at Polipoli State cabin area in November 2005. Approximately 55 pine trees were felled and milled to ensure public safety from fires and fallen trees.

12) The Maui Branch acquired a 200-gal. slip-on unit with a Honda portable engine.

13) The Maui Branch purchased and received 23 new Bendix King handheld radios for fire suppression activities. Current channel/frequencies have been downloaded to all new radios. These radios will replace the outgoing FEPP Bendix King radios which is being prepared for disposal.

14) Attended the South Molokai Wildfire Task Force (SMWTF) meeting in September at the The Nature Conservancy office. The main objective of this meeting was to review and edit the South Molokai Watershed Fire Plan. Attendees were asked to review and give final recommendations to the plan. The task force is made up of representatives from DOFAW, MFD, Soils and Conservation, DHHL, TNC and several private cooperators.

15) Attended the SMWTF meeting on Nov. 1, 2005 at the Molokai TNC office. The group discussed issues and concerns pertaining to agencies' participation and capabilities, CERT program and upcoming training opportunities for participating personnel on Molokai.

16) Attended the SMWTF meeting on Dec. 1, 2005 at the Molokai TNC office. This meeting was a follow up meeting to discuss the agenda and plans for the 2006 calendar year. Assistant Fire Chief, Alan

Cordeiro attended the meeting to show the group the new 'interoperable radio communications' unit that MFD recently purchased. This unit allows different types of radios (800 MHz, VHF/UHF, Nextel, etc.) to be compatible with one another for communication during emergency activities.

17) Three miles of fire break were maintained in the Makawao State Forest Reserve.

18) Attended a CAFS (Compressed Air Foam System) operation presentation at the Kahului Fire Station on Oct. 17, 2005. Presentation included cost, operation, pros and cons and first hand experiences and knowledge of how the CAFS works. It is very advantageous to both structural and wildland fire suppression efforts.

19) The Maui Branch Protection Forester planned and conducted an IMT meeting for district personnel involved in the district's IM Team. Items discussed including new procedures and protocol for the finance section, including daily timesheets and expense outputs, etc.

20) Continue to plan for the construction of the Molokai DOFAW Fire Garage. This garage will house all of Molokai DOFAW's fire suppression vehicles. Construction is slated for Spring 2006.

21) Continue to work in cooperation with Molokai Ranch to install water hydrants along the main water line in the Molokai State Forest Reserve. These water hydrants will allow for more efficient and safe fire suppression operations.

22) The State Protection Forester and the Oahu Branch Forestry Manager attended the California/Nevada/Hawaii Forest Fire Council meeting in Reno, NV in October. The State Protection Forester moderated a session entitled, "Pacific Islands Update" and made a presentation on the upcoming CNH Hawaii conference scheduled for April 19-21, 2005.

23) Attended meetings as a participating agency of the Maui and Big Island Wildfire Coordinating Groups.

24) Continued vegetation control in and around fenced RAWS locations.

25) Updated and maintained all RAWS Stations statewide.

26) Fire training records were updated for all DOFAW employees.

27) The DOFAW Fire web site (www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/fmp) was maintained and periodically updated during this period.

28) Statewide fire caches were updated and maintained.

29) Worked with R5 staff on the training schedule for Spring 2006 for Hawaii.

30) The State Protection Forester attended the 27th Annual Conference of the Hawaii Fire Chiefs Association in Waikoloa, Hawaii on Nov. 17-20, 2005. The attendance by DOFAW provided a balanced support of fire fighting leadership in Hawaii and gave impetus for changing the format and content of the annual confab.

31) Continued to perform fuel hazard reduction activities in and around T&E plant enclosures on the island of Hawaii.

32) The Oahu Branch Manager attended the annual Western Forestry Leadership Coalition meeting in San Diego, CA on Nov. 14-16, 2005.

33) A DOFAW Fire Core Group meeting was held on Sept. 6-8, 2005 to discuss budget issues as well as begin the process of updating the Communities at Risk list for Hawaii.

34) The DOFAW Fire Cadre conducted the 130/190 course on Hawaii on December 5-9, 2005. The 2005 Hawaii County Fire Dept. recruits (16 personnel) along with one personnel from the USFWS Hakalau facilty and one DOFAW personnel attended the class.

35) Attended a fire fuels mapping scoping workshop on Kauai to discuss current and future needs for the County of Kauai. This workshop was conducted by the Pacific Disaster Center (PDC).

36) Participated in two fire management coordination meetings on Oahu: 1) HFD hosted a pre-fire season meeting with DLNR-DOFAW, U.S. Army, and Federal Fire Department on 5/25/06 to discuss fire response protocols and availability of helicopter assets from the military and 2) Oahu fire council meeting hosted by the U.S. Army at Helemano Military Reservation on 6/8/06 with participants from U.S. Army, HFD, FFD, USFWS, MCBH, OCDA, SCD, NWS, and two helicopter vendors; items discussed were prevention, presuppression, and suppression issues.

37) On April 27, participated in NWS briefing regarding that agency's 2006 Operations plan, i.e. Fire Wx Forecast, Red Flag Conditions, and Spot Wx Forecast.

38) Worked with HFD and FFD to work out radio "interoperability" issues. Received instructions that we can use HFD "old" dispatch channel (F5) via a "patch" on their Fire Commo Center console to be able to talk to their Incident Commander, Cmd/General Staff on their 800 Mhz system.

39) Met with PACMERS (Pacific Mobile Emergency Radio Sytem) officials and contractors to determine if other interoperatility issues can be worked out in communications with Federa/State/Cty law enforcement and fire service agencies. This system has possibilities but priority protocols must be worked out to avoid conflicting uses of the DLNR Green Spx/Rpt capabilitiues.

40) Oahu Branch Manager completed FEMA's IS800 Course (An Introduction to the National Response Plan) to insure compliance with Department of Homeland Security directive regarding use of the National Incident Management System.

41) Conducted the annual wildland fire recertification for the Oahu Branch Personnel on Friday, May 26. Used the "Look Up, Look Down, and Look All Around" training module for this year's safety briefing.

42) On Monday, 6/26, 2006--Protection Forester Wayne Ching and Oahu Branch Manager Pat Costales presented the 2005 VFA grant to HFD Fire Chief Kenneth Silva at a ceremonial event at the Honolulu Fire Department's new headquarts. Several Assistant/Battalion Chief's, and Captains were in attendance.

43) Distributed approximately 150 Smokey Bear paraphernalia to several grade school students at Punahou School.

44) Oahu Branch acquired: 1) Several Kenwood portable radios and programming software to standardize frequency alignment. and 2) a Daniels Electronics portable repeater to allow extended range for its Green Tactical 3 Channel.

45) DOFAW personnel attended a PNW hosted Hawaii Regional Fuels Workshop: FCCS, Consume 3.0, and Photo Series in Hilo on February 28-March 2, 2006.

46) The Department of Defense hosted a Pacific Regional Workshop to help local military commands determine their strategic research needs. Oahu Branch Manager provided comments regarding the need for "fire effects", fuel models, fire behavior studies to mitigate the loss of unique ecosystems because of wildfire on military reservations.

47) Assisted Marine Corps Base Hawaii environmental staff in determining their fire management needs for their Kaneohe Base and Bellows training areas.

48) Continue to monitor fire loading within C & C HNL, as of 6/28/06-fire occurrence is less than last year but according to fire officials, "activity picked up" last weekend and continued thru the week. HFD's PIO (CPT Kennison Tejada) made an appeal on Monday evening news for public vigilance and caution in the use of fireworks.

49) Oahu Branch continues to monitor KBDI for the Makua Ridge and Waianae Kai RAWS stations. To date the data show rapidly dryingt trends: Makua KBDI-246; Waianae Kai-501.

50) Maintained 28 miles (50.91 acres) of firebreaks in Puu Waawaa and 15 miles (27.3 acres) of firebreaks in Puu Anahulu.

51) Held the annual Fire Safety Refresher course for district staff (February).

52) Hosted a S290 fire class taught by the USFS. The class was attended by DOFAW, USFWS, HVNP and MFD personnel (March).

53) Hosted a Model 42 engine training for HFD volunteers (March).

54) Taught a S130/190 Short course for non-essential fire staff from Hawaii District. (April)

55) Held a Chainsaw C Unlimited Faller class in Hilo for DOFAW personnel (May).

56) Grazed 20,000 acres for hazard fuel reduction in Puu Waawaa. Installed 2 miles of waterlines and 1 300 gallon water tank for fire suppression and water for cattle. Constructed 1 mile of fenceline for this hazard fuel reduction project.

57) Constructed 0.5 mile (1.5 acres) of new firebreak in Puu Waawaa.

58) Continue to input Kula State Forest data for FireFamily weather monitoring.

59) Continue to inspect and monitor fire danger ratings for Kula, Lanai and Molokai RAWS. Monitoring KBDI and fuel moisture outputs through WIMS and FireFamily Plus. Continue to review/compare HFDRS website outputs with the previous program outputs. KBDI readings from the HFDRS has been consistently 50 points or so higher than the WIMS output.

60) Continue to rehab Molokai 1 and Lanai 1 RAWS. Besides annual R/R, installed new DCP unit in the Molokai 1 unit. Both RAWS units are currently operating properly.

61) Continue to collect monthly rain gauge, temperature and traffic tally readings at the Kula State Forest Reserve.

62) Continue to conduct field exercises with district personnel on fire vehicle and pump operations, as scheduling and fire conditions permit.

63) Continue to assist Maui County Fire Department on acquiring latest PPE and training aids for wildland fire suppression. The Department has a wildland strike team that is now comprised of approximately 30 crew members that have gone through the S130/S190 (and other S-level courses).

64) Provided logistical and planning support for the M42 training that was held on Maui, March 22, 2006 at the Kahului Fire Station. This training was set up for MFD firefighters to provide a training course for their newly acquired FEPP M42.

65) Working in cooperation with MFD and Kaupo Ranch officials to close down and transfer management of cache from DOFAW to either the ranch or MFD.

66) Recently acquired 23 new bendix king portable radios for use on fire suppression activities. Reprogrammed the new BK radios to Maui DOFAW's new channel designations.

67) DOFAW personnel attended the S290 Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior training that was held in Hilo, HI on March 13-17, 2006.

68) Provided logistical and planning support for the 2006 CNH Conference that was held on Maui on April 19-21, 2006.

69) Constructed and completed fire vehicle garage on Molokai (May 2006).

70) Reviewed the Kaheawa Wind Farm fire contingency plan for CDUA MA-3103 and visited the new Kaheawa Windfarm site in Hanaula, Maui along with other DOFAW Staff members to review fire mitigation measures that were included in the management and construction plans.

71) Completed 50% of the new fire hose rack. Rack is entirely constructed of "trex" material.

72) Met with Kathy Murphy and Bob Griffith of the Forest Service to discuss current community and agency fuel reduction projects and issues on Maui. Discussions included fuel loading and hazard issues in conjunction with monetary benefits stemming from these fuels.

73) Participated in the Daniels orange repeater operational training held at the Maui DOFAW baseyard on April 24, 2006. Training included care, maintenance and operational use of the repeater. The repeater is located at the DOFAW baseyard and will be used during fire suppression activities.

74) Attended the South Molokai Wildfire Core Group meeting held on January 12, 2006. Meetings have been conducted as part of an ongoing planning process for the South Molokai area. Main topic of discussion was the acquisition of the new interoperable radio communication system that the MFD recently purchased for the county. Bruce Livoni from Harmer Communications attended this meeting to demonstrate to the group the capabilities of this system. The idea is that this group would purchase a unit for the island of Molokai.

75) Participated on March 3, 2006 on Molokai in a mock field exercise with the emphasis of radio communication capabilities between different radio band systems using the new interoperable radio system. Agencies involved were DOFAW, County Public Works, Dept. of Hawaiian Homelands, Molokai Ranch, MFD, MPD and County Civil Defense. Workshop was successful; however there were issues that needed to be addressed.

76) Participated in the Maui Wildfire Coordinating Group Meeting held at the MFD Chief's office on May 30, 2006. Topics of discussion included agency updates, core group evaluations, future 'meet and greet' session with IMT members from MFD and Maui DOFAW staff, presentation of the VFA funding to MFD officials, developing fire hazard issues in Maui, etc.

77) DOFAW fire staff met with West Maui Watershed Partnership coordinator, Chris Brosius to discuss DOFAW's fire program and the role WMWP personnel may play in the event of a wildland fire located near their management areas. Explained to Mr. Brosius that an MOU must be completed and reviewed before any involvement from his agency. Also planning a meeting with Mr. Brosius, NARS staff and Maui Electric Company to discuss future fire mitigation projects in West Maui.

c. **SUPPRESSION**

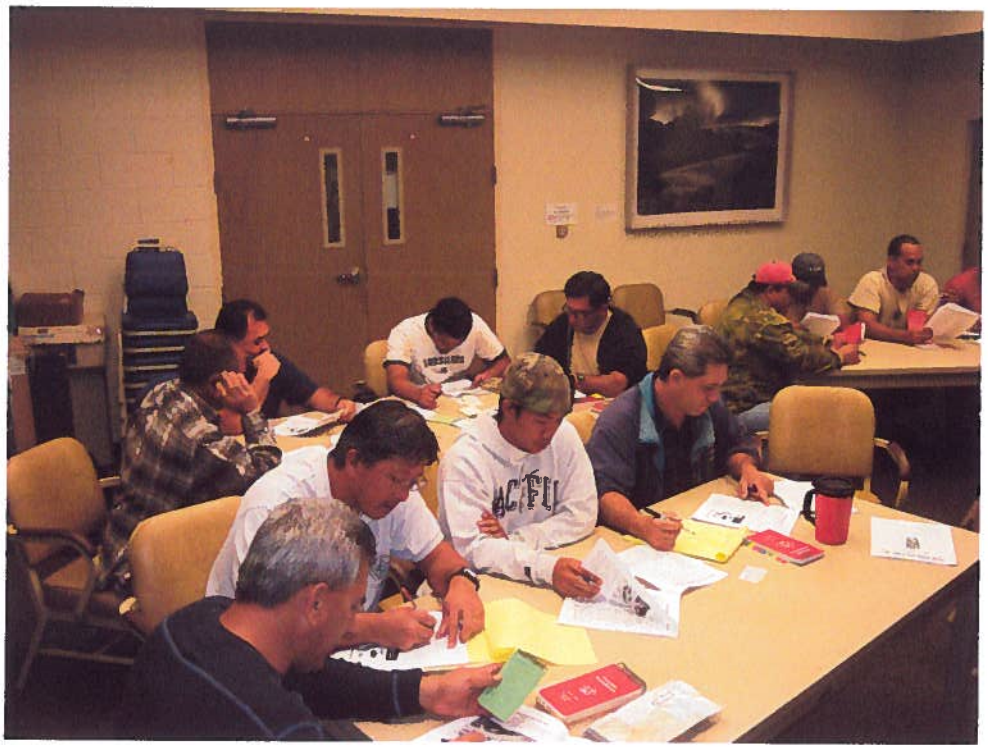
1) During this reporting period, DOFAW was involved in suppression activities across the state. One fire on Kauai (135 acs.), four fires on Oahu (3,270 acs.) one fire on Maui (110 acs.), and five fires on the Big Island (16,000 acres) constituted a major financial concern for the Division. The Division's fire contingency fund was drawn down to critical levels. The outlook for the rest of the fiscal year looks bleak.

2) The fire database was updated during this grant-reporting period.

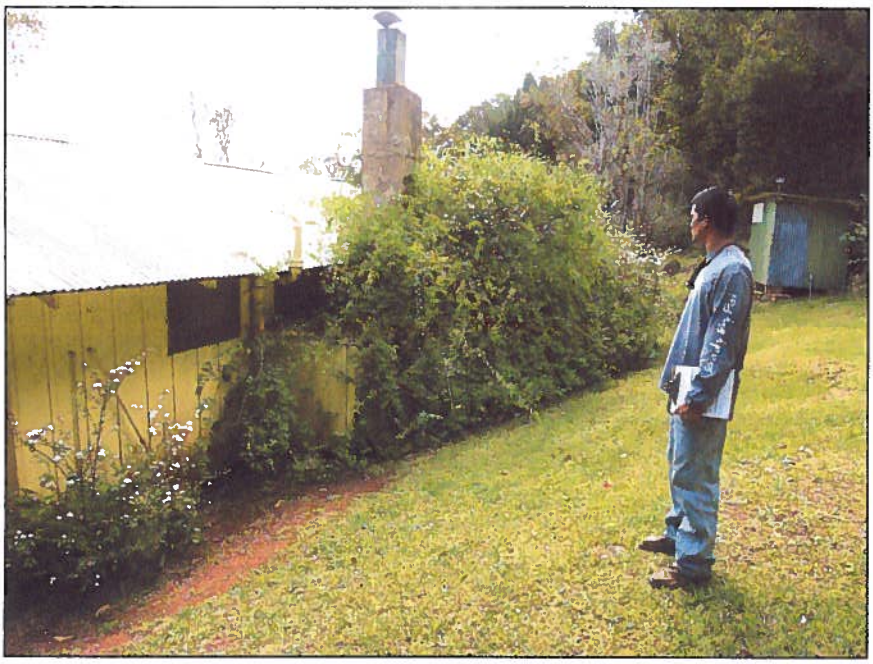
Smokey Bear makes his annual visit to the Makawao Rodeo parade – July 4, 2005

Kohala By The Sea, Hawaii's 1st Firewise Communities USA, continues to be an exemplary community in fireswise principles. The community filed for and got approval for a second year as a nationally recognized Firewise Communities USA community.

DOFAW Fire Core Group members enjoy a home-cooked meal. The group met in September 2005 to discuss budget issues, project proposals, communities at risk, and other issues pertinent to the fire program.



The annual firefighter refresher training keeps our personnel up to date on fireline safety. Here, Kauai DOFAW personnel work through an exercise.



Kauai Protection Forester Kawika Smith makes an assessment of a residence in Kokee State Park. The assessment involved inspecting areas around the home for any existing potential fire hazards and recommending mitigative actions to address these hazards.

The Cleveland National Forest hosted DOFAW fire personnel on a prescribed fire training project in July 2005. (L-R) Miles Nakahara, Battalion Chief John Truett, Lance DeSilva, Kawika Smith, Jay Hatayama.

August 2005 was a month that kept firefighters very busy statewide. The fire above the town of Nanakuli became a 3,500-acre wildfire that threatened three communities and the only electric power plant on Oahu.

Maui DOFAW Firefighter Sasha Smith takes a breather after spending the day on the Kuia Fire.