

Annual Report

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Fiscal Year 2007-2008

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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.

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.

Accomplishments

Fully attained.

- 1) Hired a fire prevention forester to fill a new position created by the 2007 Legislature.
- 2) Participated in the HPM Building expo. in Kona and Hilo. The Firewise program had a booth at the Kona show and the HI Wildfire Coordinating Group displayed at the Hilo exhibit. While the number of participants were down this year, approximately 5,000 people visited the shows and displays.
- 3) The Firewise Coordinator initiated a CWPP for the County of Kauai. Public meetings have been held. The CWPP is expected to be completed by the end of the calendar year.
- 4) The Maui DOFAW Branch participated in the 2008 Earth Day celebration on Molokai on April 18, 2008. Smokey Bear made an appearance before 1,000 Molokai residents spreading the message about fire prevention and being careful with fires. Smokey also made an appearance at the Maui Earth Day celebration on April 19.
- 5) Conducted a presentation to the Emanuel Lutheran K-6 grade classes about Forestry and Fire Prevention issues. Thirty-five students and faculty were present. Personnel handed out Smokey Bear fire prevention materials to the attendees.
- 6) The Oahu DOFAW Branch was involved in a career day event at Wahiawa Elementary school.
- 7) Continued to hand out Smokey and other fire prevention paraphernalia statewide out the DOFAW offices.
- 8) Participated in a multi-agency press conference on Oahu, highlighting the precautions of the use of fireworks as well as fire safety during the 4th of July holiday weekend. Participating agencies included the Honolulu Fire Dept., DOFAW, Red Cross, U.S. Army, Federal Fire Dept., and the County Emergency Mgmt. Services. Static displays of various engines were exhibited during the press conference.

- 9) Established the Oahu Wildfire Information & Education Working Team (OWIEWT). The purpose of the OWIEWT is to be able to further interagency cooperation, communications and coordination, and to implement efforts to gather and distribute information about wildfires on Oahu. It also serves a forum for exchange of ideas among the agencies. OWIEWT members include DOFAW, Honolulu Fire Dept., Federal Fire Dept., and the military public affairs offices of the Air Force, Army, Navy, and Marines.

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.

Accomplishments

Fully attained.

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. Conducted the annual safety refresher for all statewide DOFAW personnel (150 personnel).
5. The Hawaii Branch Protection Forester assisted with the instruction of a S130/190 fire training session for the Hawaii County Fire Dept. recruits and volunteers.
6. Provided PPE's for new DOFAW personnel. This included firepacks, new generation fire shelters, and fire boots.
7. Maintained FEPP vehicles and equipment statewide.
8. Maintained 35 acres of fire access roads throughout Oahu Forest Reserves.
9. Completed fuel break maintenance of 44 acres of firebreaks in Puu Waawaa, 2 acres in the Honualula Forest Reserve, and 7 acres in Kau Forest Reserve, island of Hawaii.
10. Maintained 7.5 acres of fire access roads in the Game Management Area on the island of Lanai and 10 acres in the Molokai Forest Reserve, island of Molokai.
11. Maintained 29 acres of fire break in the Puu Ka Pele FR, 13 acres in the Na Pali Kona FR, and 100 acres in the Kekaha Game Management Area, island of Kauai. Twelve acres of safety zones were also maintained, including 5 acres of helispots in Kauai's wilderness areas.
12. Maintained 12 acres of safety zones and 5 acres of helicopter land zones in remote areas on the island of Kauai.

13. The Spring '08 CNH Hawaii conference was held on April 16-18 in Kailua-Kona. Approximately 150 participants attended the conference entitled, "Huliau – the Winds of Change".
14. Attended meetings as a participating agency of the Maui and Big Island Wildfire Coordinating Groups.
15. Continued vegetation control in and around fenced RAWS locations.
16. Fire training records were updated for all DOFAW employees.
17. Statewide fire caches were updated and maintained.
18. The DOFAW Fire Cadre conducted the 130/190 training on Oahu (Feb. 11-15), Hawaii (Feb. 25-29) and Maui (Jun. 9-13) respectively. Participants included personnel from DOFAW, Honolulu Fire Dept., Maui Fire Dept., National Park Service, Hawaii County Fire Dept., and NRCS for a total of 105 participants.
19. DOFAW personnel, including members of the Honolulu and Hawaii County Fire Departments participated in an Aerial Chemical Application course conducted by George Roby and Ron Raley of PhosChek.
20. The Hawaii Protection Forester assisted a private landowner in Kaupulehu (N. Kona District) with a fountain grass control program for his property. He also assisted a private landowner in Ocean View (Kau District) with a 75-acre fountain grass removal project.
21. Maui Branch staff attended the Molokai Task Force meeting in February. Topics of discussion included; reintroductions to old/new coop agencies and partners, upcoming training opportunities and other planning and logistical issues.
22. DOFAW Maui staff completed a fuel reduction maintenance project in the *Gouania* enclosure near Lahainaluna High School. Approximately 6 acres of ironwood trees and brush was maintained.
23. Maintained 8 acres of a fire access road in the Kula Forest Reserve as part of the Kula FR forest restoration project.
24. Maintained 8 acres of fire access road near the Kaheawa Wind Farm, island of Maui.
25. The Maui Protection Forester met with National Park Service and Maui Fire Dept. personnel to address wildfire issues on the newly acquired 4100-acre parcel of Nu'u, which will be added to the Haleakala National Park.
26. The Maui Branch staff met with the new MFD Fire Chief, Jeff Murray, regarding DOFAW's policies and protocols on prevention, presuppression, and suppression activities.
27. Maui Branch staff attended the West Maui Fire Core Group Meeting held on October 25, 2007. Initial discussion was the idea of creating a firebreak on the westside of Maui, specifically below the NARS and State Forest Reserves. This idea originated from West Maui Watershed Partnership and NARS personnel. However, future meetings will be needed. Concerns of maintenance, accessibility, erosion control, etc. were brought up by other partners.
28. Participated in the USFS Co-op Program review, June 2-6, 2008.

SUPPRESSION

- 1) The Hawaii Branch were involved in 9 fires, totaling 9,641 acres.
- 2) The Oahu Branch was involved in 7 fires, totaling 8,202 acres. One of these fires (Waialua) qualified as a FEMA FMAG fire, thereby allowing the Division to recoup 75% of expenses incurred.
- 3) The Maui Branch was involved in 2 fires, totaling 110 acres.
- 4) The Kauai Branch was involved in 2 fires totaling 55 acres.
- 5) The Division fire database was updated during this grant-reporting period.

VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE

The county fire departments have met their obligation to the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program. Funds were spent to acquire PPE's as well as attend fire courses and conferences.



The Division depends heavily on the use of FEPP vehicles such as this “gamma goat.” The FEPP program also provides the county fire departments the ability to acquire equipment to supplement their fire arsenal.



The DOFAW Fire Cadre continues to provide basic firefighting training to fire management agencies statewide. This year, 105 firefighters from six agencies participated in the instruction.



The Division was able to assist the Region in providing instructors for a incident management workshop held in American Samoa in January 2008. (L-R): John Cumming (DOFAW), Gary Glotfelty, Wayne Ching (DOFAW), Junior Tuiasosopo (AS), and Dan O'Brian (AS Fire Chief).



DOFAW Fire Management Team (L-R): Lance DeSilva (Maui), Kawika Smith (Kauai), Wayne Ching (Admin.), Jay Hatayama (Hawaii), and Ryan Peralta (Oahu).