



Media Release

Public Affairs Office
U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii
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“Malama na Koa”

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PTA Wildfire Update

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA (PTA), Hawaii- The wildfire at the U.S. Army's Pohakuloa Training Area has now consumed a revised estimate of 1,300 acres and is approximately 55% contained. It continues to spread on the northern slopes of Mauna Kea near mile marker 32 on Saddle Road, while firebreaks have successfully been dug on the fire's east and west flanks. Saddle Road is providing a firebreak to the south.

No structures at PTA are threatened, however outbuildings and cabins at the Mauna Kea State Park are being protected by firefighters.

Saddle Road remains closed from Mile Marker 8 on the Hilo side and at the junction of Highway 190 (Mamalaha Highway) and Saddle Road on the Waikoloa side. Local traffic is allowed access inside these two road blocks according to the Hawaii County Civil Defense. An aerial assessment is planned this afternoon to determine if and when Saddle Road will re-open.

An additional three military helicopters have joined the three civilian-contracted helicopters that have been on the scene since Sunday -- one from Marine Corps Base Hawaii and two from the Hilo Hawaii Army National Guard.

Joining the 66 firefighters currently battling the fire are five firefighters from the Army Wild Land Fire from Schofield Barracks and 14 Department of Forestry and Wildfire (DOFAW) from Maui.

The fire began sometime approximately 9:30 a.m. Sunday about a 1/4 mile east of PTA's main gate in the vicinity of Mauna Kea State Park. No Army training activity was taking place on the eastside of Saddle Road at that time.

For more information, call Mike Egami, at 808-656-3152 or Cell 387-8511 or Dennis Drake at 808-656-3154 or Cell 226-2706.

