

Wildfire Safety Working Group – Meeting 4 Notes

Attendees

- Marc Asano, Hawaiian Electric
- Colton Ching, Hawaiian Electric
- Erin Kippen, Hawaiian Electric
- Kahikina Burgess, Hawaiian Electric
- Naomi Kuwaye
- Delani Watkins
- Ed Sniffen
- Marcey Chang
- Ty Fukumitsu
- Sharri Thornton, Hawaiian Electric
- Craig Clouet
- Christine Wang
- David Kurohara, Hawaiian Electric
- Henry Curtis
- Taylor Lau
- Zhenzhen Zhang
- Donald Aweau
- Kauilehuamelemele Kauhane
- Tracie Black, Hawaiian Electric
- Eochilo
- Ali Arabnya
- Mark
- Stephanie Donoho
- Elizabeth Pickett
- Vanita Chhabra
- MCBH
- Colin Yost
- Gregg Lemler
- Annette Matsuda
- Ty Fukuroku
- Kanani Imai, Hawaiian Electric
- Kazuo Todd
- Ernest Lau
- Hsun-Ying Kao
- Kyra Howe
- Conrad Newfield
- LeeAnn Silva
- Nancy Bernal, Hawaiian Electric
- Amir Angha
- Larry Brown
- Taesun Kim
- Kawika Uyehara
- Gina Yi, Hawaiian Electric
- Michael Angelo
- Keola Siafuafu, Hawaiian Electric
- Andrija Sadikovic
- Erik Takayesu
- Kevin Moy
- Kristen Okinaka, Hawaiian Electric
- Keith Ito
- Mathew McNeff, Hawaiian Electric
- Shayna Decker, Hawaiian Electric
- Keiki-Pua Dancil
- Darren Pai, Hawaiian Electric
- Amanda Uowolo
- Jamie Suzuki, Hawaiian Electric
- Douglas Le
- Dorothy Booth
- Uyiosa Osa-Iduma
- Kimberly Vaituulala, Hawaiian Electric
- Nathan Todaro, Hawaiian Electric
- Jack Lee
- Jonathan Chin
- Ionatana Tuitasi
- Jeanne Johnston
- Michael Walker
- Cheresa Coles
- Heather Forester
- Erwin Kawata
- Rick Pinkerton, Hawaiian Electric
- Amy Adrian, Hawaiian Electric
- Shari Ishikawa, Hawaiian Electric
- Tony Traini
- Kino Genki
- Jacqui Hoover
- Keith Okamoto
- Bernard Sadoulet
- Oliver Vass
- Yumi Kam
- Sarah Harris
- Jennifer Zelko-Schlueter, Hawaiian Electric
- Leo Asuncion
- Sloan Askins
- Ryan Chong
- Shannon Alivado, Hawaiian Electric
- Chad Koide
- Chad Higashi
- Kurt Tsue, Hawaiian Electric
- Stephanie Donoho
- Nadja Turek

Notes

- Discussed Takeaways from Land Management Working Group Meeting
 - No further comments or feedback.
 - Question: Are wind data sets being developed for gulches?
 - Hawaiian Electric Response: Hawaiian Electric is using different weather patterns and historical data to identify potential prevailing winds that may impact some of the risk associated with gulches. There might be additional ways to incorporate data about wind tunnel effects.
- Ingress/egress
 - Discussed an overview of ingress and egress and how Hawaiian Electric incorporated it into its 2025-2027 Wildfire Safety Strategy (WSS)
 - Discussed considerations to improve ingress/egress risk assessment for future WSS updates
 - Still working out analytical process, but overall framework includes:
 - Identifying risk at the neighborhood scale, and analyzing vegetation characteristics, road features, utility overhead structure, residential density, access and functional needs
 - Modeling framework:
 - Simulating wildfire areas, and identifying egress risk areas where people may be needing to evacuate from
 - Simulating evacuation area and safe zone determination to identify and simulate egress routes
 - Routes are scored and road attributes are assessed and scored
 - Evaluation of risk and consequences
 - Question: are there other utilities on the poles (not owned by Hawaiian Electric) that have a wildfire risk if the pole would fall?
 - Hawaiian Electric Response: Fall-in risk is impacted by weight of everything attached to the pole or several poles. Hawaiian Electric tries to account for attachments. The City has some lower power communication infrastructure on the pole. Communication lines have lower ignition risks due to low voltage. If non-fiber telecommunication lines have contact with utility power lines, they can be conductors of electricity.

- Question: are economic risks considered? For example, a fire in a commercial sector would have longer term impacts on the community than in a rural sector?
 - Hawaiian Electric Response: Long-term economic risks haven't specifically been considered, as they relate to ingress/egress. Hawaiian Electric may review residential density, which could include commercial buildings and would try to take into account hotels, others, which could have higher density populations that need to get evacuated.
- Question: Has Hawaiian Electric considered the possibility of evacuation via boat/sea, or evacuation via bus instead of personal vehicles? Is Hawaiian Electric engaging directly with access and functional need customers to get their input on ingress/egress methodology?
 - Hawaiian Electric Response: Hawaiian Electric has not thought about evacuations via boat/sea. Buses could be considered, but would need to look at traffic and congestion data to help quantify this. Not clear how much buses would alleviate an emergency situation, especially due to timing and availability.
 - Stakeholder Response: This is a broader issue than just the utility or wildfires, there are many different ways and stakeholders with different roles and methods to address the issue. All first responders are coordinating, and they do ask if buses are needed and city buses and handivans can deploy for people with limited mobility. Buses are often on standby during these events.
 - Hawaiian Electric Response: Hawaiian Electric is attempting to quantify AFN customers in evacuation areas for this improved analysis. This feeds into understanding their needs and how they would evacuate.
- Question: Is there coordination with traffic control systems? Could traffic lights be managed to go green for the egress and red for the ingress to fire areas to help manage flow?
 - Stakeholder Response: Traffic signals must be manually changed, and need to account for pedestrians walking out of the impacted area. Coordination with first responders is key. Want to avoid locking up main roadways.
- Question: Have hotels and resorts been included in density considerations for risk modeling? Areas like Ko Olina or Waikoloa might potentially increase the number of people needing to evacuate.

- Hawaiian Electric Response: Hawaiian Electric will look for data sets to make sure it is incorporating this.
 - HWMO community risk map update
 - Communities at Risk from Wildfires mapping. Last update was in 2013, but they are in the midst of an update now.
 - Maps are based on data collection and fire service input
 - Hazard characteristics are further categorized into subdivision, vegetation, building, fire environment, and fire protection hazards
 - Mapping helps HWMO prioritize project and grants to address risk
 - 2025 map updates are based on a combination of:
 - Current GIS data layers from various sources (wind, precipitation, etc.)
 - Updated field data from drive around neighborhoods
 - A new data layer is being created for ingress/egress to address one way in/out
 - Providing ingress/egress data and products for risk analysis and mitigation
 - Performing additional data analysis on:
 - Number of ingress/egress routes
 - Distance
 - Other barriers (gates, closures, etc.)
 - Evaluating at multiple scales:
 - Neighborhood
 - Community
 - Region
 - District
 - County
 - Anticipated completion date of December 2025
 - Question: Will this GIS information be publicly available?
 - HWMO Response: All data HWMO does is shared as broadly and openly as possible.
- Map activity and discussion
 - Introduced the tool for comments
 - Question on wind speeds and mutually beneficial effect of addressing cyclone events as well?
 - Hawaiian Electric Response: Yes, stronger poles would be able to withstand hurricane force winds (minimum of 105 mph winds)

- What's ahead
 - Continuing partnerships with HWMO and other public safety partners
 - Continuing outreach to agencies to exchange information, data, and transportation infrastructure plans
 - Next meeting: October 15