

## The Hawaii Files Volcano Watch

Daily summary scroll of volcano related news and events.

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**Sunday, June 10, 2018.**

**Mel's Notes:** Kilauea's volcano eruption continues.

### HAWAIIAN VOLCANO OBSERVATORY STATUS REPORT

U.S. Geological Survey

Sunday, June 10, 2018, 8:56 AM HST (Sunday, June 10, 2018, 18:56 UTC)

**KILAUEA VOLCANO** (VNUM #332010)

19°25'16" N 155°17'13" W, Summit Elevation 4091 ft (1247 m)

Current Volcano Alert Level: WARNING

Current Aviation Color Code: RED

#### **Kilauea Volcano Lower East Rift Zone**

Vigorous eruption of lava continues from the lower East Rift Zone (LERZ) fissure system in the area of Leilani Estates.

Overnight, lava fountains from Fissure 8 reached heights of 130-180 feet, feeding a strong channel to the northeast and then east that experienced minor small levee overflows. Near the Four Corners region the channel was incandescent and flowing. Yesterday's measurements show that gas emissions have nearly doubled, possibly indicating an increase in eruption rate from Fissure 8. The morning overflight revealed that the fountains and channels continue to erupt and transport lava to the ocean entry which was one large plume. Offshore of this ocean entry, there is an upwelling of ocean water heated by lava flowing on the ocean floor.

Minor lava activity at Fissures 16/18 continued.

Pele's hair and other lightweight volcanic glass from fountaining of Fissure 8 are falling downwind of the fissure and accumulating on the ground within Leilani Estates. High winds may waft lighter particles to greater distances. Residents are urged to minimize exposure to these volcanic particles, which can cause skin and eye irritation similar to volcanic ash.

The most recent map of lava flows can be found at

[https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia\\_maps.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia_maps.html)

HVO field crews are on site tracking the fountains, lava flows, and spattering from Fissure 8 as conditions allow and are reporting information to Hawaii County Civil Defense. Observations are also collected on a daily basis from cracks in the area of Highway 130; no changes in temperature, crack width, or gas emissions have been noted for several days.

Volcanic gas emissions remain very high from Fissure 8 eruptions. Yesterday, gas emissions were measured to be nearly twice the value measured during the past two weeks. Trade wind conditions are expected to bring vog to the south and west sides of the Island of Hawaii.

**The ocean entry is a hazardous area.** Venturing too close to an ocean entry on land or the ocean exposes you to flying debris from sudden explosive interaction between lava and water. Also, the lava delta is unstable because it is built on unconsolidated lava fragments and sand. This loose material can easily be eroded away by surf, causing the new land to become unsupported and slide into the sea. Additionally, the interaction of lava with the ocean creates "laze", a corrosive seawater plume laden with hydrochloric acid and fine volcanic particles that can irritate the skin, eyes, and lungs.

Magma continues to be supplied to the lower East Rift Zone. Seismicity remains relatively low in the area with numerous small magnitude earthquakes and low amplitude background tremor. Higher amplitude tremor is occasionally being recorded on seismic stations close to the ocean entry.

**Additional ground cracking and outbreaks of lava in the area of the active fissures are possible. Residents downslope of the region of fissures should heed all Hawaii County Civil Defense messages and warnings.**

### **Kīlauea Volcano Summit**

A small explosion occurred at Kilauea's summit at 12:51 AM HST -- about 20 hours since the previous event. Seismicity dropped immediately after the explosion and remains low at this time, but based on past trends we expect earthquake rates to increase over the course of the day. Inward slumping of the rim and walls of Halema`uma`u continues in response to ongoing subsidence at the summit.

Sulfur dioxide emissions from the volcano's summit have dropped to levels that are about half those measured prior to the onset of the current episode of eruptive activity. This gas and minor amounts of ash are being transported downwind, with small bursts of ash and gas accompanying intermittent explosive activity.

For forecasts of where ash would fall under forecast wind conditions, please consult the Ash3D model output here: [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/activity\\_2018.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/activity_2018.html)

Information on volcanic ash hazards and how to prepare for ash fall maybe found at <http://www.ivhhn.org/information#ash> (health impacts) OR [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanic\\_ash/](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanic_ash/) (other impacts).

## **MORE INFORMATION**

Activity Summary also available by phone: [\(808\) 967-8862](tel:8009678862)

Subscribe to these messages: <https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/vns2/>

Webcam images: [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia\\_webcams.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia_webcams.html)

Photos/Video: [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia\\_chronology.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia_chronology.html)

Lava Flow Maps: [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia\\_maps.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia_maps.html)

Definitions of terms used in update:

<https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/extra/definitions.pdf>

Overview of Kīlauea summit (Halema‘ūma‘u) and East Rift Zone (Pu‘u ‘Ō‘ō ) eruptions:

<https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/extra/background.pdf>

Summary of volcanic hazards from Kīlauea eruptions:

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Recent Earthquakes in Hawai'i (map and list):

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Explanation of Volcano Alert Levels and Aviation Color Codes:

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<https://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2006/3139/>

## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

[askHVO@usgs.gov](mailto:askHVO@usgs.gov)

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**Friday, June 8, 2018.**

**Mel's Note:** Most of lower Puna in the Kapoho area has been wiped out by lava flows which continue this week. The entire community of Vacationland has been covered by lava along with treasured swimming spots near the ocean. A new delta jutting out of the area has been formed by the lava. Nearly all the people living there have been evacuated. More than 500 homes, other structures and farm land have been destroyed.

Upslope at the summit of Kilauea, steam and gas explosions continue to belch out of Halemaumau crater. The USGS has a live camera video feed from the summit:

<https://youtu.be/JIP-8JiKOS8>

Here is the most recent USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory report:

**HAWAIIAN VOLCANO OBSERVATORY STATUS REPORT**  
**U.S. Geological Survey**  
**Friday, June 8, 2018, 8:25 AM HST (Friday, June 8, 2018, 18:25 UTC)**

**KILAUEA VOLCANO** (VNUM #332010)

19°25'16" N 155°17'13" W, Summit Elevation 4091 ft (1247 m)

Current Volcano Alert Level: WARNING

Current Aviation Color Code: RED

**Kilauea Volcano Lower East Rift Zone**

Vigorous eruption of lava continues from the lower East Rift Zone (LERZ) fissure system in the area of Leilani Estates.

Overnight, lava fountaining at Fissure 8 continue to reach heights of about 220 feet. Geology and UAS crews observed no significant changes in the Fissure 8 flow field. HVO's morning overflight revealed. There is no lava activity from the other fissures but Fissure 24 is incandescent and Fissures 24, 9, and 10 are fuming heavily.

Pele's hair and other lightweight volcanic glass from high fountaining of Fissure 8 are falling downwind of the fissure and accumulating on the ground within Leilani Estates. High winds may waft lighter particles to greater distances. Residents are urged to minimize exposure to these volcanic particles, which can cause skin and eye irritation similar to volcanic ash.

The most recent map of lava flows can be found at

[https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia\\_maps.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia_maps.html)

HVO field crews are on site tracking the fountains, lava flows, and spattering from Fissure 8 as conditions allow and are reporting information to Hawaii County Civil Defense. Observations are also collected on a daily basis from cracks in the area of Highway 130; no changes in temperature, crack width, or gas emissions have been noted.

Volcanic gas emissions remain very high from Fissure 8 eruptions. For the next few days, easterly wind conditions may bring vog not only to the south and west sides of the Island of Hawaii, but also upslope to the island's interior.

**The ocean entry is a hazardous area.** Venturing too close to an ocean entry on land or the ocean exposes you to flying debris from sudden explosive interaction between lava and water. Also, the lava delta is unstable because it is built on unconsolidated lava fragments and sand. This loose material can easily be eroded away by surf, causing the new land to become unsupported and slide into the sea. Additionally, the interaction of lava with the ocean creates "laze", a corrosive seawater plume laden with hydrochloric acid and fine volcanic particles that can irritate the skin, eyes, and lungs.

Magma continues to be supplied to the lower East Rift Zone. Seismicity remains relatively low in the area with numerous small magnitude earthquakes and low amplitude background tremor. Higher amplitude tremor is occasionally being recorded on seismic stations close to the ocean entry.

**Additional ground cracking and outbreaks of lava in the area of the active fissures are possible. Residents downslope of the region of fissures should heed all Hawaii County Civil Defense messages and warnings.**

USGS/HVO continues to monitor the lower East Rift Zone activity 24/7 in coordination with Hawaii County Civil Defense.

### **Kīlauea Volcano Summit**

At 2:44 AM HST, a small explosion occurred at the summit of Kīlauea. No weather radar observations of plume heights are possible, but satellite data suggest that any plume that might have been generated did not exceed 10,000 feet above sea level. Since the small explosion, seismic activity in the summit region has been low. Inward slumping of the rim and walls of Halema`uma`u continues in response to ongoing subsidence at the summit.

Sulfur dioxide emissions from the volcano's summit, while lower than those recorded in early-mid May, remain high enough to impact air quality in downwind regions. Additional bursts of gas released with intermittent explosive activity are also transported downwind and may temporarily affect air quality as well.

For forecasts of where ash would fall under forecast wind conditions, please consult the Ash3D model output here: [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/activity\\_2018.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/activity_2018.html)

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[askHVO@usgs.gov](mailto:askHVO@usgs.gov)

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**Tuesday, June 5, 2018.**

**Mel's Note:** The eruption continues. Lava flows from Fissure 8 (what I want to call *Pu'u Leilani* since it is building a sizable cinder cone) have wiped out more than 150 homes and other structures downslope from the eruption site. The communities in lower Puna impacted by this lava flow includes Kapoho and nearly all of the Vacationland subdivision.

Here is the latest update from **USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory:**

**HAWAIIAN VOLCANO OBSERVATORY STATUS REPORT**  
**U.S. Geological Survey**  
**Tuesday, June 5, 2018, 8:10 AM HST (Tuesday, June 5, 2018, 18:10 UTC)**

**KILAUEA VOLCANO** (VNUM #332010)

19°25'16" N 155°17'13" W, Summit Elevation 4091 ft (1247 m)

Current Volcano Alert Level: WARNING

Current Aviation Color Code: RED

**Kīlauea Volcano Lower East Rift Zone**

Vigorous eruption of lava continues from the lower East Rift Zone (LERZ) fissure system in the area of Leilani Estates and Lanipuna Gardens.

The intensity of lava fountaining at Fissure 8 declined overnight, and fountain height is fluctuating between 130 and 160 feet (not far above the top of the cone that has formed over the past week). Fissure 8 continues to feed a channel transporting lava to the northeast along Highway 132 and east to the ocean entry in Kapoho Bay.

HVO's 6:30 AM HST overflight confirmed that lava completely fills Kapoho Bay, extending 0.7 miles from the former coastline. To the south, lava is entering the water at the Vacationland tidepools, having inundated most of that subdivision. To the north, lava has covered all but the northern part of Kapoho Beach Lots. The northernmost lobe of the Fissure 8 flow, in the Noni Farms Road area, advanced downslope about 200 yards overnight.

No other fissure vents showed significant activity this morning.

Pele's hair and other lightweight volcanic glass from high fountaining of Fissure 8 are falling downwind of the fissure and accumulating on the ground within Leilani Estates. Winds may waft lighter particles to greater distances. Residents are urged to minimize exposure to these volcanic particles, which can cause skin and eye irritation similar to volcanic ash.

The most recent map of lava flows can be found at [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia\\_maps.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia_maps.html)

HVO field crews are on site tracking the fountains, lava flows, and spattering from multiple fissures as conditions allow and are reporting information to Hawaii County Civil Defense.

Volcanic gas emissions remain very high from the fissure eruptions. Trade wind conditions are bringing vog to the south and west sides of the Island of Hawaii. Afternoon easterly winds may bring vog to communities in the Volcano area.

**The ocean entry is a hazardous area.** Hazards include walking on uneven, glassy lava flow surfaces and around unstable, vertical sea cliffs. Venturing too close to an ocean entry on land or the ocean exposes you to flying debris from sudden explosive interaction between lava and water. Also, the lava delta is unstable because it is built on unconsolidated lava fragments and sand. This loose material can easily be eroded away by surf, causing the new land to become unsupported and slide into the sea. In several instances, such collapses have also incorporated parts of the older sea cliff. Additionally, the interaction of lava with the ocean creates "laze", a corrosive seawater plume laden with hydrochloric acid and fine volcanic particles that can irritate the skin, eyes, and lungs.

Magma continues to be supplied to the lower East Rift Zone. Earthquake locations have not moved farther downrift in the past few days and the number of located earthquakes remains low. Seismicity remains relatively low with numerous small magnitude earthquakes and low amplitude background tremor.

**Additional ground cracking and outbreaks of lava in the area of the active fissures are possible. Residents downslope of the region of fissures should heed all Hawaii County Civil Defense messages and warnings.**

USGS/HVO continues to monitor the lower East Rift Zone activity 24/7 in coordination with Hawaii County Civil Defense.

### **Kīlauea Volcano Summit**

High levels of earthquake activity occurred for most of Monday night and into Tuesday morning. A small explosion, with an equivalent earthquake magnitude of M5.5, occurred at 4.32 AM HST, generating a small plume that rose about 1000 feet above the summit. Since the small explosion, summit seismicity has been low, following the pattern of previous events. Inward slumping of the rim and walls of Halema`uma`u continues in response to ongoing subsidence of the summit.

Locally felt earthquakes are expected to continue and further ash explosions are likely.

Over the last week, sulfur dioxide passively degassing from the volcano's summit has decreased, but emission rates remain high enough to impact air quality in downwind regions. Additional bursts of gas released with intermittent explosive activity are also transported downwind and may temporarily affect air quality as well.

For forecasts of where ash would fall under forecast wind conditions, please consult the Ash3D model output here: [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/activity\\_2018.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/activity_2018.html)

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## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

[askHVO@usgs.gov](mailto:askHVO@usgs.gov)

The Hawaiian Volcano Observatory is one of five volcano observatories within the U.S. Geological Survey and is responsible for monitoring volcanoes and earthquakes in Hawai'i.

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**Monday, June 4, 2018.**

**HAWAIIAN VOLCANO OBSERVATORY STATUS REPORT**  
**U.S. Geological Survey**  
**Monday, June 4, 2018, 8:49 AM HST (Monday, June 4, 2018, 18:49 UTC)**

**KILAUEA VOLCANO** (VNUM #332010)

19°25'16" N 155°17'13" W, Summit Elevation 4091 ft (1247 m)

Current Volcano Alert Level: WARNING

Current Aviation Color Code: RED

**Kīlauea Volcano Lower East Rift Zone**

Vigorous eruption of lava continues from the lower East Rift Zone (LERZ) fissure system in the area of Leilani Estates and Lanipuna Gardens.

Fountaining at Fissure 8 continued overnight, feeding a robust lava channel to northeast along Highway 132 to the Kapoho area. Local videographers reported that lava entered the ocean at Kapoho Bay at about 10:30 PM HST on June 3. As of 6:30 AM on June 4, lava is constructing a delta in Kapoho Bay extending a few hundred yards into the bay. A laze plume is blowing inland from the ocean entry but dissipating quickly. The lava flow front is about 0.5 miles wide. A lava breakout is also occurring upslope of the Kapoho cone cinder pit, with active flows about 330 yards southeast of the intersection of Railroad Avenue and Cinder Road.

Sluggish lava flows are present in the vicinity of Fissure 18; all other fissures are inactive.

Pele's hair and other lightweight volcanic glass from high fountaining of Fissure 8 are falling downwind of the fissure and accumulating on the ground within Leilani Estates. Winds may waft lighter particles to greater distances. Residents are urged to minimize exposure to these volcanic particles, which can cause skin and eye irritation similar to volcanic ash.

The most recent map of lava flows can be found at [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia\\_maps.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia_maps.html)

HVO field crews are on site tracking the fountains, lava flows, and spattering from multiple fissures as conditions allow and are reporting information to Hawaii County Civil Defense.

Volcanic gas emissions remain very high from the fissure eruptions. Trade wind conditions are bringing vog to the south and west sides of the Island of Hawaii. Afternoon easterly winds may bring vog to communities in the Volcano area.

Magma continues to be supplied to the lower East Rift Zone. Earthquake locations have not moved farther downrift in the past few days and the number of located earthquakes remains low. Seismicity remains relatively low with numerous small magnitude earthquakes and low amplitude background tremor.

**Additional ground cracking and outbreaks of lava in the area of the active fissures are possible. Residents downslope of the region of fissures should heed all Hawaii County Civil Defense messages and warnings.**

USGS/HVO continues to monitor the lower East Rift Zone activity 24/7 in coordination with Hawaii County Civil Defense.

### **Kīlauea Volcano Summit**

Following the small explosion at about 3:50 PM HST on June 3, earthquake activity at the summit has been low. Inward slumping of the rim and walls of Halema`uma`u continues in response to persistent subsidence. We expect that earthquake rates may increase in the coming hours to days and culminate in another small explosion, following the pattern of the past few weeks.

Volcanic gas emissions at the summit remain high.

For forecasts of where ash would fall under forecast wind conditions, please consult the Ash3D model output here: [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/activity\\_2018.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/activity_2018.html)

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**Sunday, June 3, 2018.**

**Mel's Note:** Today marks the one month point since the start of the Leilani Estates eruption. It was on this date, May 3, 2018 (a Thursday afternoon) that the first fissure erupted within Leilani Estates located in the lower Puna area of the Big Island of Hawaii. I was at my friend's house (I live in Honolulu) when the alert came through my phone. I watched the first reports and later texted my sister who lives on the Big Island, but more than 100 miles away from the volcano in Honokaa.

Since watching the initial outburst of lava, many of us have become "addicted" to tracking the progress of this very disruptive and destructive phase of the ongoing Kilauea eruption which started way back in 1983.

That all said, here are the latest updates:

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### **East Rift Zone Eruption: SUN, 6/3/18, 12:30PM - Update 3**

This is a Civil Defense Message for Sunday, June 3 at 12:30 in the afternoon.

Hawaiian Volcano Observatory reports active lava eruptions continue. Fissure 8, located in the Leilani Estates area, continues to feed a large channelized flow traveling downslope through Kapoho Beach Lots. The wide flow front is about 400 yards from the ocean.

Due to lava crossing Highway 137 and approaching the ocean, the following policies are in effect:

- There is no access to Kapoho, Vacationland, Highway 132, and Highway 137.
- First responders are conducting search and rescue missions in affected isolated areas today.
- Be aware of the laze hazard should lava hit the ocean and stay away from any ocean plume to prevent harmful health effects.

On roadways:

- Government Beach Road, between Kahakai Boulevard and Papaya Farms Road, is open to Waa Waa and Papaya Farms Road residents only with official credentials. There is no curfew.

Due to the volcanic activity, the following is provided for your information:

- Volcanic gas and ash emissions remain high at the Kilauea summit and in the fissure system.
- Pele's hair and volcanic glass can be carried by the wind.
- Residents on the south and west sides of the island should take action to limit exposure to gas, ash, and volcanic particles.

Stay alert to warnings from Civil Defense officials and be prepared to evacuate with little notice.

We are on watch 24-hours a day for your safety.

This is your Hawai'i County Civil Defense Agency.

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## **HAWAIIAN VOLCANO OBSERVATORY STATUS REPORT**

**U.S. Geological Survey**

**Sunday, June 3, 2018, 10:40 AM HST (Sunday, June 3, 2018, 20:40 UTC)**

**KILAUEA VOLCANO** (VNUM #332010)

19°25'16" N 155°17'13" W, Summit Elevation 4091 ft (1247 m)

Current Volcano Alert Level: WARNING

Current Aviation Color Code: RED

### **Kīlauea Volcano Lower East Rift Zone**

Vigorous eruption of lava continues from the lower East Rift Zone (LERZ) fissure system in the area of Leilani Estates and Lanipuna Gardens.

Fissure 8 fountaining persisted throughout the night, and the channelized flow continued to deliver lava northeast along Highway 132 to the Kapoho area. Lava is advancing along a 0.5-mile-wide front towards the ocean at Kapoho Bay between Kapoho Beach Road and

Kapoho Kai Drive. As of 7:30 AM HST, the lava flow was about 430 yards from the ocean. Other branches of the Fissure 8 lava flow were inactive.

All other fissures are inactive, although Fissure 9 is steaming heavily.

Pele's hair and other lightweight volcanic glass from high fountaining of Fissure 8 are falling downwind of the fissure and accumulating on the ground within Leilani Estates. Winds may waft lighter particles to greater distances. Residents are urged to minimize exposure to these volcanic particles, which can cause skin and eye irritation similar to volcanic ash.

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Volcanic gas emissions remain very high from the fissure eruptions. Trade wind conditions are bringing vog to the south and west sides of the Island of Hawaii. Afternoon easterly winds may bring vog to communities in the Volcano area.

Magma continues to be supplied to the lower East Rift Zone. Earthquake locations have not moved farther downrift in the past few days and the number of located earthquakes remains low. Seismicity remains relatively low with numerous small magnitude earthquakes and low amplitude background tremor.

**Additional ground cracking and outbreaks of lava in the area of the active fissures are possible. Residents downslope of the region of fissures should heed all Hawaii County Civil Defense messages and warnings.**

USGS/HVO continues to monitor the lower East Rift Zone activity 24/7 in coordination with Hawaii County Civil Defense.

### **Kīlauea Volcano Summit**

Earthquake activity at the summit was high overnight, and it is possible that a small explosion, much like those that have occurred during the past two weeks, will take place in the next day. Ash emissions are low as revealed by webcam views this morning. Volcanic gas emissions at the summit remain high.

For forecasts of where ash would fall under forecast wind conditions, please consult the Ash3D model output here: [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/activity\\_2018.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/activity_2018.html)

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## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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**Thursday, May 31, 2018.**

**Mel's Note:** Big Island **Mayor Harry Kim** issued a mandatory evacuation for Leilani Estates residents. Details:

### **East Rift Zone Eruption: Thurs, 05/31/18, 12PM - Update 3**

This is a Civil Defense Message for Thursday, May 31 at 12 noon.

Hawaiian Volcano Observatory reports that vigorous lava eruptions continue from the lower east rift zone fissure system in the area of Leilani Estates and Lanipuna Gardens.

Due to the active volcanic eruptions, Mayor Kim has issued a mandatory evacuation order for Leilani Estates. The following policies are in effect:

- Starting at 12:06 p.m. today, the mandatory evacuation order is in effect for all civilians in Leilani Estates, including and East of Pomaikai Street.
- Everyone will have 24 hours from the effective date and time to evacuate the mandatory evacuation area.
- Persons remaining in the mandatory evacuation area beyond the effective date and time of this Order do so at their own risk with the knowledge that emergency responders may not respond.
- Persons in violation of this order are subject to arrest and will be liable for any costs associated with rescue operations in the mandatory evacuation area.

Refusing to evacuate may put you, your family and first responders in danger. Heed warnings from Civil Defense officials and stay alert.

We are on watch 24-hours a day for your safety.

This is your Hawai'i County Civil Defense Agency.

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**HAWAIIAN VOLCANO OBSERVATORY STATUS REPORT**  
**U.S. Geological Survey**

**Thursday, May 31, 2018, 11:27 AM HST (Thursday, May 31, 2018, 21:27 UTC)**

**KILAUEA VOLCANO** (VNUM #332010)

19°25'16" N 155°17'13" W, Summit Elevation 4091 ft (1247 m)

Current Volcano Alert Level: WARNING

Current Aviation Color Code: RED

**Kīlauea Volcano Lower East Rift Zone**

Vigorous eruption of lava continues from the lower East Rift Zone (LERZ) fissure system in the area of Leilani Estates and Lanipuna Gardens.

Overnight, Fissure 8 continued to produce persistent fountains that reached heights of 200-250 feet. A small spatter cone is forming on the downwind side of the fountain and is approximately 100 feet high. The fountains are feeding flow activity to the northeast, and minor overflows from the Fissure 8 channel are occurring along its length. One overflow covered the remaining northern part of Makamae Street in Leilani Estates. This overflow crossed Kahukai street, filling in a low area between Makamae and Luana streets. The front of the Fissure 8 flow near Noni Farms road advanced at rates of about 80 yards/hour. At 6:15 AM HST, the flow front was 2.2 miles above the Four Corners area.

High eruption rates from Fissure 8 have led to the formation of a leveed channel along the western edge of the lava flow. Failure of flow levees could result in rapid advance of flows. Flow margins are extremely hazardous and should not be approached.

Additional eruptive activity overnight occurred from Fissure 7/21. Fissure 18 is also active, but the lava flow, which was moving toward Highway 137 last night, has stalled.

Pele's hair and other lightweight volcanic glass from high fountaining of Fissure 8 are falling downwind of the fissure and accumulating on the ground within Leilani Estates. Winds may waft lighter particles to greater distances. Residents are urged to minimize exposure to these volcanic particles, which can cause skin and eye irritation similar to volcanic ash.

The most recent map of lava flows can be found here:

[https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia\\_maps.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia_maps.html)

HVO field crews are on site tracking the fountains, lava flows, and spattering from multiple fissures as conditions allow and reporting information to Hawaii County Civil Defense. Crews are also checking on the status of ground cracks on Highway 130.

Volcanic gas emissions remain very high from the fissure eruptions. Trade wind conditions are bringing vog to the south and west sides of the Island of Hawaii.

Magma continues to be supplied to the lower East Rift Zone. Earthquake locations have not moved farther downrift in the past few days and the number of located earthquakes remains low.

**Additional ground cracking and outbreaks of lava in the area of the active fissures are possible. Residents downslope of the region of fissures should heed all Hawaii County Civil Defense messages and warnings.**

USGS/HVO continues to monitor the lower East Rift Zone activity 24/7 in coordination with Hawaii County Civil Defense.

### **Kīlauea Volcano Summit**

Ash continued to erupt intermittently from the vent within Halema‘uma‘u crater at Kīlauea's summit. Additional explosive events that could produce minor amounts of ash fall downwind are possible at any time. Earthquake activity is elevated at the summit, with many small events occurring overnight. Volcanic gas emissions at the summit remain high.

For forecasts of where ash would fall under forecast wind conditions, please consult the Ash3D model output here: [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/activity\\_2018.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/activity_2018.html)

Information on volcanic ash hazards and how to prepare for ash fall maybe found at <http://www.ivhnn.org/information#ash> (health impacts) OR [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanic\\_ash/](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanic_ash/) (other impacts).

### **MORE INFORMATION**

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**Wednesday, May 30, 2018.**

**Mel's Note:** *Honolulu Civil Beat* had to turn off their live stream from the home that they had permission to stream from. This happened late yesterday afternoon when the homeowners decided to evacuate as highway 132 was about to be cut off by a fast moving lava flow. Furthermore power was also cut to the area. You can view their explanation video here: <https://youtu.be/sgupgZrOMYo>

As mentioned above lava flows have now cut off highway 132 impacting hundreds of residents in the lower Puna area. Their only way out, "government road" is also threatened as Hawaii County Civil defense has issued a mandatory evacuation.

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Here is this morning's latest notice from the USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory:

#### **HAWAIIAN VOLCANO OBSERVATORY STATUS REPORT**

**U.S. Geological Survey**

**Wednesday, May 30, 2018, 6:43 AM HST (Wednesday, May 30, 2018, 16:43 UTC)**

**KILAUEA VOLCANO** (VNUM #332010)

19°25'16" N 155°17'13" W, Summit Elevation 4091 ft (1247 m)

Current Volcano Alert Level: WARNING

Current Aviation Color Code: RED

### **Kīlauea Volcano Lower East Rift Zone**

Vigorous eruption of lava continues from the lower East Rift Zone (LERZ) fissure system in the area of Leilani Estates and Lanipuna Gardens.

Fissure 8 maintained high fountains throughout Tuesday night and into Wednesday morning, with sustained heights exceeding 200 feet and the presence of multiple secondary fountains that reached to 60 feet. This fountaining continued to feed a lava flow that moved downslope along Highway 132. Advance rates accelerated late Tuesday and early Wednesday, reaching approximately 600 yards/hour. The flow moved north of Highway 132 in the vicinity of Noni Farms and Halekamahina roads, advancing along a steepest descent path that could take the flow to the Four Corners area.

The Fissure 18 flow also remained active, moving downslope toward Highway 137 at rates of less than 100 yards per hour. Overnight, sporadic bursts of activity were also observed from Fissures 7 and 15.

Pele's hair and other lightweight volcanic glass from high fountaining of Fissure 8 are falling to the west of the fissure and accumulating on the ground within Leilani Estates. Winds may waft lighter particles to greater distances. Residents are urged to minimize exposure to these volcanic particles, which can cause skin and eye irritation similar to volcanic ash.

The most recent map of lava flows can be found here:

[https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia\\_maps.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia_maps.html)

HVO field crews are on site tracking the fountains, lava flows, and spattering from multiple fissures as conditions allow and reporting information to Hawaii County Civil Defense. Crews are also checking on the status of ground cracks on Highway 130.

Volcanic gas emissions remain very high from the fissure eruptions. Wind conditions for Wednesday, May 30, are forecast to result in widespread vog over the Island of Hawaii.

Magma continues to be supplied to the lower East Rift Zone. Earthquake locations have not moved farther downrift in the past few days and the number of located earthquakes remains low.

**Additional ground cracking and outbreaks of lava in the area of the active fissures are possible. Residents downslope of the region of fissures should heed all Hawaii County Civil Defense messages and warnings.**

USGS/HVO continues to monitor the lower East Rift Zone activity 24/7 in coordination with Hawaii County Civil Defense.

## **Kīlauea Volcano Summit**

Ash continued to erupt intermittently from the vent within Halema‘uma‘u crater, at Kīlauea's summit, but no small explosive events have been recorded since Tuesday morning. Additional explosive events that could produce minor amounts of ash fall downwind are possible at any time. Earthquake activity is elevated at the summit, with a few events reported felt overnight. Volcanic gas emissions at the summit remain high and will combine with wind conditions to produce widespread vog across the Island of Hawaii on Wednesday.

For forecasts of where ash would fall under forecast wind conditions, please consult the Ash3D model output here: [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/activity\\_2018.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/activity_2018.html)

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**Tuesday, May 29, 2018.**

**Mel's Note:** [Honolulu Civil Beat](#) has re-established its live [YouTube stream](#) of the Kilauea lava. I don't have to tell anyone that the eruption continues and that more destruction is occurring in lower Puna. Highway 132 has been cut by lava.

On another note **SKY News** out of the U.K. has a nice video story of the eruption on **YouTube:** [Hawaii Island of Fire](#) (approx. 9 minutes)

Big Island Video News posted this [90 minute video](#) of a recent Hawaii County Council meeting regarding the volcano impact to the county and the State of Hawaii.

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The latest USGS Hawaii Volcano Observatory Report:

### HAWAIIAN VOLCANO OBSERVATORY STATUS REPORT

U.S. Geological Survey

Tuesday, May 29, 2018, 7:45 AM HST (Tuesday, May 29, 2018, 17:45 UTC)

**KILAUEA VOLCANO** (VNUM #332010)

19°25'16" N 155°17'13" W, Summit Elevation 4091 ft (1247 m)

Current Volcano Alert Level: WARNING

Current Aviation Color Code: RED

**Kīlauea Volcano Lower East Rift Zone**

Vigorous eruption of lava continues from the lower East Rift Zone (LERZ) fissure system in the area of Leilani Estates and Lanipuna Gardens.

Fissure 8 reactivated yesterday afternoon and, overnight, was fountaining to heights of 200 feet at times and feeding a lava flow that was traveling to the northeast. That flow was moving atop the Fissure 8 flow that was active the previous night, passing on to open ground and crossing Pohoiki road at about 5 AM HST. As of 7 AM Tuesday morning, lava is advancing along the north margin of an earlier lava flow from Fissure 7 toward the PGV access road.

Visual observations early Tuesday morning also confirmed continued weak activity at Fissures 18, 19, and 20. Fissure 18 has produced channelized flows which have advanced about one-third of the way (1.2 mi) toward the coast.

Pele's hair and other lightweight volcanic glass from high fountaining of Fissure 8 are being transported downwind and falling to the west of the fissure. On Monday night, there were reports of Pele's hair falling in Pāhoa. Residents are urged to minimize exposure to these volcanic particles, which can cause skin and eye irritation similar to volcanic ash.

The most recent map of lava flows can be found here:

[https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia\\_maps.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia_maps.html)

HVO field crews are on site tracking the fountains, lava flows, and spattering from multiple fissures as conditions allow and reporting information to Hawaii County Civil Defense. Crews are also checking on the status of ground cracks on Highway 130.

Volcanic gas emissions remain very high from the fissure eruptions. Trade winds are forecast to return in the coming days, meaning that vog may impact the southern and western sides of the island.

Magma continues to be supplied to the lower East Rift Zone. Earthquake locations have not moved farther downrift in the past few days and the number of located earthquakes remains low.

**Additional ground cracking and outbreaks of lava in the area of the active fissures are possible. Residents downslope of the region of fissures should heed all Hawaii County Civil Defense messages and warnings.**

USGS/HVO continues to monitor the lower East Rift Zone activity 24/7 in coordination with Hawaii County Civil Defense.

**Kīlauea Volcano Summit**

Ash continued to erupt intermittently from the vent within Halema'uma'u crater, at Kīlauea's summit. At 1:56 AM HST, there was a small explosion that sent ash to 15,000' above sea level. The ash cloud rose vertically above the summit and drifted only slightly to the northwest owing to calm winds. The explosion was reported felt by a number of residents in the Volcano area, and it resulted in the emplacement of some incandescent blocks on the east floor/wall of Halema'uma'u crater.

Additional explosive events that could produce minor amounts of ash fall downwind are possible at any time. Volcanic gas emissions at the summit remain high.

For forecasts of where ash would fall under forecast wind conditions, please consult the Ash3D model output here: [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/activity\\_2018.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/activity_2018.html)

Information on ash hazards and how to prepare for ashfall maybe found here: <http://www.ivhnn.org/information#ash>

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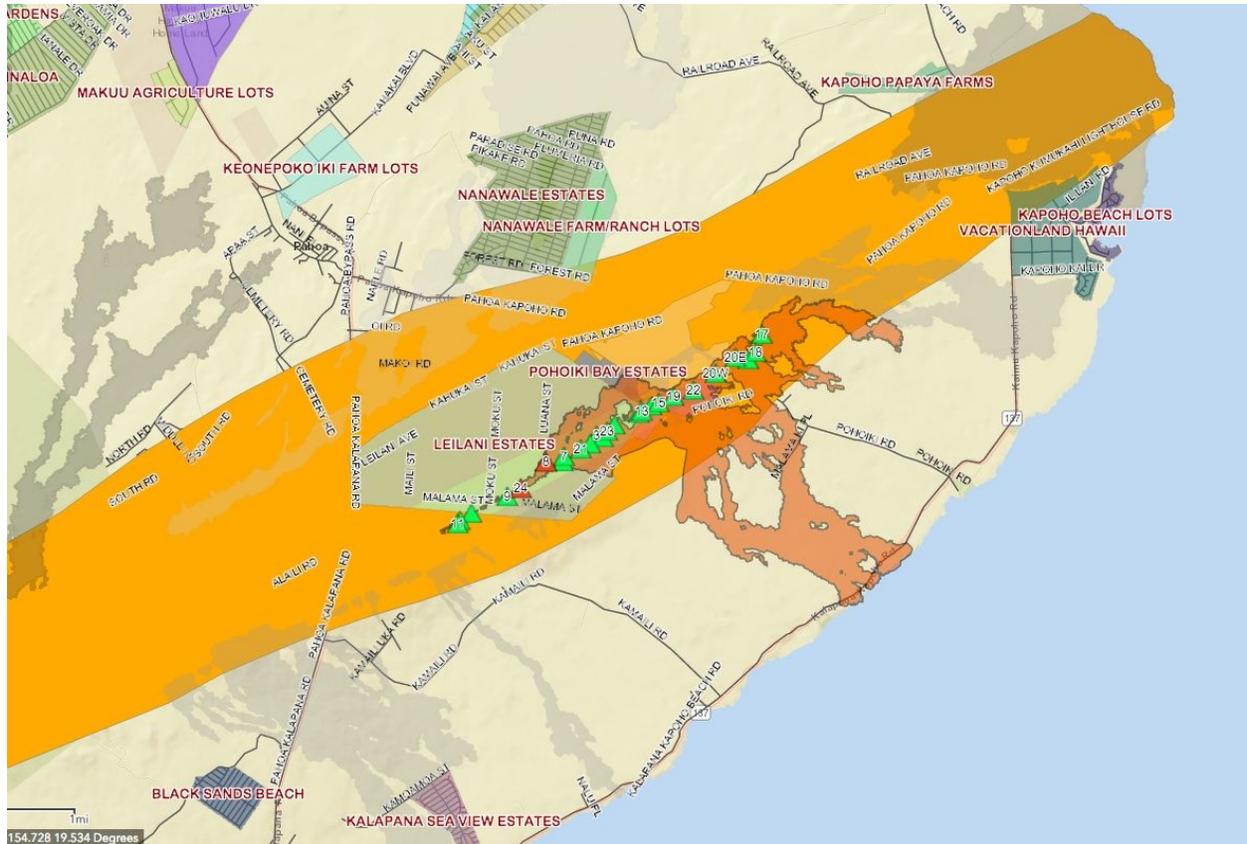
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**Monday, May 28, 2018.**

**Mel's Note:** Happy Memorial Day. Take a moment to remember the fallen.

The volcano eruption in the lower region of Puna on the Big Island of Hawaii continues. Last night fast moving lava wiped out several homes in the Leilani Estate area. Government authorities proclaimed an emergency evacuation from the area at 7:00 pm last night. Most residents have moved out of the area. Some remain.

Lava reached and breached a couple of the wells at the Puna Geothermal Venture site. No explosions of toxic gas released so far.



The map shown above indicate where the active lava flows are (reddish brown area), where the fissures are (green triangles) and the area that is designated as the East Rift Zone (shaded yellow-orange area). All property and structures in this area are at risk for lava inundation, steam and gas fumes, ash fallout and more earthquakes.

Here is today's press release from the USGS Hawaii Volcanoes Observatory:

**HAWAIIAN VOLCANO OBSERVATORY STATUS REPORT  
U.S. Geological Survey**

**Monday, May 28, 2018, 10:32 AM HST (Monday, May 28, 2018, 20:32 UTC)**

**KILAUEA VOLCANO (VNUM #332010)**

19°25'16" N 155°17'13" W, Summit Elevation 4091 ft (1247 m)

Current Volcano Alert Level: WARNING

Current Aviation Color Code: RED

**Kīlauea Volcano Lower East Rift Zone**

Vigorous eruption of lava continues from the lower East Rift Zone (LERZ) fissure system in the area of Leilani Estates and Lanipuna Gardens.

Overnight, field crews confirmed that the fast-moving flow that broke out at about 7 PM HST Sunday night originated from Fissure 8. The fissure fed a channelized flow that moved north along the margin of the existing flow before turning east and crossing out of Leilani Estates near the intersection of Kahukai and Hookupu streets. As of 8 AM HST Monday morning it had started to cross Pohoiki Road, but the advance rate slowed from hundreds of meters (yards) per hour on Sunday night to a few meters (yards) per hour this morning.

Fissures 6/13 are inactive, and Fissure 9 is reactivated but erupting small amounts of lava that are pooling nearby. Fissure 7/21 are no longer active and lava flows from that fissure have largely stalled on PGV property.

The most recent map of lava flows can be found here:

[https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia\\_maps.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia_maps.html)

HVO field crews are on site tracking the fountains, lava flows, and spattering from multiple fissures as conditions allow and reporting information to Hawaii County Civil Defense. Crews are also checking on the status of ground cracks on Highway 130.

Volcanic gas emissions remain very high from the fissure eruptions. If a forecast shift in wind direction occurs today, widespread vog may be expected on the Island of Hawaii.

Magma continues to be supplied to the lower East Rift Zone. Earthquake locations have not moved farther downrift in the past few days and the number of located earthquakes remains low.

**Additional ground cracking and outbreaks of lava in the area of the active fissures are possible. Residents downslope of the region of fissures should heed all Hawaii County Civil Defense messages and warnings.**

USGS/HVO continues to monitor the lower East Rift Zone activity 24/7 in coordination with Hawaii County Civil Defense.

### **Kīlauea Volcano Summit**

Ash continued to erupt intermittently from the vent within Halema'uma'u crater, at Kīlauea's summit. A brief emission event at about 4:35 AM HST this morning sent ash to about 10,000 feet above sea level but was not associated with a significant tilt offset. A similar event at about 6:30 AM sent ash to approximately 12,000 feet above sea level. Earthquakes are currently occurring at high rates in the summit area. Observations from the ground, by UAS, and by satellite during the past week have documented retreat of the summit vent walls due to collapse of the steep conduit and rim. Trade winds are causing ash fall to the southwest. If a forecast shift in wind direction occurs today, ash fall may occur in communities around the summit area.

Earthquakes in the summit region continue as the summit area subsides and adjusts to the withdrawal of magma.

Additional explosive events that could produce minor amounts of ash fall downwind are possible at any time. Volcanic gas emissions at the summit remain high.

For forecasts of where ash would fall under forecast wind conditions, please consult the Ash3D model output here: [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/activity\\_2018.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/activity_2018.html)

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**Sunday, May 27, 2018.**

**Mel's Note:** Forgot to mention that **Honolulu Civil Beat** stopped their live stream of the eruption a couple of days ago. I picked up on the live stream from [CNN](#). It seems to be in nearly the same place as Civil Beat's one. The fountaining in the area has died off with CNN now streaming an oozing lava lake of pahoehoe that is slowly moving downslope. [CNN's Live Video](#) (subject to outage at anytime without warning.)



Screenshot from CNN's video feed (5-27-18)

Here is the 10am **Hawaii County Civil Defense** alert for today:

**East Rift Zone Eruption - Update 2, 5/27/18 10AM**

This is a Civil Defense Message for Sunday, May 27 at 10 in the morning.

The Hawaiian Volcano Observatory reports a new fissure 24. It is between Kuponu and Nohea Street in Leilani Estates and is not threatening any structures at this time.

Lava flow crossed into PGV property overnight but has not impacted any wells. A special task force headed by Tom Travis continues to work to make the wells safe and to prevent any threats to the public from developing. At this time there is no hydrogen sulfide detected. The public will be kept informed of the situation.

Volcanic gases and vog emissions may increase in areas downwind of the vents in the lower east rift zone.

Due to the volcanic activity and increasing vog, the following policies are in effect:

- Residents close to the active eruption must remain alert to changes in the flow direction, and are advised to prepare to voluntarily evacuate should your location become threatened.
- Take action to limit further exposure to volcanic gases and be prepared to leave the area with little to no notice.
- Stay alert for warnings from Civil Defense officials.
- Due to southerly winds and heavy output of vog from the summit on Monday night, be prepared for a possible increase in vog and volcanic gas levels in the Hamakua area, lower Hilo and Puna.

We are on watch 24-hours a day for your safety. This is your Hawai'i County Civil Defense Agency.

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Here is this morning's latest HVO notice:

## **HAWAIIAN VOLCANO OBSERVATORY STATUS REPORT**

**U.S. Geological Survey**

**Sunday, May 27, 2018, 6:51 AM HST (Sunday, May 27, 2018, 16:51 UTC)**

### **KILAUEA VOLCANO (VNUM #332010)**

19°25'16" N 155°17'13" W, Summit Elevation 4091 ft (1247 m)

Current Volcano Alert Level: WARNING

Current Aviation Color Code: RED

### **Kīlauea Volcano Lower East Rift Zone**

Vigorous eruption of lava continues from the lower East Rift Zone fissure system in the area of Leilani Estates and Lanipuna Gardens.

Fissures 22 and 13 continue to feed lava flows extending south to the lava ocean entry. Signals recorded on stations in the LERZ indicate that the lava ocean entry remained active overnight.

Fissure 21 is feeding an 'a'ā flow that has continued to advance to the northeast on PGV property. However, the rate of advance has slowed overnight coincident with an observed decline in the vigor of fountaining at Fissure 21. Fissure 7 activity has increased overnight, producing a large spatter rampart over 100 feet tall from fountains reaching 150-200 feet. The fountains fed a perched pāhoehoe flow 20-40 feet thick, and ultimately a flow that had turned south toward the coast last night.

Large cracks were observed overnight on Kuponono St. about 360 yards north of Malama St, near Fissure 9. Fissure 8 had three vents active overnight that were spattering and flaming, and have doubled in size over the past 24 hours. Fissure 6 was inactive overnight.

The most recent map of lava flows can be found here:

[https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia\\_maps.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia_maps.html)

HVO field crews are on site tracking the fountains, lava flows, and spattering from multiple fissures as conditions allow and reporting information to Hawaii County Civil Defense. Crews are also checking on the status of ground cracks on Highway 130.

Volcanic gas emissions remain very high from the fissure eruptions. Trade winds are expected to diminish Sunday evening, which could expand the area impacted by vog.

Magma continues to be supplied to the lower East Rift Zone. Earthquake locations have not moved farther downrift in the past few days and the number of located earthquakes remains low.

**Additional ground cracking and outbreaks of lava in the area of the active fissures are possible. Residents downslope of the region of fissures should heed all Hawaii County Civil Defense messages and warnings.**

USGS/HVO continues to monitor the lower East Rift Zone activity 24/7 in coordination with Hawaii County Civil Defense.

### **Kīlauea Volcano Summit**

Ash continued to erupt intermittently from the Overlook crater at the Kīlauea summit. Observations from the ground and by UAV during the past week have documented retreat of the Overlook crater wall due to collapse of the steep enclosing walls and rim. Trade winds took the ash clouds primarily to the southwest. Trade winds are expected to diminish Sunday evening and communities around the summit area could see ashfall.

Earthquakes in the summit region continue as the summit area subsides and adjusts to the withdrawal of magma.

Additional explosive events that could produce minor amounts of ashfall downwind are possible at any time. Volcanic gas emissions at the summit remain high.

For forecasts of where ash would fall under forecast wind conditions, please consult the Ash3D model output here: [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/activity\\_2018.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/activity_2018.html)

Information on ash hazards and how to prepare for ashfall maybe found here: <http://www.ivhnn.org/information#ash>

### **MORE INFORMATION**

Activity Summary also available by phone: [\(808\) 967-8862](tel:8089678862)

Subscribe to these messages: <https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/vns2/>

Webcam images: [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia\\_webcams.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia_webcams.html)

Photos/Video: [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia\\_chronology.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia_chronology.html)

Lava Flow Maps: [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia\\_maps.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia_maps.html)

Definitions of terms used in update:

<https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/extra/definitions.pdf>

Overview of Kīlauea summit (Halema‘uma‘u) and East Rift Zone (Pu‘u ‘Ō‘ō ) eruptions:

<https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/extra/background.pdf>

Summary of volcanic hazards from Kīlauea eruptions:

<https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/extra/hazards.pdf>

Recent Earthquakes in Hawai'i (map and list):

<https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/hvo/earthquakes/>

Explanation of Volcano Alert Levels and Aviation Color Codes:

<https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/activity/alertsystem/index.php>

<https://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2006/3139/>

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

[askHVO@usgs.gov](mailto:askHVO@usgs.gov)

The Hawaiian Volcano Observatory is one of five volcano observatories within the U.S. Geological Survey and is responsible for monitoring volcanoes and earthquakes in Hawai'i.

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**Saturday, May 26, 2018.**

**Mel's Note:** It seems to be that media coverage has slightly waned on the eruption. Sometimes on the local TV news, the eruption has not lead. Sure there is other news to cover such as politics, the cost of living in Hawaii, crime, accidents and other disasters. To me however, this latest phase of the ongoing Kilauea eruption is probably the story of the year, though it may be eclipsed by the upcoming elections in November.

We'll see.

Luckily for us there is [Big Island Video News](#) and a number of independent videographers who live in the Puna area documenting the eruption. They are spread through some YouTube channels (which are easy to follow and organize into your own playlists) and Facebook.

I've more or less settled on watching [Scott Wiggers' ApauHawaii Tours](#) videos. He posts several videos every day documenting the lava's relentless path of destruction and creation in the area of Leilani Estates. He is a resident of the neighborhood and often says his home is a safe distance away from the eruptive activity. Scott delivers insightful commentary to most of his videos and has established quite a following since starting the daily vlogs on May 5. His channel is well worth checking into if you want a personal viewpoint of the eruption.

[ApauHawaii Tours](#) video channel



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The following is a new release from Hawaii Volcanoes Observatory (USGS)

#### **HAWAIIAN VOLCANO OBSERVATORY STATUS REPORT**

**U.S. Geological Survey**

**Saturday, May 26, 2018, 6:43 AM HST (Saturday, May 26, 2018, 16:43 UTC)**

**KILAUEA VOLCANO** (VNUM #332010)

19°25'16" N 155°17'13" W, Summit Elevation 4091 ft (1247 m)

Current Volcano Alert Level: WARNING

Current Aviation Color Code: RED

#### **Kilauea Volcano Lower East Rift Zone**

Eruption of lava continues in the area of Leilani Estates and Lanipuna Gardens.

Fissure 22 continues to erupt lava that is flowing southeast to the coast and the lava ocean entry. Fountains at Fissures 6 and 13 feed lava into a channel that reaches the coast forming a second ocean entry.

Fissures 7 and 21 are feeding a perched lava pond and pāhoehoe flow that has advanced northeastward covering most of the area between Kaupili and Mohala Streets. The flow front has become an 'A'ā flow and is advancing slowly toward Pahoia Pohoiki Road. The latest observations indicate the flow front is about 150 yards from the road. On the west side of Fissure 7 a perched pāhoehoe flow (near Makamae St) broke out around 04:00am feeding short flows to the west. Overnight, flaming and vigorous spatter was observed from a cone on Fissure 8, while Fissure 17 was the source of multiple booming gas emissions. Sensors in the LERZ indicated that the lava ocean entries remained active overnight.

HVO field crews are on site tracking the fountains, lava flows, and spattering from multiple fissures as conditions allow and reporting information to Hawaii County Civil Defense.

Volcanic gas emissions remain very high from the fissure eruptions.

Magma continues to be supplied to the lower East Rift Zone. Earthquake activity continues, but earthquake locations have not moved farther downrift in the past few days and the number of located earthquakes remains low.

**Additional ground cracking and outbreaks of lava in the area of the active fissures are possible. Residents downslope of the region of fissures should heed all Hawaii County Civil Defense messages and warnings.**

USGS/HVO continues to monitor the lower East Rift Zone activity 24/7 in coordination with Hawaii County Civil Defense.

### **Kīlauea Volcano Summit**

There were three explosions from Overlook Crater (00:42am, 01:44am, and 05:00am) that produced ash clouds to between 10,000 and 11,000 feet above sea level. The National Weather Service Nexrad radar indicated that the clouds quickly dispersed. Several smaller explosions occurred over the course of the night. Moderate trade winds were blowing to the southwest and light ash fall likely occurred in downwind locations.

Earthquakes in the summit region continued at a moderate rate overnight. The earthquakes and ash explosions are occurring as the summit area subsides and adjusts to the withdrawal of magma.

Additional explosive events that could produce minor amounts of ashfall downwind are possible at any time. Volcanic gas emissions at the summit remain high.

For forecasts of where ash would fall if such an explosion occur, please consult the Ash3D model output here: [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/activity\\_2018.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/activity_2018.html)

Information on ash hazards and how to prepare for ashfall maybe found here: <http://www.ivhnn.org/information#ash>

## **MORE INFORMATION**

Activity Summary also available by phone: [\(808\) 967-8862](tel:8089678862)

Subscribe to these messages: <https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/vns2/>

Webcam images: [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia\\_webcams.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia_webcams.html)

Photos/Video: [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia\\_chronology.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia_chronology.html)

Lava Flow Maps: [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia\\_maps.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia_maps.html)

Definitions of terms used in update:  
<https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/extra/definitions.pdf>

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<https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/extra/hazards.pdf>

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<https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/hvo/earthquakes/>

Explanation of Volcano Alert Levels and Aviation Color Codes:  
<https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/activity/alertsystem/index.php>  
<https://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2006/3139/>

## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

[askHVO@usgs.gov](mailto:askHVO@usgs.gov)

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**Friday, May 25, 2018.**

**Mel's Note:** The volcano continues to erupt at various fissures in or near the Leilani Estates subdivision. Lava is near the Puna Geothermal Venture power plant but has so far not inundated it. Many people who live in the area fear what would happen should a lava flow enter and destroy the property.

Furthermore, lava continues to flow from the area into the ocean about 4 miles downslope. Lava has also cut off two of the three main roadways into lower Puna. The third highway (Route 130) could be cut at anytime since cracking has shown up in the area. Should that road be cut, a few thousand residents could be trapped in lower Puna with no vehicle access roadway out of the area.

County, state and federal authorities are working on plans to airlift people out of the area should the last road be cut off by lava. The military is stationing several helicopters at Hilo International Airport which is not too far away from the distressed area.

Halemaumau Crater at the summit of Kilauea volcano continues to “erupt” with steam explosions, sending rocks and debris scattering in an area within Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Tons of volcanic ash has drifted downwind from the summit, inundating communities to the southwest of the volcano. Most of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park remains closed to visitors due to the explosive threat.

Be sure to visit our [Hawaii Volcanoes Video](#) channel where more than 400 clips and reports can be viewed on YouTube.

Here is the USGS volcano notice for today:

**HAWAIIAN VOLCANO OBSERVATORY STATUS REPORT**

**U.S. Geological Survey**

**Thursday, May 24, 2018, 11:04 PM HST (Friday, May 25, 2018, 09:04 UTC)**

**KILAUEA VOLCANO** (VNUM #332010)

19°25'16" N 155°17'13" W, Summit Elevation 4091 ft (1247 m)

Current Volcano Alert Level: WARNING

Current Aviation Color Code: RED

## **Kīlauea Volcano Lower East Rift Zone**

Eruption of lava continues in the area of Leilani Estates and Lanipuna Gardens.

Fissure 22 continues to erupt lava that is flowing southeast to the coast and the lava ocean entry. Fountains at Fissures 6 and 13 feed lava into a channel that reached the coast yesterday forming a second ocean entry.

Fissures 7 and 21 are feeding a perched lava pond and pāhoehoe flow that has advanced eastward covering most of the area bounded by Leilani Blvd, Mohala St., and the fissure line. Fissure 17 continues weak spattering, while Fissures 19 and 23 are no longer active.

HVO field crews are on site tracking the fountains, lava flows, and spattering from multiple fissures as conditions allow and reporting information to Hawaii County Civil Defense.

Volcanic gas emissions remain very high from the fissure eruptions.

Magma continues to be supplied to the lower East Rift Zone. Earthquake activity continues, but earthquake locations have not moved farther downrift in the past few days and the number of located earthquakes remains low.

**Additional ground cracking and outbreaks of lava in the area of the active fissures are possible. Residents downslope of the region of fissures should heed all Hawaii County Civil Defense messages and warnings.**

USGS/HVO continues to monitor the lower East Rift Zone activity 24/7 in coordination with Hawaii County Civil Defense.

## **Kīlauea Volcano Summit**

An explosion was detected from the summit Overlook Crater just after 6:00 pm that produced an ash cloud that rose to 10,000 feet above sea level and carried slightly more ash than most recent explosions. The National Weather Service Nexrad radar tracked the cloud for 15-20 minutes. Moderate trade winds were blowing to the southwest and light ash fall likely occurred in downwind locations.

Earthquakes in the summit area continue at a moderate rate, as does deflation of the summit region. The earthquakes and ash explosions are occurring as the summit area subsides and adjusts to the withdrawal of magma from the summit.

Additional explosive events that could produce minor amounts of ashfall downwind are possible at any time. Volcanic gas emissions at the summit remain high.

For forecasts of where ash would fall if such an explosion occur, please consult the Ash3D model output here: [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/activity\\_2018.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/activity_2018.html)

Information on ash hazards and how to prepare for ashfall maybe found here: <http://www.ivhnn.org/information#ash>

## **MORE INFORMATION**

Activity Summary also available by phone: [\(808\) 967-8862](tel:(808)967-8862)

Subscribe to these messages: <https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/vns2/>

Webcam images: [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia\\_webcams.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia_webcams.html)

Photos/Video: [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia\\_chronology.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia_chronology.html)

Lava Flow Maps: [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia\\_maps.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia_maps.html)

Definitions of terms used in update:  
<https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/extra/definitions.pdf>

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Recent Earthquakes in Hawai'i (map and list):  
<https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/hvo/earthquakes/>

Explanation of Volcano Alert Levels and Aviation Color Codes:  
<https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/activity/alertsystem/index.php>  
<https://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2006/3139/>

## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

[askHVO@usgs.gov](mailto:askHVO@usgs.gov)

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**Thursday, May 24, 2018.**

**Mel's Personal Note:** From time to time I will post a short commentary.

### **TRADITIONAL MEASUREMENTS PLEASE.**

One thing that I have noticed on some of the news coverage. The reporters and news anchors are starting to use metric measurements instead of feet, yards and miles. I know the scientific community prefers the metric system. I do not. This is the United States of America. We use the English system of feet, yards, miles, pounds, ounces, pints, quarts, gallons, etc. As someone who has grown up with our system, I have an extremely hard time visualizing anything with the metric system.

So please news media. Tell your stories using the traditional measurements that we can all relate to... "The lava covered a distance of 4 miles as it made its way down to the ocean in a flow that is 800 yards wide."

Thanks.

## **HAWAIIAN VOLCANO OBSERVATORY STATUS REPORT**

U.S. Geological Survey

Thursday, May 24, 2018, 8:12 AM HST (Thursday, May 24, 2018, 18:12 UTC)

### **KILAUEA VOLCANO (VNUM #332010)**

19°25'16" N 155°17'13" W, Summit Elevation 4091 ft (1247 m)

Current Volcano Alert Level: WARNING

Current Aviation Color Code: RED

### **Kīlauea Volcano Lower East Rift Zone**

Eruption of lava continues in the area of Leilani Estates and Lanipuna Gardens subdivision.

The middle portion of the fissure system (centered on Pohoiki Rd.) continues to produce the most robust eruptive activity in the Lower East Rift Zone. Overnight, field crews observed that fissure areas 2, 7, 8 and 3, 14, 21 (between Luana and Kaupili St. in Leilani Estates) reactivated and are spattering. Intermittent signals recorded on sensors closest to the two ocean entries suggest they remain active; .

Volcanic gas emissions remain very high from the fissure eruptions.

For recent maps of activity, see:

[https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia\\_maps.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia_maps.html)

Additional ground cracking and outbreaks of lava in the area of the active fissures are possible. Residents downslope of the region of fissures should heed all Hawaii County Civil Defense messages and warnings.

Magma continues to be supplied to the lower East Rift Zone. Elevated earthquake activity continues, but earthquake locations have not moved farther downrift in the past couple of days. The number of located earthquakes remains low.

USGS/HVO continues to monitor the lower East Rift Zone activity 24/7 in coordination with Hawaii County Civil Defense. Geologists are onsite to track fissure activity and the advance of lava flows.

### **Kīlauea Volcano Summit**

Small ash emissions from the Overlook crater continued overnight. Moderate trade winds were blowing to the southwest and light ashfall likely occurred in downwind locations. Ash emissions reached 6000' during the most energetic explosions above sea level as observed in the National Weather Service radar, but dispersed quickly.

Earthquakes in the summit area continue at a moderate rate, as does deflation of the summit region. The earthquakes and ash explosions are occurring as the summit area subsides and adjusts to the withdrawal of magma from the summit.

Additional explosive events that could produce minor amounts of ashfall downwind are possible at any time. Volcanic gas emissions at the summit remain high.

For forecasts of where ash would fall if such an explosion occur, please consult the Ash3D model output here: [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/activity\\_2018.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/activity_2018.html)

Information on ash hazards and how to prepare for ashfall maybe found here:

<http://www.ivhnn.org/information#ash>

### **MORE INFORMATION**

Activity Summary also available by phone: [\(808\) 967-8862](tel:8089678862)

Subscribe to these messages: <https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/vns2/>

Webcam images: [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia\\_webcams.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia_webcams.html)

Photos/Video: [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia\\_chronology.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia_chronology.html)

Lava Flow Maps: [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia\\_maps.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia_maps.html)

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Summary of volcanic hazards from Kīlauea eruptions:

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Recent Earthquakes in Hawai'i (map and list):

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Explanation of Volcano Alert Levels and Aviation Color Codes:

<https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/activity/alertsystem/index.php>

<https://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2006/3139/>

## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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From the USGS Hawaii Volcanoes Observatory:

## **HAWAIIAN VOLCANO OBSERVATORY STATUS REPORT**

**U.S. Geological Survey**

**Wednesday, May 23, 2018, 10:46 PM HST (Thursday, May 24, 2018, 08:46 UTC)**

**KILAUEA VOLCANO** (VNUM #332010)

19°25'16" N 155°17'13" W, Summit Elevation 4091 ft (1247 m)

Current Volcano Alert Level: WARNING

Current Aviation Color Code: RED

## **Kīlauea Volcano Lower East Rift Zone**

Eruption of lava and ground cracking continues in the area of Leilani Estates and Lanipuna Gardens subdivision.

The middle portion of the fissure system continues to produce the most robust eruptive activity in the Lower East Rift Zone. The fountains from Fissure 22 feed a single lava channel that reaches the coast just north of MacKenzie State Park. The actual point of entry has continued shifting to the west. Fountains erupted from Fissures 5, 6, 13, and 19 continued to feed a lava flow advancing to the south along the west side of Fissure 22 flows that reached the ocean late this afternoon. There are now two ocean entry points that produce occasional small explosions.

Volcanic gas emissions remain very high from the fissure eruptions.

For recent maps of activity, see:

[https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia\\_maps.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia_maps.html)

**Additional ground cracking and outbreaks of lava in the area of the active fissures are possible. Residents downslope of the region of fissures should heed all Hawaii County Civil Defense messages and warnings.**

Magma continues to be supplied to the lower East Rift Zone. Elevated earthquake activity continues, but earthquake locations have not moved farther downrift in the past couple of days. Only a few earthquakes located yesterday in the rift zone.

USGS/HVO continues to monitor the lower East Rift Zone activity 24/7 in coordination with Hawaii County Civil Defense. Geologists are onsite to track fissure activity and the advance of lava flows.

## **Kīlauea Volcano Summit**

Small ash emissions from the Overlook crater have occurred frequently through the day. Moderate trade winds were blowing to the southwest today and ashfall may be noticed in downwind locations. A small explosion from overlook crater at 06:44 pm produced an ash cloud that reached 7000 feet above sea level as determined by the National Weather Service radar. The cloud did not contain much ash and dispersed quickly.

Earthquakes in the summit area continue at a moderate rate, as does deflation of the summit region. At 05:12 this evening the summit area was shaken by a shallow M3.5 earthquake approximately 0.7 miles below the caldera floor that was felt by people in the area. Many smaller earthquakes followed for the next 1.5 hours. The sequence of earthquakes stopped when an ash explosion occurred at 06:44 pm. The earthquakes and ash explosions are

occurring as the summit area subsides and adjusts to the withdrawal of magma from the summit.

Additional explosive events that could produce minor amounts of ashfall downwind are possible at any time. Volcanic gas emissions at the summit remain high.

For forecasts of where ash would fall if such an explosion occur, please consult the Ash3D model output here: [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/activity\\_2018.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/activity_2018.html)

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Photos/Video: [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia\\_chronology.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia_chronology.html)

Lava Flow Maps: [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia\\_maps.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia_maps.html)

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<https://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2006/3139/>

## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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**Wednesday, May 23, 2018.**

**Editor's Note:** Did not do much updating yesterday. Sorry. Other matters pressing. That said, here is an update from the USGS and the Hawaii County Civil Defense.

## **HAWAIIAN VOLCANO OBSERVATORY STATUS REPORT**

**U.S. Geological Survey**

**Wednesday, May 23, 2018, 6:05 AM HST (Wednesday, May 23, 2018, 16:05 UTC)**

**KILAUEA VOLCANO** (VNUM #332010)

19°25'16" N 155°17'13" W, Summit Elevation 4091 ft (1247 m)

Current Volcano Alert Level: **WARNING**

Current Aviation Color Code: **RED**

### **Kīlauea Volcano Lower East Rift Zone**

Eruption of lava and ground cracking continues in the area of Leilani Estates and Lanipuna Gardens subdivision.

The middle portion of the fissure system continues to produce the most robust eruptive activity in the Lower East Rift Zone. The most active fissures have been 22, 19, 6, 5, and 23. A faint glow was seen from Fissure 9, but no flows, and methane was observed burning in road cracks overnight. The ocean entry remains active and is producing occasional small explosions. Observers noted the height of the perched lava pond / channel had reached 11 meters / 36 feet above the ground level.

Lava is probably still entering the ocean. Although we can't get visual confirmation until after dawn, instrumental signals are consistent with continuing ocean entry activity.

Volcanic gas emissions remain very high from these fissure eruptions.

For recent maps of activity, see:

[https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia\\_maps.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia_maps.html)

**Additional ground cracking and outbreaks of lava are possible in the area. Residents downslope of the region of fissures should heed all Hawaii County Civil Defense messages and warnings.**

Magma continues to be supplied to the lower East Rift Zone. Elevated earthquake activity continues, but earthquake locations have not moved farther down-rift in the past couple of days, and there were only a few earthquakes located yesterday in the rift zone.

USGS/HVO continues to monitor the lower East Rift Zone activity 24/7 in coordination with Hawaii County Civil Defense, with geologists onsite to track ongoing and new fissure activity and the advance of lava flows.

### **Kīlauea Volcano Summit**

Small ash emissions from the Overlook crater occurred frequently throughout the night. Moderate trade winds were blowing to the southwest and ashfall may be noticed in downwind locations. Earthquakes in the summit area continue at a moderate rate, as does deflation of the summit region.

Additional explosive events that could produce minor amounts of ashfall downwind are possible at any time. Volcanic gas emissions at the summit remain high.

For forecasts of where ash would fall if such an explosion occur, please consult the Ash3D model output here:

[https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/activity\\_2018.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/activity_2018.html)

Information on ash hazards and how to prepare for ashfall maybe found here:

<http://www.ivhhn.org/information#ash>

## **MORE INFORMATION**

Activity Summary also available by phone: [\(808\) 967-8862](tel:8089678862)

Subscribe to these messages: <https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/vns2/>

Webcam images:

[https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia\\_webcams.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia_webcams.html)

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## **Hawaii County Civil Defense Update**

### **East Rift Zone Eruption - Update 1, 5/23/18 6AM**

This is a Civil Defense Message for Wednesday, May 23 at 6:00 in the morning.

Hawaiian Volcano Observatory reports eruption activity continues in the Lower East Rift Zone. County, state, and federal partners are working together to monitor the situation at Puna Geothermal Venture.

Government departments alongside PGV will continue to work on the wells.

Hawaii County Fire Department, state Department of Health, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency continue to monitor the air quality in the Lower East Rift Zone.

County of Hawaii, American Red Cross, and other agencies continue to ensure pet-friendly shelters are open and support services are available if residents need to leave their homes.

To sign up for alerts, visit the Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency's website.

We are on watch 24-hours a day for your safety. This is your Hawai'i County Civil Defense Agency.

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**Tuesday, May 22, 2018.**

**Hawaii County Civil Defense Alert**

<http://www.hawaiicounty.gov/active-alerts>

East Rift Zone Eruption, Mon. 5/22/18, **6AM** - Update 2

This is a Civil Defense Message for Tuesday, May 22 at 6:00 in the morning.

Hawaiian Volcano Observatory continues to monitor active flows. Fissure 6 reactivated last night and has been erupting since around midnight. The flows from Fissure 6 are slowly flowing closer to PGV property.

Due to this activity, the following policies are in effect:

At this time this situation will be closely monitored. There is no immediate threat to any of the wells at PGV.

Due to the laze hazard at the lava ocean entry stay out of the plume.

Due to hazardous conditions, the following roads are closed and all are asked to stay out of the area:

Highway 137 is closed between Kamaili Road and Pohoiki Road.  
Kamaili Road is closed to all thru traffic.

An eruption community information meeting will be held at the Pahoia High cafeteria on Tuesday, May 22 at 5:30 in the evening.

The residents of lower Puna are going through a very difficult time. We ask for your help by avoiding the affected areas if possible. Thank you for your understanding.

We are on watch 24-hours a day for your safety.

This is your Hawai'i County Civil Defense.

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**Monday, May 21, 2018.**

**HAWAIIAN VOLCANO OBSERVATORY STATUS REPORT**

U.S. Geological Survey

Monday, **May 21, 2018, 1:57 AM HST** (Monday, May 21, 2018, 11:57 UTC)

**KILAUEA VOLCANO** (VNUM #332010)

19°25'16" N 155°17'13" W, Summit Elevation 4091 ft (1247 m)

Current Volcano Alert Level: WARNING

Current Aviation Color Code: RED

**Kīlauea Volcano Summit**

A small explosion occurred at 12:55 AM at Halema'uma'u crater at Kilauea's summit. It produced an ash plume that reached about 7,000 ft asl and was carried by the wind to the southwest.

Additional explosive events that could produce minor amounts of ashfall downwind are possible at any time.

Information on ash hazards and how to prepare for ashfall maybe found here:

<http://www.ivhhn.org/information#ash>

## **MORE INFORMATION**

Activity Summary also available by phone: (808) 967-8862

Subscribe to these messages: <https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/vns2/>

Webcam images:

[https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia\\_webcams.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia_webcams.html)

Photos/Video:

[https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia\\_chronology.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia_chronology.html)

Lava Flow Maps:

[https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia\\_maps.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia_maps.html)

Definitions of terms used in update:

<https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/extra/definitions.pdf>

Overview of Kīlauea summit (Halema‘ūma‘u) and East Rift Zone (Pu‘u ‘Ō‘ō) eruptions:

<https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/extra/background.pdf>

Summary of volcanic hazards from Kīlauea eruptions:

<https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/extra/hazards.pdf>

Recent Earthquakes in Hawai‘i (map and list):

<https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/hvo/earthquakes/>

Explanation of Volcano Alert Levels and Aviation Color Codes:

<https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/activity/alertsystem/index.php>

<https://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2006/3139/>

## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

askHVO@usgs.gov

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**Sunday, May 20, 2018.**

## **Hawaii County Civil Defense Update:**

East Rift Zone Eruption - Update 3, 5/20/18, 12PM

This is a Civil Defense Message for Sunday, May 20 at Noon.

Hawaiian Volcano Observatory continues to monitor active flows. Two lava flows have entered the ocean off Highway 137 near MacKenzie State Park. Hawaiian Volcano Observatory reported that sulfur dioxide emission rates tripled down wind of the rift today. Areas of Kamaili, Seaview, and Malama Ki have elevated levels. Take action necessary to limit further exposure.

Due to the lava entry at the ocean, the following policies are in effect:

Access to the area is prohibited due to the laze hazard.

Stay away from any ocean plume. The plume travels with the wind and can change direction without warning. The U.S. Coast Guard is actively monitoring the area. Only permitted tour boats are allowed in the area. Due to hazardous conditions from lava and fires, the following policies are in effect:

Highway 137 is closed between Kamaili Road and Pohoiki Road.

Kamaili Road is closed to all thru traffic. No stopping, this is a high sulfur dioxide area. Everyone is asked to stay out of the area.

The residents of lower Puna are going through a very difficult time. We ask for your help by avoiding the affected areas. Thank you for your understanding.

Thank you for listening. We are on watch 24-hours a day for your safety.

This is your Hawai'i County Civil Defense.

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East Rift Zone Eruption - Update 1, 5/20/18 6AM - Flow 3 Split Into 2 Flows, Entering Ocean

This is a Civil Defense Message for Sunday, May 20 at 6:00 in the morning.

Hawaiian Volcano Observatory continues to monitor active flows. Flow front 3 has split into 2 flows and both are entering the ocean. Hawaiian Volcano Observatory also reports that Sulfur Dioxide emissions have greatly increased.

Due to hazardous conditions, the following roads are closed and all are asked to stay out of the area

Highway 137 is closed between Kamaili Road and Pohoiki Road.

Kamaili Road is closed to all through traffic.

Due to the lava entering the ocean off Highway 137 in the vicinity of MacKenzie State Park, the following policies are in effect:

Be aware of the laze hazard and stay away from any ocean plume. Laze is formed when hot lava hits the ocean sending hydrochloric acid and steam with fine glass particles into the air.

Health hazards of laze include lung damage, and eye and skin irritation.

Be aware that the laze plume travels with the wind and can change direction without warning.

The residents of lower Puna are going through a very difficult time. We ask for your help by avoiding the affected areas if possible. Thank you for your understanding.

We are on watch 24-hours a day for your safety.



Lava from the volcano eruption entered the ocean late last night, completing its two mile flow from various fissures that have been vigorously erupting with fast moving pahoehoe lava from the past 48 hours.

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**Saturday, May 19, 2018.**

**From USGS Hawaii Volcanoes Observatory**

**HAWAIIAN VOLCANO OBSERVATORY STATUS REPORT**

**U.S. Geological Survey**

**Saturday, May 19, 2018, 9:16 AM HST (Saturday, May 19, 2018, 19:16 UTC)**

**KILAUEA VOLCANO** (VNUM #332010)

19°25'16" N 155°17'13" W, Summit Elevation 4091 ft (1247 m)

Current Volcano Alert Level: WARNING

Current Aviation Color Code: **RED**

**Kīlauea Volcano Lower East Rift Zone**

Eruption of lava and ground cracking in the area of Leilani Estates subdivision continues.

Beginning yesterday and continuing overnight, the rate of lava eruption has increased. Fountaining is occurring at Fissure 17, and Fissures 16-20 have merged into a continuous line of spatter and fountaining. Flows from the consolidated Fissure 20 crossed upper Pohoiki road late yesterday afternoon and continued flowing southward. This morning, the wide flow is very active and is advancing at rates up to 300 yds per hour. A second flow from the same fissure complex is also flowing southward between Pohoiki and Opihikao Rds. The lava flow from Fissure 18 continues to advance more slowly. Fissure 17 and its flow are still active but the flow is advancing even more slowly. It is unknown whether the flows will continue to advance, or stop, and new lava flows are likely given the rate of activity seen at the rift zone.

For recent maps of activity, see:

[https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia\\_maps.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/volcanoes/kilauea/multimedia_maps.html)

**Additional ground cracking and outbreaks of lava are possible in the area. Residents downslope of the region of fissures should heed all Count of Hawaii Civil Defense messages and warnings.**

Magma continues to be supplied to the lower East Rift Zone; however, the GPS instrument near Pu`u Honua`ula is no longer moving suggesting that the rift zone is no longer inflating in this area. Elevated earthquake activity continues, but earthquake locations have not moved farther downrift in the past couple of days.

USGS/HVO continues to monitor the lower East Rift Zone activity 24/7 in coordination with Hawaii County Civil Defense, with geologists onsite to track ongoing and new fissure activity and the advance of lava flows.

### **Kīlauea Volcano Summit**

An explosion occurred around midnight last night at Halema'uma'u with the plume extending 10,000 ft a.s.l. Moderate trade winds were blowing to the southwest and noticeable ashfall was reported from downwind locations.

Additional explosive events that could produce minor amounts of ashfall downwind are possible at any time. Volcanic gas emissions at the summit remain high.

For forecasts of where ash would fall if such an explosion occur, please consult the Ash3D model output here:

[https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/activity\\_2018.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/activity_2018.html)

Information on ash hazards and how to prepare for ashfall maybe found here:

<http://www.ivhhn.org/information#ash>

## **MORE INFORMATION**

Activity Summary also available by phone: (808) 967-8862

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### **Friday, May 18, 2018.**

**1:30 pm:** The lava coming out from the vents are newer pahoehoe that moved down from the Pu'u O'o cinder cone several miles up.

**1:00 pm:** Live video (Hawaii News Now on Facebook) is showing more a quick moving pahoehoe flow from the areas near Fissures #22 and #17. Apparently the lava is more vigorous as it is consuming more structures.

Link to live lava fountaining (Honolulu Civil Beat):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SEcLitBiGhY>

**Fissure #22** started erupting today near Leilani Estates. Several other fissures that erupted in the last two weeks are once again spewing lava. Fissure #17 which started last week, is still actively in an eruptive state, with a new layer of lava slowly covering the older layer. That fissure is near some homes located upslope from it. This is where Honolulu Civil Beat has been broadcasting some live video over the past days. [Scott Wiggers](#) of [ApauHawaii Tours](#) is one of the videographers actively shooting footage from the areas surrounding his home of Leilani Estates. Check his videos and many more on our frequently updated YouTube playlist (above) or at the link below:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBw082\\_IsokKuyuAJDxmtBkvOU07CAJmz](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBw082_IsokKuyuAJDxmtBkvOU07CAJmz)

For the very latest updates be sure to check the links we have provided on the main page where this scroll appears.

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**Thursday, May 17, 2018.**

Providing day to day coverage of the ongoing volcano eruption is taking up too much of my time. Therefore I have decided to stop posting full blown blog entries on a daily basis. Instead I will use this summary scroll to just post quick entries to relevant information.

Plus there are other things I want to blog about, so I need time to do those plus other projects that I continually work on.

Today's volcano news has been focused mainly on the large gas discharges that are erupting from Halemaumau Crater at the top of the Kilauea summit. The resulting ash cloud is large and very high, reportedly at more than 30,000 feet. Ash has drifted to the south and southwest regions of the Big Island, mixed with some heavy rain that is creating quite a mess.

The USGS has created a new page for the 2018 Kilauea eruption. Access it here: [https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/activity\\_2018.html](https://volcanoes.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/activity_2018.html)