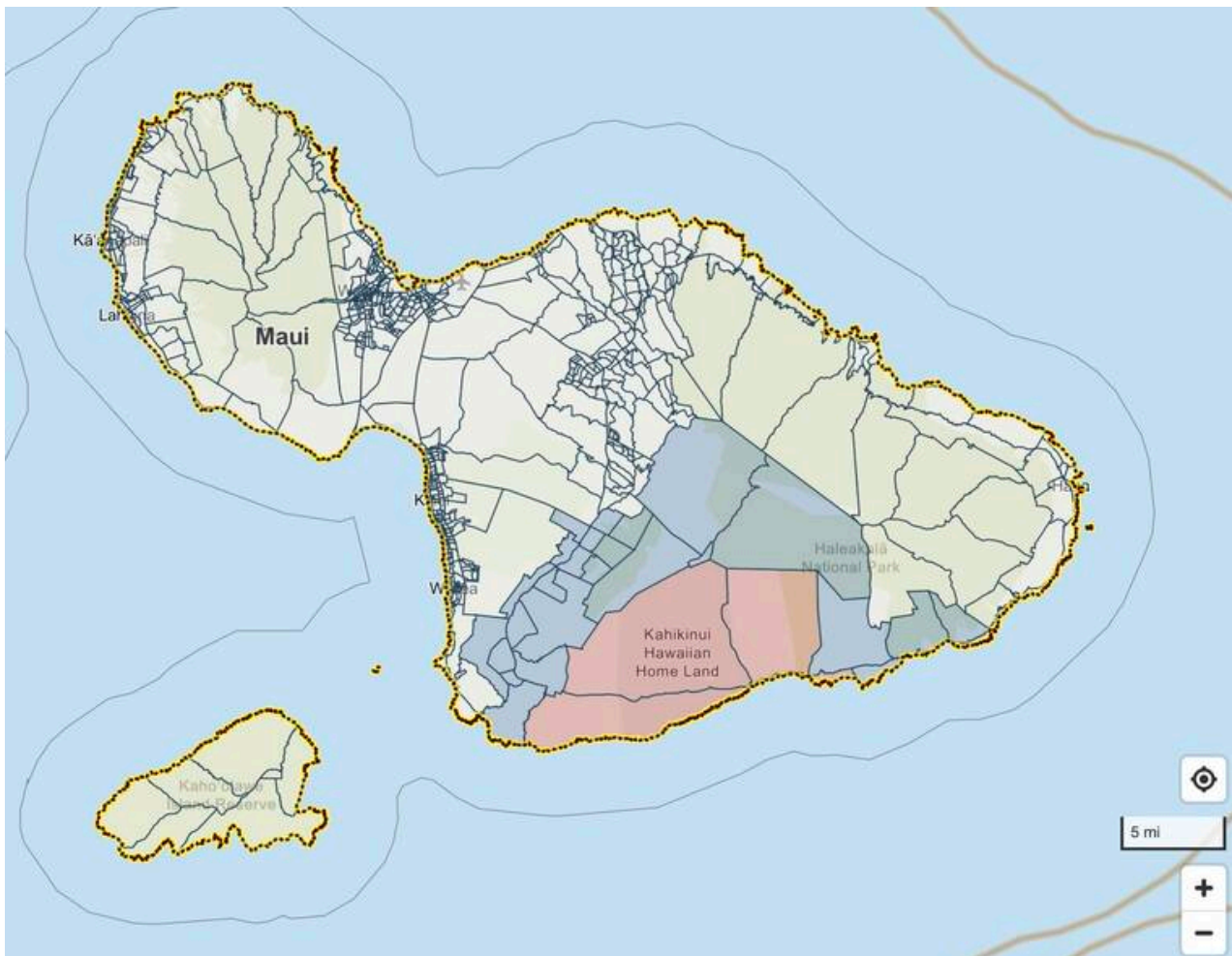


BREAKING NEWS

Kahikinui brush fire scorches 500 acres

By [Mia Anzalone](#)

June 15, 2025 • *Last updated 8:12 p.m.*



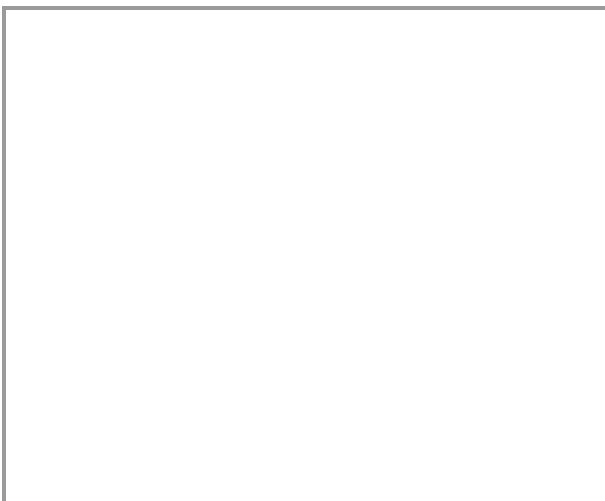
A screenshot of the Genasys Protect website Sunday night, showing the emergency evacuation order area in red and the surrounding shaded area in blue under an advisory notice.

UPDATE 7:38 p.m.

The Kahikinui brush fire has spread to 500 acres mauka of the Pi'ilani Highway near mile marker 24 and 25, according to a news release from Maui County.

A containment percentage has not yet been determined, the release said, and no injuries or structural damages have been reported.

ADVERTISING



MFD resources, along with private contractors, will remain overnight to man firefighting duties, the release said.

Mayor Richard Bissen signed an emergency proclamation at around 5:45 p.m. in response to the ongoing fire, giving the county access to federal assistance programs for individuals and public infrastructure, including funds for emergency response efforts “to ensure continued and effective countywide response,” the release said.

Officials noted Sunday night that there are approximately 105 Kahikinui homestead lots in the area. It remains unclear how many evacuees were counted and live on these lots.

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The county said Sunday night that the 7 p.m. update was the last general update for the day, barring emergencies, and more information would be available tomorrow.

UPDATE 6:31 p.m.

In response to today's Kahikinui's brush fire that has scorched up to 200 acres of land, Lt. Gov. Sylvia Luke, serving as acting governor while Gov. Josh Green is traveling, signed an emergency proclamation at 6:08 p.m. authorizing Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Stephen Logan to activate the Hawaii National Guard to "deploy state resources as needed to aid in fire suppression and protect public health and safety, property and natural resources," according to a news release this evening.

It also suspends laws that might impede or delay the execution of emergency functions

The news release said the 23rd proclamation is a "supplement" to the emergency proclamation issued Aug. 8, 2023, for the wildfires in Lahaina, Kula and Kohala that killed 102 people and burned more than 2,200 homes and 2,170 acres of land.

UPDATE 4:05 p.m.

The fire has grown up to 200 acres mauka of the highway between mile marker 24 and 25 and is moving upslope and westward in challenging terrain, according to MFD.

MFD officials did not have a containment estimate readily available and no injuries or structural damages have been reported.

In a social media update, Maui County officials said that the American Red Cross will close its temporary evacuation point at Grandma's Coffee House at 4:30 p.m. and will open a shelter at King Kekaulike High School gymnasium at 5:30 p.m.

Officials said to enter via Haleakala Highway and to bring chairs, go bags and other necessities. Snacks and water will be provided, the social media post said.

The fire, initially reported at 9:54 p.m., was originally a quarter of an acre and had increased to around 20 acres by 10:30 a.m., according to the post.

The response has expanded to include six MFD engine companies, three minis, four air assets, two tankers and emergency callback personnel. Other state, county and private resources remain on standby.

The road closures remain on Pi'ilani Highway from mile marker 20 to 41 as of 4 p.m.

2:49 p.m.

There have been no reports of structural damages or injuries from the Kahikinui brush fire, and containment estimates are unavailable, according to a social media update posted Sunday afternoon by the County of Maui, MEMA and MFD.

MFD said the fire grew up to 20 acres mauka of Pi'ilani Highway and is currently moving upslope in challenging terrain near the mile marker 24 and 25 area of the highway. MEMA issued evacuation orders to 30 to 40 homes in that area late Sunday morning.

A temporary evacuation point near Grandma's Coffee House has been set up and road closures have been extended on Pi'ilani Highway from mile marker 20 to 41, according to the post.

Four MFD engine companies, three minis, three air assets and two tankers, along with resources from the state Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife, the County Department of Public Works, Haleakala Ranch, Goodfellows and Alpha have responded, according to the release.

Additional state, county and private resources are on standby, according to the post, and MEMA's Emergency Operations Center went into partial activation as of midday today.

According to the Genasys Protect app, the Kahikinui area is still under an evacuation order, and the surrounding area, including Haleakala National Park, Haleakala Observatories and extending near Wailua Falls, is under an advisory.

2:07 p.m.

The coverage area of the evacuation order, according to MEMA's new evacuation planning and notification platform — the Genasys Project app — extends to the border of the Haleakala Observatories, and engulfs the Kahikinui Hawaiian Home Land plots and forest reserve.

The state Department of Hawaiian Home Lands owns about 22,860 acres of the area, which are home to about a dozen households across 75 lots.

It's the only homestead in the state's 203,000-acre land trust for which leases were issued for raw land and where management of the area is placed solely in the hands of the homesteaders.

1:15 p.m.

MEMA said the road from mile marker 20 to 27.5 on Piilani Highway is closed and that the American Red Cross is expected to set up a temporary evacuation site near Grandma's Coffee House at 9232 Kula Hwy by 1:30 p.m., officials said.

Crews are actively working on the scene, according to a MEMA social media post at around 1:12 p.m. It said the brush fire is in the area of mile marker 24 Piilani Highway.

MEMA said to "grab your 'go kits' and evacuate your family and pets now!" on its website.

MEMA said it will continue to monitor the situation and said additional information can be found through local TV and radio stations or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio.

PREVIOUS COVERAGE

An emergency evacuation order has been issued for the Kahikinui area on Maui, with Maui Emergency Management Agency officials posting "Leave immediately!" on its website.

MEMA officials sent out alerts via the Genasys Protect app, MEMA messaging and door-to-door evacuation notices by emergency officials to residents near the Kahikinui mile marker 24 and 25 with instructions to head "makai (ocean) of the highway for evacuations" due to "a dangerous threat to life and property," according to MEMA.

Three engine companies, three minis, two tankers, battalion chief and Air One are responding, according to the County of Maui Department of Fire and Public Safety. Air Two and Three are en route, along with two additional fire crews, Public Works tankers and heavy equipment from private contractors, MFD said.

The fire was reported at around 9:54 a.m. today and is estimated to have grown to 20 acres mauka of the highway and moving upslope, according to MFD.

County officials said there is no containment at this time.

At around 10:10 a.m. today, MEMA issued an advisory alert and said there was an active brush fire in the Kahikinui mile marker 24 and 25 area and that first responders were responding to the scene. At the time, it said no action was needed.

By 10:44 a.m. MEMA updated its website and said the fire had grown to about 16 to 20 acres in size, but reiterated that no evacuation orders were in place.

At 11:06, MEMA said in another alert that strong winds were present and that all homes mountainside of the highway should evacuate.

MEMA advises all residents to follow instructions from officials and stay informed.

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13 COMMENTS

