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News Release

For Immediate Release: July 25, 2022

COUNTY OF KAUA'I
KAUA'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
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Firefighter injured after KFD personnel extinguishes Kealia fire on Sunday

KEALIA – A Kaua'i Fire Department firefighter was injured Sunday after first responders extinguished a fire in Kealia.

“I want to thank our first responders for responding quickly, extinguishing the fire, and saving the life of their fellow firefighter,” said KFD Fire Chief Michael Gibson. “This fire put our firefighters at significant risk and almost claimed the life of one of our own.”

Personnel with Kaiakea fire station responded to the fire, and medics with American Medical Response were quickly on the scene to treat the injured firefighter.

According to a preliminary report, at approximately 5:50 p.m. Sunday, KFD personnel were dispatched to a brush fire on Kealia Road.

Firefighters arrived on the scene and discovered a fire in a 20-by-60-foot area. Firefighters observed a mixture of brush, car tires, and trash. Because a fence obscured access to the fire, firefighters crossed over it to get to the fire.

Once firefighters extinguished the fire, a firefighter sustained injuries after crossing the fence and descended on a haole koa tree, puncturing his body. Firefighters on the scene treated the firefighter until medics arrived. The firefighter was transported to Wilcox Medical Center emergency and is currently in the intensive care unit. He is expected to make a full recovery.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

The scene was cleared at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Dry conditions accelerate the growth and spread of brush fires. To prevent fires, the KFD Fire Prevention Bureau advises the public to maintain an effective firebreak within 30 feet of your home by clearing away vegetative growth and combustible items.

To report suspicious activity, please call Kaua'i Police Department Dispatchers at 808-241-1711.



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