

Hawai'i County Civil Defense Agency

CIVIL DEFENSE AGENCY

Incident: Emergency Health Advisory #4

This is a civil defense message.

This is a health advisory update for **Tuesday morning, April 8, at 9:00.**

This emergency health advisory update is being issued due to the forecast of southeasterly winds that will bring fumes from Pu`u `O`o and Halema`uma`u to affect down wind areas commencing today.

The National Weather Service forecasted **southeast winds** to begin this morning and continue to Thursday. Due to the projected high levels of sulfur dioxide carried by the forecasted winds, the following advisories are issued.

The following communities and areas are advised to expect possible high levels of sulfur dioxide to begin sometime today. The levels may be high enough to cause severe reactions to those in the sensitive groups as well as those in the general population. The **safest protection** against sulfur dioxide is to limit exposure as best as possible. The safest way to do this is to **evacuate** out of the area. Closing all windows to your home, cars and businesses can reduce the sulfur dioxide level inside to some degree but do be careful if you choose to do this, and **listen to your body signs and leave if necessary**. For your additional information, enclosed rooms with air conditioning are the greatest protection if you choose not to evacuate out of the area.

For your safety, the Department of Health advises that all in the following areas be on the alert and prepare for evacuation as a precaution. Color Code PURPLE is now in effect. These areas are:

- Mauna Loa Estates
- Ohia Estates
- Volcano Village
- Keauhou Ranch area
- Volcano Golf Course Subdivision

Again, residents of these areas are advised by the Department of Health to **prepare for evacuation** as a precaution due to the projected high and dangerous level of sulfur dioxide that is expected because of the southeasterly winds. It is advised that especially the sensitive groups of children, individuals with pre-existing respiratory conditions and lung or heart disease evacuate prior to arrival of high levels of sulfur dioxide or when beginning to show signs of serious reactions. As a guide, **evacuation**

should be completed by the early afternoon hours, and earlier if necessary. It is known that at this time that these areas are experiencing low vog and sulfur dioxide levels. Be advised that data compiled by monitoring agencies still projects possible high sulfur dioxide levels to affect these areas later today.

Other areas down wind and close to Halema`uma`u and Pu`u`O`o are advised to be on the alert, take precautions, and prepare for evacuation. These areas are the subdivisions of Royal Hawaiian Estates and Hawaiian Orchid Isle Estates. As a guide, these are in Color Code RED because of the forecast of possible high sulfur dioxide levels to also affect these areas later today.

During the early morning hours, winds became more southerly and sulfur dioxide and vog began impacting areas of Puna and Hilo. Initial forecasts indicated impact areas would be limited to the higher elevations. Although the vog levels in areas of Puna, Hilo and South Kohala were moderate to heavy this morning, sulfur dioxide levels did not exceed the YELLOW range. As you know, vog levels are mainly due to water vapor and particulates of dust and other sulfates, and not necessarily related to sulfur dioxide levels. Field reports during the past hour or so indicate that vog levels have decreased in most of Puna and Hilo. This rapid change demonstrates how fast things can change and the importance of keeping informed and prepared. At this time, the districts of lower Puna, South Hilo, South Kohala and North Kona remain in Color Code YELLOW. Do exercise precautions and follow the American Lung Association and Department of Health recommendations.

Again, for your safety, the evacuation advisory remains in effect for Mauna Loa Estates, Ohia Estates, Volcano Village, Keauhou Ranch, and Volcano Golf Course Subdivision. Color Code PURPLE remains in effect for these areas. Forecast remains that winds may bring higher levels of sulfur dioxide to these areas later today. For those needing these services, an evacuation shelter has been established at Aunty Sally's Luau Hale. If you do need any special assistance for evacuation, please call 935-0031.

For your additional information, trade winds are forecast to return by Thursday. If we all take necessary precautions, no one should be hurt by this event.

Thank you for listening and please be safe.

This is your Hawai'i County Civil Defense.