

# *Hawai'i County Civil Defense Agency*

## CIVIL DEFENSE AGENCY

### *Incident: Emergency Health Advisory #5*

This is a civil defense message.

This is a health advisory update for Tuesday afternoon, April 8, at 4:30.

The National Weather Service forecast of southeast winds remains and is expected to continue at least through Wednesday. The wind forecast still threatens areas with possible high and dangerous sulfur dioxide levels, especially to people in the sensitive groups. Current wind conditions and forecasts for the night indicate that evacuation is not necessary at this time, but you are asked to continue to remain on the alert and be prepared to leave the area if necessary. The affected areas in high alert (Code PURPLE) are:

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

These areas are urged to continue being prepared and to keep on the alert. Please remember, the safest protection against sulfur dioxide is to limit exposure. Closing all windows to your home, business and cars can reduce the sulfur dioxide level. It would be very wise to do this, especially at night, before turning in. Be aware that some residential areas in the Volcano area did have spikes of very high levels of sulfur dioxide during the day. Fortunately, due to wind conditions, high levels were very brief. The sulfur dioxide levels will be monitored through the night by resources of the Department of Health, Fire Department, EPA and National Guard CST. Should unexpected weather conditions bring dangerous levels of sulfur dioxide to residential areas, all efforts will be made to inform you of this. This includes house to house notification if necessary.

For your additional information, the Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park has closed down all of its visitor operations until further notice. This includes the Volcano House and the Kilauea Military

Camp. Only essential personnel remain on site. Closure of all operations was done as a precaution.

During the day, many areas of Hilo, Puna, Kona and South Kohala did experience moderate to heavy vog conditions. Although uncomfortable for many, 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. For your information, due to the continued weather patterns, Hilo and Puna especially can expect similar vog conditions tomorrow as was experienced today. It is hoped that the heavy rains forecasted for some areas will wash down some of the vog.

Thank you for listening and please be safe.

This is your Hawai'i County Civil Defense.