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News Release

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COUNTY OF KAUA'I
KAUA'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
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Officials complete full-scale, Multi-Agency Search And Rescue Exercise Thursday

LĪHU'E – In partnership with the United States Coast Guard, first responders and officials with the County of Kaua'i completed a full-scale, Multi-Agency Search And Rescue Exercise (SAREX) at the Kukui'ula Small Boat Harbor and the surrounding area on Thursday.

“The general scenario today is an overdue vessel that didn't make it back,” said USCG Chief Petty Officer Timothy Elhadj. “This scenario allows all the county, state, local, federal, and Coast Guard to practice search and rescue.”

Participating in the exercise included the United States Coast Guard (USCG), Kaua'i Emergency Management Agency (KEMA), Kaua'i Fire Department (KFD), Kaua'i Police Department (KPD), Ocean Safety Bureau (OSB), Civil Air Patrol, and Kaua'i Search and Rescue (KSAR).

Assets, including jet skis, boats, helicopters, and cadaver dogs, were deployed to search for three missing individuals in today's exercise.

“It's always good for our response partners to keep their skills sharp and practice multi-agency coordination,” said KEMA Program Support Technician Sky Asio. “KEMA's involvement in this exercise was primarily with planning and coordination. However, in a real-world multi-agency search scenario, KEMA's Emergency Operations Center could be activated upon request by the Incident Commander or Unified Command, and our team would support our field responders.”

Partnering agencies roamed land, air, and sea in search of missing mannequins placed in strategic locations along the south shore.

“These types of exercise are important because they prepare us for real scenarios,” said Ocean Safety Bureau Chief Kalani Vierra. “I hope we can do more of these exercises and practice different scenarios in the future.”

Volunteers with Kauaʻi Search and Rescue, an organization dedicated to search and rescue training and education, conducted a practice shoreline search and areas in the water near shore.

“This exercise showcases the presence of all the collaborating agencies on the island,” said KSAR Search Management Specialist Sarah Loux. “Having a volunteer agency involved allows the community to participate and lend a helping hand.”

For more information about the exercise, please contact KEMA at 808-241-1800 or KEMA@kauai.gov.

You may view video on <https://www.facebook.com/CountyofKauai>.



Photo caption: Ocean Bureau Safety personnel participate in Multi-Agency Search And Rescue Exercise (SAREX) at the Kukui'ula Small Boat Harbor and the surrounding area on Thursday.



Photo caption: Participating in the exercise included the United States Coast Guard (USCG), Kaua'i Emergency Management Agency (KEMA), Kaua'i Fire Department (KFD), Kaua'i Police Department (KPD), Ocean Safety Bureau (OSB), Civil Air Patrol, and Kaua'i Search and Rescue (KSAR).



Photo caption: Volunteers with Kaua'i Search and Rescue, an organization dedicated to search and rescue training and education, and KPD personnel conducted a practice shoreline search and areas in the water near shore.



Photo caption: Partnering agencies roamed land, air, and sea in search of missing mannequins placed in strategic locations along the south shore.

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