

Lava swallows up Big Isle neighborhood

By CALEB JONES
The Associated Press

The Maui News

6/7/18

HONOLULU — A neighborhood called Vacationland on the Big Island had disappeared by Wednesday as lava poured into two ocean-front subdivisions, smothering hundreds of homes and filling an ocean bay, turning it into new land that now juts into the sea.

ALSO SEE . . .

- Time running out for survivors buried under ash and debris from Guatemala eruption.

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Molten rock entirely covered Vacationland and only a few buildings remained in the nearby Kapoho subdivision, officials with the U.S. Geological Survey said.

"The bay is completely filled in and the shoreline is at least 0.8 miles out from its original location," said Geological Survey geologist Wendy Stovall. "Vacationland is gone, there is no evidence of any properties there at all. On the northern end of that, there are just a few homes in the (Kapoho) beach lots area."

Resident Mark Johnson is hopeful that his home on a citrus farm is one of those still standing. His

A fissure continues to blast fresh lava several hundred feet in the air and flow toward Kapoho as the Kilauea volcano lower east rift zone eruption continues in Pahoa. The neighborhood of Vacationland was wiped out by lava on Wednesday, and new land was being formed in an ocean bay. The shoreline at the bay has been extended out almost a mile.



AP photo

ocean-view property sits on a ridge near the base of Kapoho crater, and he thinks the lava could have missed it.

"Basically, we are up on that hill, so we're still OK right now," Johnson said.

But he has resigned himself to the possibility that he could lose his beloved farm, which he can't access even if lava doesn't cover it. The property isn't far from a crater lake that the approaching flow vaporized days before entering his neighbor-

hood.

"I'm kind of at peace, actually," Johnson said of potentially losing his home of 28 years. "I feel that I've had a really great experience."

County officials said the two subdivisions have 279 homes, and most are feared destroyed from the most recent lava flows in the low-lying area.

"Over the course of essentially two days, that entire area was covered by lava," Stovall said.

Molten rock from the erupting

Kilauea volcano already has destroyed at least 117 homes in the Lanipuna Gardens and Leilani Estates neighborhoods where lava surfaced more than a month ago. The total number of homes destroyed in the eruption stands at about 400.

Scientists are still recording vigorous volcanic activity. While only one crack in the ground is spewing molten rock and the height of fountaining lava has decreased in recent

See ERUPTION
on the next page

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KILAUEA ERUPTION

LAVA INUNDATES KAPOHO BAY



U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

LAVA

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of homes" are believed to be destroyed in Vacationland and Kapoho Beach Lots, said Civil Defense spokeswoman Janet Snyder.

At a news briefing held Wednesday outside of the Civil Defense building, Hawaii County Civil Defense Administrator Talmadge Magno said, "Vacationland is totally gone. It's covered by lava. Kapoho Beach Lots, the northern section, is still intact but the rest of it is all under lava."

Officials are reviewing aerial photographs as well as census and property tax records to determine the number of homes consumed by lava.

Census records show about 350 homes at Vacationland and 150 homes at Kapoho Beach Lots, according to Magno.

With the recent devastation of the two subdivisions, the number of people who have sought shelter at the Pahoia Community Center and Keaau Armory is at 410.

Magno said the armory located near the Keaau Shipman Park is at maximum capacity at this time.

In the aftermath of the high-rising plume, officials urged communities to stay indoors with the windows closed to prevent exposure to noxious fumes. Motorists are also advised to keep their windows closed and exercise extreme caution while driving as ash fallout

could hamper visibility.

Hazardous emissions of sulfur dioxide could cause people to suffer headaches, wheezing and eye, throat and lung irritation. Toxic gases also exacerbate symptoms for individuals with asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and emphysema.

Scientists at the U.S. Geological Survey had expected an explosive event to occur Wednesday afternoon because of a small eruption at the summit Tuesday followed

The lava fountain at fissure 8 reached 150 feet Wednesday morning.

by frequent earthquakes.

USGS geophysicist Jim Kauahikaua said there were 10 earthquakes each measuring at a magnitude of more than 3.0 since early Wednesday, which led scientists to expect the subsequent ash eruption.

Magno said the agency is prepared to set up shelters at the Keaau Community Center and sites in Hilo should the impact to the community from the eruption activity worsen.

Civil defense reported a magnitude 5.6 earthquake centered at the summit occurred at about 4:15 p.m. Wednesday. There was no tsunami threat to the island as the quake was not large enough.

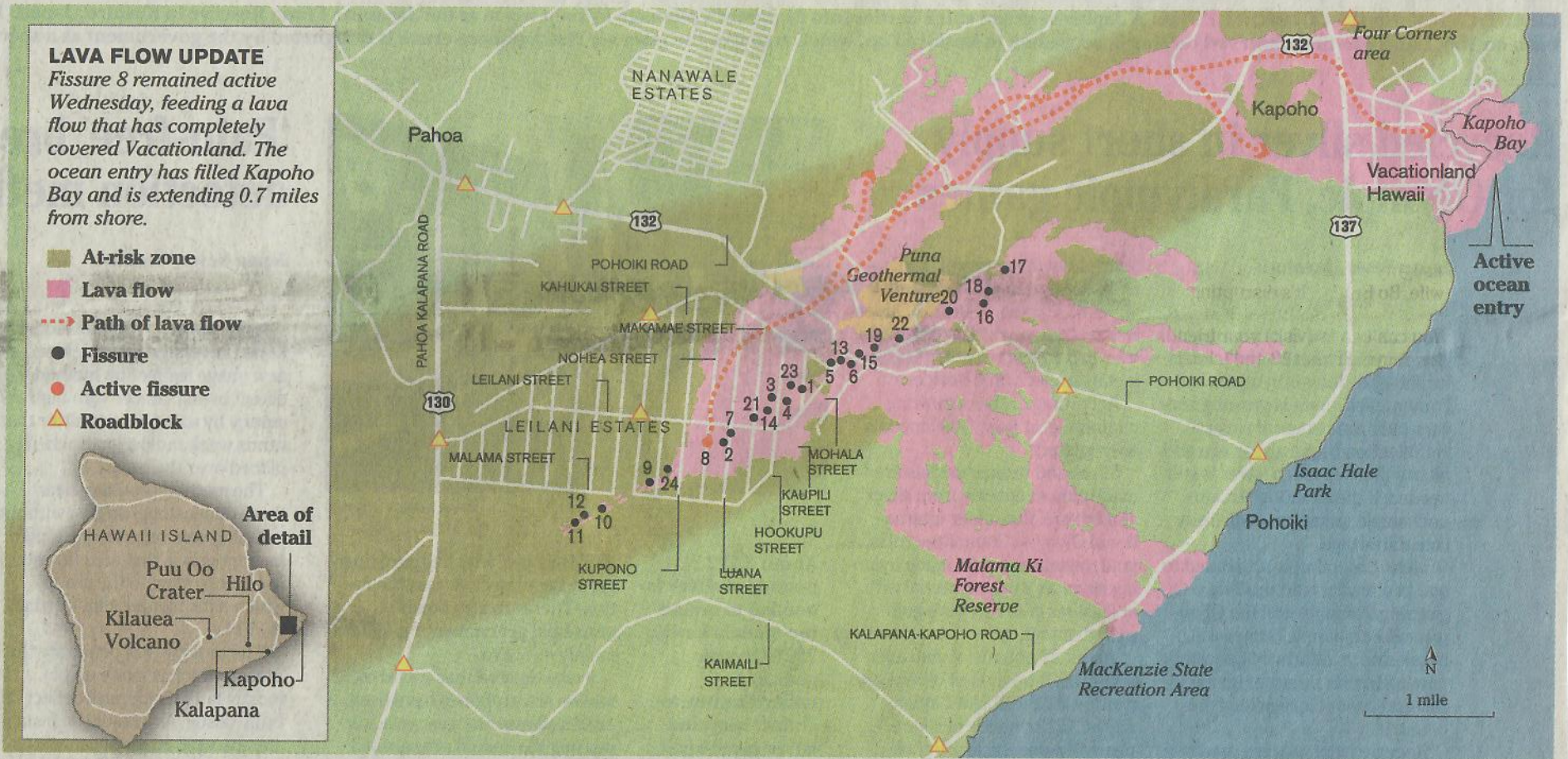
Meanwhile, the fountaining fissure 8 at the Kilauea's Lower East Rift Zone remains active and is spewing lava up to 185 feet high.

As of 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, the lava had overtaken approximately 8.6 square miles of land since the initial May 3 eruption.



U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

This satellite image captured Tuesday shows Kapoho Bay filled by lava from the Kilauea Volcano, with some remaining homes surrounded.



Sources: USGS; Hawaii County Civil Defense

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A plume of "laze" rose Wednesday from the fissure 8 lava flow at the former Kapoho Bay.

SUMMIT BLAST SENDS ASH SOARING

The tally of 130 homes claimed could rise by hundreds with Vacationland and much of Kapoho Beach Lots reported consumed

By Rosemarie Bernardo
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HILO >>

An ash eruption at the Kilauea summit sent a plume 10,000 feet above sea level Wednesday to punctuate a devastating 24-hour period in which lava covered the subdivision of Vacationland, leaving hundreds of homes likely destroyed.

The plume prompted the Hawaii County Civil Defense to alert communities in Volcano and Pahala of the negative impact on air quality due to winds blowing in the southwesterly direction.

Civil Defense reported the latest confirmed count of homes overrun by lava has increased to 130 from 117. The tally reflects homes destroyed in the Leilani Estates and Lanipuna Gardens subdivisions.

The figure, however, is expected to soar as "hundreds

Please see LAVA, A7



CINDY ELLEN RUSSELL / CRUSSELL@STARADVERTISER.COM

Pete Wilson embraced his wife, Bo Breda, at a friend's house in Leilani Estates where they now live. The couple's Leilani Estates home was declared off-limits Friday. Wilson and Breda are among an estimated 70 people still living in Leilani Estates. "We make our own decisions. We know what the situation is," Wilson said.

LEILANI ESTATES

Residents near lava feel safe, chafe at government controls

By Andrew Gomes
agomes@staradvertiser.com

PAHOA >> Pete Wilson doesn't like being called a holdout.

Like many of his neighbors who continue to live in the 2,246-acre rural Leilani Estates subdivision 35 days after lava began threatening and destroying homes there, Wilson is just trying live as close to a normal life as possible with his wife.

But lately, it's become increasingly difficult and frustrating — and not because of lava flows, sulfur dioxide gas or cin-

ders raining down from a sometimes 200-foot-high fountain of red lava near the middle of Leilani.

For Wilson, a 72-year-old retired computer network analyst who thinks of himself more as a "hold-in," the bigger stress and pressure on life nowadays is from county government restrictions over the community where there were about 750 homes and an estimated 70 or so residents remain.

Those restrictions include a

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KILAUEA ERUPTION



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This satellite image captured Sunday shows lava approaching Kapoho Bay. Lava from the Kilauea eruption destroyed dozens of homes in the area.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Lava crawls on ocean floor as vog changes direction

By Andrew Gomes
agomes@staradvertiser.com

HILO>>

It wasn't all quiet Friday on Kilauea's Lower East Rift Zone, but volcanic activity was relatively calm compared with wildly destructive and threatening events almost daily over the last five weeks.

Hawaii County Civil Defense Administrator Talmadge Magno said the main issue Friday was vog being blown in a northwesterly direction east of Hilo.

There also were a dozen rockfalls in Puu Oo Crater in the rift zone between 10:30 and 11 a.m. that followed a 3.2-magnitude earthquake at Kilauea's summit, and one of the rockfalls produced a plume of dust, according to geophysicist Jim Kauahikaua of the U.S. Geological Survey.

Pele's hair fell in areas near Pahoa and Nanawale Estates, the county reported. Pele's hair is fine strands of volcanic glass fibers that can irritate the skin if broken and injure eyes and lungs. The wispy strands, which look like fine hair, are capable of scratching the windshield of a car if wipers are used to clear them away.

The vog is from one fissure in the Leilani Estates subdivision, fissure 8, that has been the only source of lava for the last several days since the first in a series of fissures opened May 3.

The vigorous lava production from fissure 8 continued flowing Friday into a well-defined channel leading to the ocean near the eastern tip of the island at Kapoho, where close to 500 homes have been destroyed in the last few days on top of about 130 earlier at Leilani Estates and neighboring Lanipuna Gardens.

Typically, vog from the rift zone gets blown by prevailing tradewinds toward the south, out over the ocean.

Friday's vog, or volcanic smog, led Civil Defense to warn residents that they should limit outside activities and stay indoors if they have breathing problems. The vog also was expected to reduce visibility to as little as a quarter-mile in the saddle portion of the island between Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea.

Magno said the level of irritating and potentially harmful sulfur dioxide gas, also referred to as SO₂, which is part of vog, was at a "not too bad" level of 0.4 parts per million.

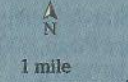
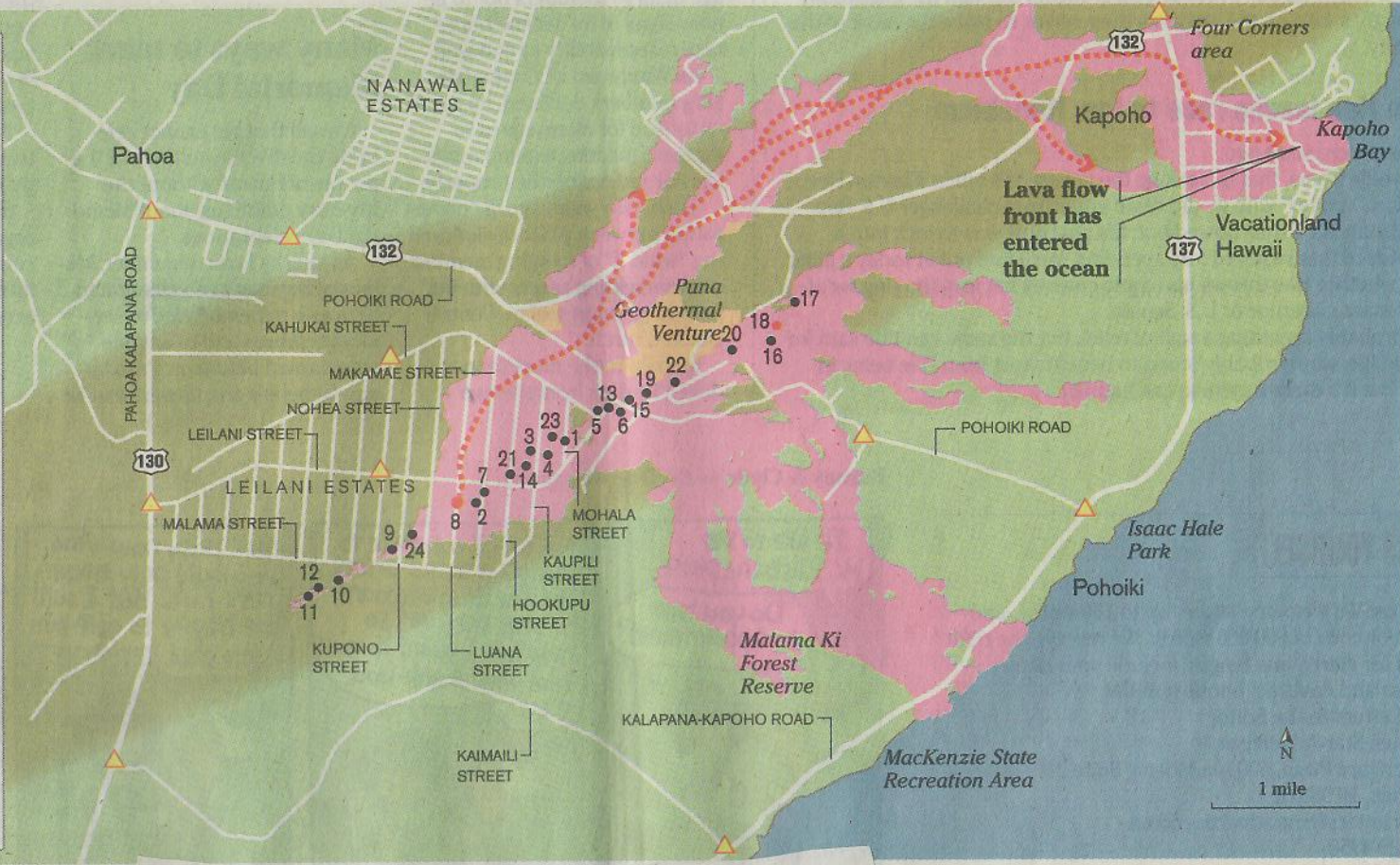
"The vog and SO₂ is just part of the active volcano, which continues," he said. "We suggest people with respiratory issues shelter in place or just avoid that area."

Trades were expected to return Friday evening.

LAVA FLOW UPDATE

Fissure 8 remained active Monday, feeding a lava flow that entered the ocean at Kapoho Bay Sunday night. The ocean entry remains active and is currently a half-mile wide.







- At-risk zone
- Lava flow
- Path of lava flow
- Fissure
- Active fissure
- ▲ Roadblock

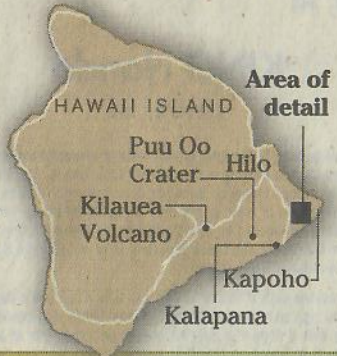


Sources: USGS; Hawaii County Civil Defense

LAVA FLOW UPDATE

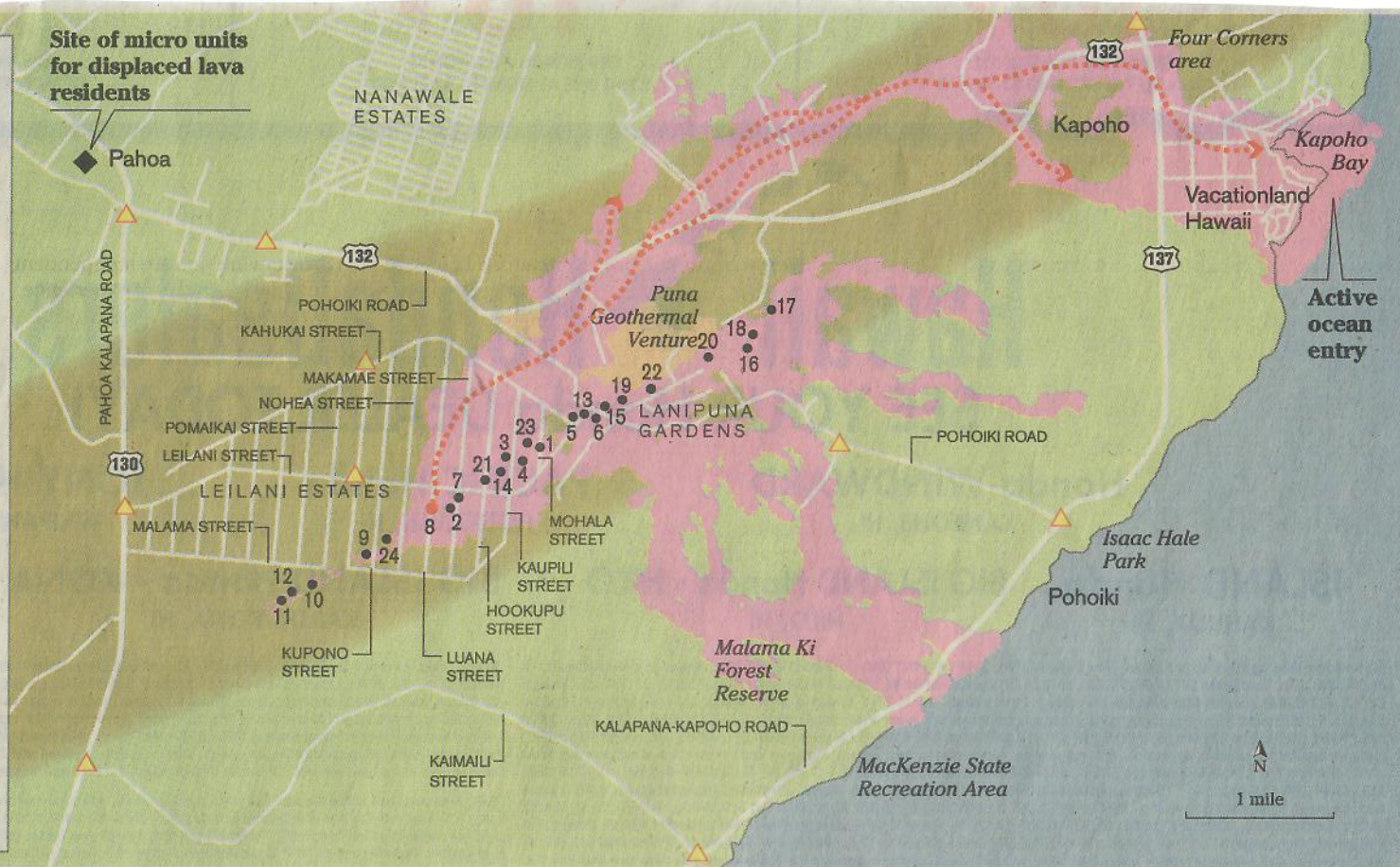
Fissure 8 remained active Friday; the lava flow has created a lava delta approximately 190 acres in size, filling Kapoho Bay and shallow reefs along the nearby coastline.

-  At-risk zone
-  Lava flow
-  Path of lava flow
-  Fissure
-  Active fissure
-  Roadblock



Site of micro units for displaced lava residents

Pahoa



Sources: USGS; Hawaii County Civil Defense

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Lava continued to flow into the ocean Friday in the vicinity of Kapoho Bay and Vacationland. Lava fountains erupting from fissure 8 reached heights of 180-220 feet early Friday morning.

Earlier in the day, Kauahikaua had reported that three other fissures — 9, 10 and 24 — were fuming heavily and incandescent but that they were not producing lava.

The lava from the channel has produced a flow field covering about 9 square miles and is moving not just into the ocean, but also is crawling along the ocean floor.

The ocean floor flow is indicated by plumes of gas and rock debris popping up through the surface of the water in several areas, Kauahikaua said.



