**FRONTLINE Investigates ‘Maui’s Deadly Firestorm’ in New Documentary**

[***Maui’s Deadly Firestorm***](https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/documentary/mauis-deadly-firestorm/)

*Special Digital Premiere:* Tues., Dec. 17, 2024, 7/6c, [pbs.org/frontline](https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/), [PBS App](https://www.pbs.org/pbs-app/), [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3ScyryU9Oy9Wse3a8OAmYQ)

*Broadcast Premiere:* Tues., Jan. 7, 2025, 10/9c ([check PBS listings](https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/schedule/))

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In August 2023, the deadliest U.S. wildfire in more than a century reduced much of the Hawaiian town of Lahaina to ashes, killing more than 100 people and displacing thousands. Sparked by a downed power line, the fire and a chaotic emergency response unfolded as Hurricane Dora brought high winds to Maui, Hawai'i’s second-largest island, where Lahaina is located.

Could the fire’s catastrophic toll have been prevented?

Coming in the wake of a state investigation that found a broad cascade of failures, [***Maui’s Deadly Firestorm***](https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/documentary/mauis-deadly-firestorm/), a new FRONTLINE documentary, investigates critical missteps that day — and in the years prior, as the county and state were repeatedly advised to invest more money in prevention and preparedness, and as experts and residents raised concerns.

**“**I yelled and screamed all these years, but nobody was listening,” says Ke'eaumoku Kapu, a Lahaina community leader who warned Maui officials in 2018 that the county was unprepared for a major wildfire. **“**Now that this has happened, I blame myself.” 

Shedding light on a tragedy decades in the making, ***Maui’s Deadly Firestorm*** premieres Tues., Dec. 17, 2024, at 7/6c on streaming platforms ([pbs.org/frontline](https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/), [PBS App](https://www.pbs.org/pbs-app/), [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3ScyryU9Oy9Wse3a8OAmYQ)) and Tues., Jan. 7, 2025, at 10/9c on PBS stations ([check local listings](https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/schedule/)). Written, produced and directed by Xinyan Yu, a filmmaker who is part of [FRONTLINE’s Investigative Journalist Equity Initiative](https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/investigative-journalist-equity-initiative/), and produced by Christina Avalos, the documentary draws on harrowing footage filmed by those in the path of the inferno and firsthand accounts from survivors, victims’ families and friends, first responders, and local and state authorities.

“For sure I thought that we're gonna burn in there, because there is no way out and we cannot see anything — all smoke and fire around us,” says survivor Lily Nguyen, who was trapped in traffic in her car for hours as the fire and downed electric poles and lines blocked the town’s main evacuation routes.

Through these accounts as well as a detailed analysis of over 1,000 911 calls and public records across multiple government agencies, ***Maui’s Deadly Firestorm*** provides a harrowing, moment-by-moment reconstruction of the fire and its aftermath. It examines how changes to the climate and landscape have made Maui increasingly vulnerable to fires and probes the factors that made this fire such a deadly event.

The documentary also investigates missed opportunities and controversial decisions before and during the response — including a choice not to activate emergency sirens — and raises difficult questions about who and what are to blame for the fire’s heavy toll.

“There are so many challenges in a fire like this,” Hawai'i Governor Josh Green tells FRONTLINE. “And it was the speed and ferocity of the fire that ultimately took Lahaina. But that doesn't mean they couldn't have done better. We owe answers to everyone. And we also owe it to ourselves to be ready for the next tragedy or the next challenge.”

For the full story, watch ***Maui’s Deadly Firestorm****.*The documentary will be available to stream on [pbs.org/frontline](http://pbs.org/frontline), [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/@frontline) and in the [PBS App](https://www.pbs.org/pbs-app/) starting Dec. 17, 2024, at 7/6c. It will premiere on PBS stations ([check local listings](https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/schedule/)) on Jan. 7, 2025 at 10/9c. The documentary will also be available on the [PBS Documentaries Prime Video Channel](https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/storefront?ie=UTF8&benefitId=pbsdoc&pd_rd_w=jaV9l&pf_rd_p=4f4681c1-4528-47dd-bf61-c66d47adf7b6&pf_rd_r=GWK5A5WZXH14FH1CMMFK&pd_rd_r=2ec562c2-91bf-4a09-86ad-3939e089fa8d&pd_rd_wg=H6VfQ&qid=1624645405&linkCode=ll2&tag=sem_docs_general-20&linkId=f7030805de511b99f54545eb0528ac55&language=en_US&ref_=as_li_ss_tl&gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwqpSwBhClARIsADlZ_TkFmLOYNmGC4DbSWExsBtyGErOVIY2bskq70E3cnKoiekzZQKcpprcaAtHVEALw_wcB&gclsrc=aw.ds). [Subscribe to FRONTLINE’s newsletter](https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/newsletter-subscriptions/) to get updates on events and more related to ***Maui’s Deadly Firestorm***.   
  
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**Credits**  
***Maui’s Deadly Firestorm*** is a FRONTLINE production with Mandarin Duck Films LLC. The writer, producer and director is Xinyan Yu. The producer is Christina Avalos. The senior producer is Frank Koughan. The editor-in-chief and executive producer of FRONTLINE is Raney Aronson-Rath.

**About FRONTLINE**FRONTLINE, U.S. television’s longest running investigative documentary series, explores the issues of our times through powerful storytelling. FRONTLINE has won an Academy Award® as well as every major journalism and broadcasting award, including 108 Emmy Awards and 34 Peabody Awards. Visit [pbs.org/frontline](https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/) and follow us on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3ScyryU9Oy9Wse3a8OAmYQ), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/frontlinepbs/), [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/frontline-pbs), [X](https://twitter.com/frontlinepbs) and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/frontline) to learn more. FRONTLINE is produced at GBH in Boston and is broadcast nationwide on PBS. Funding for FRONTLINE is provided through the support of PBS viewers and by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Additional support for FRONTLINE is provided by the Abrams Foundation, Park Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Heising-Simons Foundation, and the FRONTLINE Journalism Fund, with major support from Jon and Jo Ann Hagler on behalf of the Jon L. Hagler Foundation, and additional support from Koo and Patricia Yuen and from the Charina Endowment Fund. Additional support for *Maui’s Deadly Firestorm* is provided by the Hollyhock Foundation.

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