

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

636 South Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-5007
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PETER B. CARLISLE
MAYOR



KENNETH G. SILVA
FIRE CHIEF

EMMIT A. KANE
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

September 2, 2011

Mr. Carroll Cox
The Carroll Cox Show
P.O. Box 89-4202
Mililani, Hawaii 96789

Dear Mr. Cox:

Subject: U.S. Marine Helicopter Crash

We received your letter dated August 29, 2011, regarding the above-mentioned incident.

On March 29, 2011, the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) responded to a downed helicopter in Kaneohe Bay. Upon arrival, rescue specialists found the helicopter resting on a sandbar in approximately one-two feet of water. Four persons were onboard the aircraft and suffered critical injuries.

Emergency responders stood in shallow water, entered the aircraft, and assessed, treated, and removed the injured crewmembers. As at any emergency scene, HFD personnel performed a quick risk assessment for obvious hazards. Following standard safety protocols, HFD personnel used appropriate personal protective equipment and limited their exposure time to hazards. Once rescue operations were completed, HFD personnel returned to shore and underwent emergency decontamination.

In early April, Marine Corps Base Hawaii personnel contacted the HFD to discuss the presence of radioactive material onboard the helicopter when it crashed. At a meeting on April 25, 2011, Marine personnel informed affected HFD personnel that the radioactive material used on the aircraft's rotors remained intact after the crash. As such, HFD personnel were not exposed to radiation during rescue operations. Because radiation exposure was not an issue, HFD personnel were not screened for radiation exposure.

Should you have any questions, please contact our Public Information Officer, Fire Captain Terry Seelig, at 723-7113 or tseelig@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth G. Silva", is written over a horizontal line.

for KENNETH G. SILVA
Fire Chief