

Transcription

ADAM HUSSEY

WHAT IS YOUR NAME AND HOW DO YOU SPELL IT?

ADAM HUSSEY

WHERE DO YOU WORK AND WHAT'S YOUR POSITION?

I WORK AT THE LIHUE FIRE STATION AND I'M A FIREFIGHTER II

CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THE HANAKAPI'AI RESCUE, AS IF I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED?

YES I CAN. SO THE HANAKAPIAI RESCUE HAPPENED ON APRIL 6, 2014 AT ABOUT 4 IN THE AFTERNOON, WE RECEIVED A CALL FROM DISPATCH AND THEY TOLD US THAT APPROXIMATELY 70 HIKERS WERE STRANDED ACROSS ON THE KALALAU SIDE BY THE HANAKAPI'AI RIVER AND THEY NEEDED OUR HELP. SO WHAT WE DID IS WE LOADED UP WITH THE HELICOPTER CLIFF CATES WAS OUR CAPTAIN, MYSELF, CAPTAIN TAMURA AND FIREFIGHTER II HAWTHORNE AND WE FLEW TO HANAKAPI'AI. AND ONCE WE ARRIVED, THERE, WE PLACED 2 FIREFIGHTERS DOWN AND AIR 1 WENT UP INTO THE VALLEY TO RECOUNT, SEE IF ANYBODY ELSE WAS STUCK AND WE REALIZED THAT ONCE WE RECOUNTED AND WE STARTED OUR REANALYSIS THEY DISCOVERED THAT THERE WAS 3 SEPARATE PARTIES TRAPPED UP HIGHER ALONG THE RIVER. SO WHAT WE DID IS WE RIGGED THE HELICOPTER FOR A SHORT HAUL OPERATION AND WHAT THAT IS THAT'S WE USED A HUNDRED FOOT ROPE AND THERE'S A RESCUER AT THE END OF THE ROPE AND WE USED THE RESCUER AT THE END OF THE ROPE TO INSERT INTO THE VARIOUS POSITIONS TO WHERE THE PEOPLE WERE AND EXTRACT THEM AND UM ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING PARTS OF THE RESCUE WAS THAT UNFOLDED WAS GETTING TO THE TOP OF THE RIVER THERE WAS FIRE FIGHTER II HAWTHORNE UH CAPTAIN TAMURA AND OUR PILOT GOT WORD THAT THERE WAS A 12 YEAR OLD BOY WHO WAS ACTUALLY STRANDED IN THE RIVER. SO WHAT HAPPENED WITH THAT INCIDENT IS THAT THERE WAS A FAMILY HIKING AND THE FATHER WAS ATTEMPTING TO CROSS A RIVER AND HE HAD HIS DAUGHTER IN A CHILD CARE ON HIS BACKPACK AND HIS SON AND HIS DAUGHTER WERE ALSO ATTEMPTING TO CROSS THE RIVER AND THEY WERE HOLDING HANDS. HIS SON AND DAUGHTER HAD LOST THEIR FOOTING, AND THEY FELL INTO THE WATER. THE SON LET GO OF THE DAUGHTER'S HAND SO SHE

REMAINED ON THE BANK, SO SHE WASN'T IN DANGER AND HE GOT SWEEPED DOWN THE RIVER AND THE FATHER IN HIS ATTEMPT TO GRAB HIM HE WAS UNABLE TO GRAB HIM INITIALLY AND HE GOT MOVED A LITTLE DOWN THE RIVER WHERE THERE WAS ANOTHER BYSTANDER WHO REACHED OUT A CAMERA TRIPOD AND PULLED HIM OUT OF THE RIVER WITH HIS DAUGHTER STILL ON THE BACKPACK. AND SO WHAT HAPPENED WAS FIRE FIGHTER II HAWTHORNE WAS ON THE END OF THE HUNDRED FOOT LINE AND HE WAS ABLE TO TALK THE PILOT OVER THE POSITION WHERE THE 12 YEAR OLD BOY WAS STUCK IN THE RIVER. IT TOOK A LOT OF COORDINATION THE HELICOPTER PILOT COULDN'T PRECISELY TELL WHERE THE BOY WAS AND SO WITH THAT COMMUNICATION THEY WERE ABLE TO GET THE RESCUER IN POSITION AND THE BOY JUMPED INTO HIS FROM THE RIVER AND HE WRAPPED HIM UP AND WAS ABLE TO SAVE HIM. SO THAT WAS KIND OF ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE RESCUE FOR SURE. AND SO THE REST OF THE PROCEDURES AFTER THAT WAS THERE WAS 3 GROUPS AS I WAS SAYING STUCK ON TOP- THERE WAS A GROUP OF NINE, AND TWO GROUPS OF SIX. SO WHAT WE PROCEEDED TO DO THERE WAS WE MOVED THE PEOPLE FROM THE RIVERSIDE AREAS WHICH WERE UNSECURED AND WE MOVED THEM UP TO A HIGHER LZ WHICH IS A HIGHER LANDING ZONE IN THE BACK OF HANAKAPIAI VALLEY, CLOSE TO THE FALLS. THE AIR 1 HAD TO REFUEL SO IN BETWEEN ALL THAT THOSE PEOPLE GOT THEM TO A SAFE PLACE AIR 1 CAME BACK REFUELED AND WHAT THEY DID IS THEY TOOK AS MANY PEOPLE AS THEY COULD TO KE'E AND THE REST OF THE PEOPLE, THEY TOOK THEM DOWN TO THE BEACH SIDE WHICH WAS KIND OF A SECURED SITE AND THEY HAD TO CAMP OVERNIGHT DOWN THERE. AND THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF PEOPLE RESCUED WERE 121. SO ON THE FIRST NIGHT WE WERE ABLE TO EXTRACT I FORGET THE EXACT NUMBER, BUT IT WAS CLOSE TO 30 PEOPLE AND THE REST OF THE PEOPLE SHELTERED IN PLACE ON THE BEACH ON HANAKAPI'AI. AND IT WAS A LOT OF PEOPLE FOR ONE NIGHT AND THEN THE NEXT MORNING THE RESCUE RESUMED AT DAYBREAK, AND THE CONDITIONS WERE STILL TOO ROUGH TO CROSS THE RIVER SO THEY LOADED UP EVERYBODY 4 AT A TIME IN THE HELICOPTER AND FLEW ABOUT.

HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN THE HELICOPTER HOLD AT ONE TIME?

WE CAN TAKE FOUR PEOPLE IN THE HELICOPTER AT ONE TIME. SO THERE'S THE PILOT AND THEN THERE'S 4 OTHER PEOPLE. WHEN WE'RE DOING THE SHORT HAUL OPERATION, WE WOULD GENERALLY, THAT NIGHT, THE MOST WE TOOK WAS 2 PEOPLE. THAT WAS THE RESCUER AND THEN THE FATHER AND

THE BABY, BUT TYPICALLY WE JUST DO THE SHORT HAUL WITH ONE RESCUER AND ONE PERSON AT A TIME.

HOW LONG DID YOU GUYS WORK THAT DAY AND NIGHT?

SO WE RECEIVED THE CALL AT 4 O'CLOCK THAT DAY, WE LOADED UP ALL THE GEAR AND WE DIDN'T MAKE IT OUT UNTIL THE NEXT DAY; IT WAS ABOUT 10:30 OR 11 O'CLOCK. THERE WERE 2 RESCUERS THAT STAYED OVERNIGHT TO KIND OF MAKE SURE THAT EVERYBODY IN THE CAMP WAS SAFE AND NOBODY ATTEMPTED TO CROSS THE RIVER. AND SO THOSE 2 RESCUERS WERE THERE UNTIL THE NEXT MORNING AND THEY WENT OUT ON THE SECOND TO THE LAST FLIGHT, FROM THE LZ, SO THAT WAS 11.

WHY DO YOU THINK THERE WERE SO MANY PEOPLE EITHER HIKING OR CAMPING?

I THINK ONE OF THE BEST THINGS ABOUT OUR ISLAND IS ITS NATURAL BEAUTY AND THAT TRAIL IS, IT IS BEAUTIFUL; AND I THINK THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON THAT TRAIL THAT DAY WAS PRETTY NORMAL FOR WHAT WE TYPICALLY SEE ON THE TRAILS. SO I DON'T THINK THAT THAT PARTICULAR DAY HAD A LOT OF EXTRA PEOPLE, I THINK IT'S JUST HAD A LOT OF PEOPLE THAT GOT STRANDED THAT DAY AND I THINK THAT WAS BECAUSE OF THE WEATHER CONDITIONS, CUZ THAT DAY, IT STARTED OUT LIKE A CLEAR BEAUTIFUL TRADE WIND DAY, AND THE RAIN THAT BLEW IN, IT CAME PRETTY SUDDEN AND QUICK, AND SO THAT'S MY FEELING AND I THINK DLNR WOULD ACTUALLY HAVE THE ACTUAL SPECIFIC NUMBERS ON HOW MANY PEOPLE HIKE EVERYDAY. SO I THINK THAT'D BE PRETTY COOL, TO LOOK UP AND SEE IF, CUZ I'M SURE THERE'S A FEW HUNDRED PEOPLE ON THAT TRAIL EVERYDAY, IT DEFINITELY GETS PRETTY CROWDED.

WOULD YOU CONSIDER HANAKAPI'AI TO BE THE MOST DANGEROUS HIKING SPOT ON KAUA'I?

HANAKAPI'AI, IT IS A VERY DANGEROUS HIKING SPOT, BUT I FEEL THAT ANY HIKING SPOT ON KAUA'I CAN TURN INTO A VERY DANGEROUS SPOT AND I KNOW A LOT OF IT BOILS DOWN TO HOW PREPARED YOU ARE. FOR US, WE CONSIDER IT TO BE A RISK MANAGEMENT AND A RISK ANALYSIS. SO ANY TIME YOU GO HIKING, ON ANY TRAIL, THERE'S A LOT OF RISK THAT CAN BE INVOLVED BUT THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO IS JUST BE PREPARED FOR THOSE RISKS, AND IF THE

SITUATION DOES GET BAD, TO MAKE THE BEST DECISIONS THAT YOU CAN. YOU KNOW, A REALLY GOOD EXAMPLE IS, DRIVING DOWN THE ROAD CAN BE ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS THINGS, A LOT OF PEOPLE MIGHT THINK THAT THE ROAD BY WAILUA GOLF COURSE IS ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS ROADS IN HAWAII. AND SO IT'S JUST ONE OF THOSE THINGS WHERE YOU, YOURSELF HAVE TO MAKE THE BEST DECISIONS YOU CAN AND BE PREPARED FOR IT IS THAT THAT'S THE BEST YOU CAN.

WOULD YOU SAY THIS TRAIL IS FOR MORE EXPERIENCED PEOPLE?

I BELIEVE THERE'S SECTIONS ON THIS TRAIL THAT ARE DEFINITELY FOR MORE EXPERIENCED PEOPLE. I BELIEVE IF PEOPLE PREPARE PROPERLY, REALLY THE HIKE TO THE BEACH, IT CAN BE A TRAIL THAT AN ONVOS HIKER SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO IF THEY HAVE THE PROPER PREPARATION; IF THEY HAVE THE PROPER FOOTWEAR, IF THEY TAKE WATER, SNACKS IF THEY AREN'T PREPARED IN THE EVENT OF EMERGENCY TO TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES. BUT IF YOU GO PAST THAT, IF YOU'RE CONSIDERING GOING TO THE FALLS, I THINK THE TRAIL DEFINITELY IS FOR MORE EXPERIENCED HIKERS. I DON'T THINK AN ONVOS HIKER SHOULD GO PAST THAT, UNLESS THEY'VE DONE EXTRA PREPARATIONS BECAUSE I THINK IT GOES BACK TO WHAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT LIKE RISK-MANAGEMENT AND RISK-ANALYSIS, WHERE AN ONVOS HIKER, THEY PROBABLY CAN GO TO THE WATERFALL OR MAYBE GO A LITTLE PAST HANAKAPI'AI IF THEY'VE DONE A LITTLE MORE TO PREPARE WHERE THE EXPERIENCED HIKER WOULD BE PROBABLY MORE ABLE TO HANDLE THAT, I WOULD THINK. WHAT DO YOU THINK? "MAYBE." YOU HAVE TO AGREE WITH ME, YOU'RE TOTALLY DISAGREEING WITH ME, THAT'S JUST! . .

WHAT'S YOUR WORD OF ADVICE TO THE HIKERS THAT DO HIKE THE TRAIL?

MY WORD OF ADVICE TO THE HIKERS IS TO GO THERE WITH THE RIGHT MIND-SET, BECAUSE IT'S A BEAUTIFUL PLACE, AND IT'S SOMETHING WE DEFINITELY, IT'S IMPORTANT FOR ALL OF US TO ENJOY IT, GET OUT AND ENJOY OUR ISLAND, THAT'S WHAT IT'S THERE FOR. BUT WHEN YOU DO, IT'S IMPORTANT TO BE PREPARED LIKE WE WERE TALKING ABOUT-TAKE WATER, TAKE FOOD, YOU KNOW, MAKE SURE SOMEBODY KNOWS WHERE YOU'RE GOING AND IF THINGS DO GET BAD, MAKE REALLY GOOD DECISIONS. THAT'S KIND OF THE NUMBER ONE THING THAT HELPS PEOPLE OUT IF MAKING THE RIGHT DECISIONS. AND YOU KNOW WHO MAKES REALLY GOOD DECISIONS, IS MY CAPTAIN! AND SO, ANOTHER INTERESTING THING THAT HAPPENED TOO, WAS, BEFORE WE GOT

THERE, FROM WHAT THEY TOLD US, MAYBE ABOUT 10 OR 15 MINUTES BEFORE WE GOT THERE, THERE WAS A GUY WHO WAS TRYING TO HIKE ACROSS THE RIVER STREAM, AND THEY HAD STRUNG UP LIKE A MAKESHIFT ROPE ACROSS THE STREAM AND HE GOT STUCK-HE WAS JUST LIKE HANGING ON HIS ARMS, JUST LIKE DRAGGING IN THE STREAM, AND WHATEVER IT WAS BY THE GRACE OF GOD, HE ACTUALLY MADE IT ACROSS AND HE DIDN'T, YOU KNOW, HE DIDN'T DIE. SO, AND THAT'S WHY I FEEL THE DECISION-MAKING THING IS SO IMPORTANT BECAUSE, THAT WAS OBVIOUSLY THE WRONG DECISION. YOU KNOW, A FLASH FLOOD, IT IS DEADLY AND LETHAL AND WE FOUND THAT OUT AT THE HANAKOA AND THAT HAPPENED DURING THE HURRICANE, WE JUST LOST ANOTHER LIFE IN THE STREAM BECAUSE OF A FLASH FLOOD, AND AT THIS EXACT ACCIDENT THAT WE WENT TO, THERE WAS A GUY, THEY HAD VIDEO OF HIM IN THE STREAM AND IT'S ON YOUTUBE, THE TITLE'S, "LAST MAN OUT," YOU CAN LOOK AT IT, AND IT SHOWS HIM IN THE STREAM, AND THERE'S NO HELP THERE. THERE WAS ANOTHER GUY, HE RIPPED OFF HIS SHIRT AND HE WAS GONNA TRY AND JUMP IN AND THAT MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE HELPED. SO THAT'S WHY I GO BACK TO SAYING THAT, YEAH, YOU CAN HAVE YOUR WATER, YOU CAN HAVE YOUR COMPASS, YOU CAN HAVE YOUR MAPS, BUT IT'S THAT DECISION-MAKING AND DOING THE RIGHT THING WHEN THAT KIND OF STUFF MATTERS. THAT'S WHAT REALLY, TO ME IS KEY.

IF I KNEW YOU BETTER, WHAT SHOULD I HAVE ASKED YOU, RELATED T THE HANAKAPI'AI RESCUE?

IF YOU KNEW ME BETTER, WE COULD KEEP THIS PG RATED, YOU COULD ASK ME WHAT WE ATE FOR DINNER. I DID SPEND THE NIGHT THERE, IT WASN'T TOO BAD ACTUALLY, IT WAS, IT WAS KIND OF LIKE A CAMPING ADVENTURE WITH NO TENT. THE HARDEST PART TO DEAL WITH LAST NIGHT WAS, THERE WERE SO MANY PEOPLE AND FOR US, WE'RE KIND OF THERE TO HELP, THERE'S SO MANY PEOPLE, IT'S JUST, YOU CAN'T HELP EVERYBODY. BUT THE NEAT THING IS EVERYBODY KIND OF CAME TOGETHER, MADE A NICE LITTLE CAMP FIRE, WE TRIED TO PLAY A GAME OF SURVIVOR, BUT THERE WAS NOWHERE TO VOLK PEOPLE OFF SO THAT DIDN'T LAST TOO LONG. YEAH, OVERNIGHT, WE JUST HAD A LOT OF A NICE BIG FIRE AND. . . IT WAS A LONG NIGHT, DEFINITELY, BUT AT LEAST WE KNEW THERE WAS AN END IN SIGHT, BECAUSE WE HAVE A GOOD CREW OF GUYS AND WE ALL KNEW THAT THEY WERE COMING THE NEXT MORNING, SO IT WASN'T TOO BAD, AND WE HAD PEANUT M&M'S FOR DINNER, AND SNACK, AND BY THE CAMP-FIRE. THEY WERE GREAT. AND I WAS ABLE TO KEEP WARM, I HAD MY PONCHO.

CLIFTON CATES

WHAT'S YOUR NAME AND HOW DO YOU SPELL IT?

MY NAME IS CLIFTON CATES, C-L-I-F-T-O-N C-A-T-E-S.

WHERE DO YOU WORK AND WHAT'S YOUR POSITION?

I WORK FOR AIRONE 88 AVIATION, AND WE CONTRACT FOR THE KAUA'I FIRE DEPARTMENT, AND I AM ONE OF THEIR PILOTS.

CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THE HANAKAPI'AI RESCUE, AS IF I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED?

SURE. ON APRIL 6, AT 4:30, WE GOT CALLED OUT ON A FLASH FLOOD CALL FOR HANAKAPI'AI VALLEY, A REPORT OF ABOUT 70 HIKERS STUCK IN THE VALLEY, SO WE TOOK AIR 1 AND WE FLEW OUT, CAPTAIN GORDAN TAMURA, AARON HAWTHORNE, ADAM HUSSEY AND I WE ARRIVED ON THE SCENE TO FIND QUITE A FEW PEOPLE DOWN AT THE SHORELINE AND THEN WE DECIDED WE BETTER SCOUT THE UPPER PORTION VALLEY TO MAKE SURE THERE'S NO BODY STRANDED. AND WE FLEW UP AND WE FOUND ABOUT 21 PEOPLE STRANDED ON BOTH SIDES OF THE STREAM AS WE GOT UP TOWARDS THE WATERFALL. WE DECIDED TO GO BACK DOWN TO THE LZ, RIG UP OUR RESCUE EQUIPMENT, OUR HUNDRED FOOT LINE AND THE AIR RESCUE VEST, WE PUT A FIREMAN ON THE END OF THE LINE, WE FLEW UP TO THE TOP OF THE VALLEY WHERE WE FOUND THE GREENBURGS, A SMALL FAMILY OF ABOUT 5 WITH 2 OTHER PEOPLE, THEIR SON HAD BEEN WASHED DOWN THE STREAM. SO WE INITIALLY PULLED THE FATHER OUT AND PUT HIM ON A SAFER GROUND. AND THEN WE WENT BACK IN AND AARON HAWTHORNE, ONE OF OUR FIREMEN POINTED OUT WHERE THE 12 YEAR OLD BOY WAS STRANDED ON A ROCK ACROSS THE STREAM, SO WE FLEW AARON ON THE END OF THE LINE INTO THE LEDGE WHERE THE BOY WAS STUCK AND EXTRACTED HIM, PUT HIM UP WITH HIS FATHER ON THE BLUFF, AND WE CONTINUE TO WORK LIKE THAT THROUGHOUT THE NEXT FEW HOURS, EXTRACTING PEOPLE UP AND DOWN THE STREAM. BY THE TIME WE WERE DONE, WE'D PULLED 21 PEOPLE OUT OF THE STREAM, GOT THEM UP ON DRY, SAFE LAND AND THEN FLEW THEM ALL OUT TO KE'E WHERE THEY WERE ASSESSED AND MOVED ON. AND LATER THE NEXT MORNING, WE WENT IN AND GRABBED THE OTHER 98 PEOPLE THAT ADAM HUSSEY AND

AARON HAWTHORNE HAD TO CAMP WITH OVERNIGHT. THE STREAM BASICALLY STAYED SWOLLEN THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT AND INTO THE NEXT MORNING SO CROSSING WAS NOT AN OPTION, SO WE HAD TO FLY THEM OUT FROM THE KALALAU SIDE OF THE VALLEY, AND EVERYBODY GOT OUT UNHARMED AND BACK HOME SAFELY.

WHY DO YOU THINK THERE WERE SO MANY PEOPLE ON THE TRAIL, EITHER HIKING OR CAMPING ?

I THINK THERE WERE SO MANY PEOPLE ON THE TRAIL THAT MORNING BECAUSE IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL DAY TO START WITH. THE SUN WAS OUT, IT WAS CLEAR BLUE SKIES IT WAS APRIL A LOT OF PEOPLE WERE STARTING TO SHOW UP AS TOURISTS. AND THEN THE RAIN JUST MOVED IN AND WITHIN, YOU KNOW BY THE GREENBURGS' ACCOUNTS, WITHIN 20 MINUTES THE STREAM HAD SWOLLEN TO THE POINT WHEN IT WAS UNPASSABLE.

WOULD YOU CONSIDER HANAKAPI'AI TO BE THE MOST DANGEROUS HIKING SPOT ON KAUA'I?

NO. I THINK WE GET THE MOST INJURIES ON HANAKAPI'AI BECAUSE OF THE AMOUNT OF PEOPLE WE HAVE OUT THERE. THE TRAIL ITSELF IS TAKEN CARE OF VERY WELL BY OUR STATE PARKS. AND THERE ARE A LOT OF RESPECTFUL PEOPLE ON THE TRAIL THAT TAKE CARE OF IT ITSELF, BUT THE PROBLEM IS THE SHEAR AMOUNT OF PEOPLE THAT ARE OUT THERE, AND THE LACK OF EXPERIENCE.

WOULD YOU SAY THIS TRAIL IS FOR MORE EXPERIENCED HIKERS?

YES, I WOULD SAY THE TRAIL IS FOR A LITTLE MORE EXPERIENCED PEOPLE. IT'S BROKEN UP INTO A FEW SECTIONS. I BELIEVE THE FIRST TWO MILE DOWN TO THE BEACH IS A NICE FAMILY TRAIL THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE CAN HIKE. BUT I THINK ONCE YOU START HEADING BACK UP TO THE WATERFALL, IT, THERE'S A DEGREE THAT GOES UP A LITTLE BIT.

WHAT'S YOUR WORD OF ADVICE TO THE HIKERS THAT DO HIKE THE TRAIL?

IF YOU GET IN A BAD SITUATION, STAY WHERE YOU'RE AT. DON'T TRY TO PUSH ON, DON'T TRY TO CROSS SWOLLEN STREAMS. KEEP YOUR WIDTHS ABOUT YOU AND MAKE GOOD DECISIONS.

IF I KNEW YOU BETTER, WHAT SHOULD I HAVE ASKED YOU, RELATED TO THE HANAKAPI'AI RESCUE?

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION. WHAT WAS THE ONE THING YOU SHOULD'VE BROUGHT WITH YOU ON THE HIKE? WATER. WHAT'S THE ONE THING YOU NEED TO SURVIVE A COUPLE DAYS? MAYBE A LITTLE WATER, SOME FOOD. YOU KNOW, THINGS LIKE THAT. I DON'T KNOW, THAT'S A HARD QUESTION, YOU KNOW, YOU'RE GOING OUT FOR A DAY HIKE, AND YOU EXPECT TO COME HOME AT THE END OF IT, WHAT WOULD YOU TAKE? I THINK MOST PEOPLE TOOK WHAT THEY THOUGHT THEY NEEDED. ONE THING THAT I SAW ON THE HIKE THAT THE PEOPLE THAT HAD THEM WERE REALLY APPRECIATED WAS JACKETS. LIKE A LIGHT RAIN JACKET. THE PEOPLE THAT HAD THOSE DID A LOT BETTER THAN THE PEOPLE THAT DIDN'T HAVE THEM. SO, I WOULD SAY, GOING ON A HIKE LIKE THAT, BRING A JACKET OR SOME WATER. . . OR BOTH.

AARON HAWTHORNE

What is your name and how do you spell it?

AARON HAWTHORNE

Where do you work and what's your position?

I WORK FOR THE KAUAI FIRE DEPARTMENT OUT OF STATION 3 IN LIHUE AND I'M A FIREFIGHTER 2

Could you tell me about the Hanakapi'ai Rescue as if I didn't know what happened?

WE RECEIVED A CALL FOR APPROXIMATELY 20 TO 30 PEOPLE THAT WERE STRANDED BY THE FAST RISING RIVERS OF THE HANAKAPIAI VALLEY. WE DECIDED TO FLY OUT VIA HELICOPTER TO ASSES THE SITUATION BETTER AND HELP THE PEOPLE CROSS THE STREAM SAFELY. UPON LANDING WE FOUND THAT THERE WAS MANY MORE PEOPLE THAT 20 TO 30 IT APPEARED PROBABLY ABOUT 60 SO WE LANDED AND STARTED ASSESSING THE SITUATION, KEEPING ANYONE FROM CROSSING AT THAT TIME WE WERE ALSO WORRIED THAT THERE WERE MORE PEOPLE UP IN THE VALLEY. SO THE HELICOPTER WITH THE PILOT AND CAPTAIN TAMURA FLEW UP TO THE VALLEY TO ASSES THE SITUATION. PEOPLE ON THE BEACH STARTED TELLING US THAT THERE WERE MORE PEOPLE STRANDED IN THE VALLEY AND AT THE SAME TIME CAPTION TAMURA WAS ABLE TO LOCATE THEM AND RADIO US THAT THERE, UM, THEY NEEDED

RESCUE VIA SHORT HALL OR PUTTING A LINE UNDER THE HELICOPTER SO THAT WE COULD LIFT THE PEOPLE OUT FROM IN BETWEEN THE TREES AND THE BANKS OF THE RIVER SO WE FLEW UP THE VALLEY USING THE SHORT HAUL LINE THE HELICOPTER FIRST LANDED TO FIND A GROUP OF 6 TO 8 PEOPLE STRANDED ON THE BANK OF THE RIVER UNBEKNOWNST TO US THAT THERE WAS A LITTLE BOY ACROSS THE STREAM SO FIRST INDICATION WAS THAT THERE WAS A CHILD STRUCK IN THE RIVER. WE RELOCATED ONE GENTLEMAN UP ON THE RIDGE SAFELY AS AN ANCHOR POINT THAT WE COULD BRING EVERYONE ELSE TO WE DON'T WANT TO PUT ANY KIDS OUT AND ONCE PICKED UP ON A RIDGE ENDANGER WE CAME BACK DOWN AND THE HELICOPTER LOWERED ME IN TO THE WATER AND I WAS ABOUT WAIST DEEP AND MOVED INTO A POSITION WHERE THE BOY COULD MOVE TOWARDS ME AND I PICKED HIM UP AND FLEW HIM OUT OF THE RAPIDS WHERE HE'D BEEN STRANDED FOR A FEW HOURS AND THEN WE CAME BACK IN AND EXTRICATED THE FATHER AND THE YOUNG BABY THAT WAS ABOUT 3 YEARS OLD AND CONTINUED THAT PROCESS OF GETTING PEOPLE WITH A SPECIAL SEAT WHAT WE CALLED A AIR RESCUE VEST OR A ARV THROUGH THE TREES EVENTUALLY EXTRACTING 23 PEOPLE OUT OF THE VALLEY AND ALONG THE BANKS OF THE RIVERS. AFTER WE GOT THEM ALL UP ON A SAFE LANDING ZONE WE LOADED THEM IN TO THE HELICOPTER AND WERE ABLE TO GET THE 23 OF THEM OUT OF THE VALLEY COMPLETELY AND DOWN TO KEE BEACH VIA THE HELICOPTER WHERE THEY WOULD BE STAY SAFE AND DRY FOR THE NIGHT. UNFORTUNATELY WE STILL HAD MORE PEOPLE AT THE BEACH AT THIS TIME SO 2 FIREFIGHTERS MYSELF AND FIREFIGHTER HUSSEY DECIDED TO STAY THERE ON THE BEACH WITH THE PEOPLE AND SHELTER IN PLACE DUE TO DETERIORATING LIGHT AND WEATHER CONDITIONS SO FROM THAT POINT WE SHELTERED IN PLACE AND BUILT SOME SIMPLE STRUCTURES AND CREATED A FIRE WHICH WE HUDDLED AROUND THRU THE NIGHT AND UNTIL THE NEXT MORNING CAME THRU ABOUT 12 HOURS LATER WHEN WE COULD BRING THE HELICOPTER BACK INTO DAYLIGHT AND WE THEN PROCEEDED TO LOAD THE ALL THE PEOPLE 4 AT A TIME AND REMOVE THEM FROM THE VALLEY TO KEE BEACH TO SAFETY AND ONLY AFTER FLYING EVERYBODY OUT AND KEEPING COUNT DID WE FINALLY COME UP WITH A COUNT OF 98 MORE PEOPLE THAT WERE STUCK ON THE IN THE VALLEY THRU THE NIGHT.. TOTALLY 121 PEOPLE THAT WERE RESCUED

WHY DO YOU THINK THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE ON THE TRAIL EITHER CAMPING OR HIKING?

THAT TRAIL IS ONE OF OUR MOST COMMON TRAIL THATS HIKED ITS VERY POPULAR, ITS IN A LOT OF MANY MAGAZINES AND BROCHURES. SO I THINK THAT

WAS A NORMAL NUMBER FOR THE DAY. AND DUE TO THE WEATHER AND TIME OF YEAR, MAYBE BE NOT AS POPULAR AS SUMMER. SO THOSE ARE COMMON NUMBER THAT WE EXPECT OUT THERE ON A DAILY BASIS.

WOULD YOU CONSIDER HANAKAPIAI TO BE THE MOST DANGEROUS HIKING SPOT ON KAUAI?

I DON'T CONSIDER THE HANAKAPIAI TRAIL ITSELF TO BE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS BUT POPULATION ALWAYS DRIVES CALLS FOR US. THE MORE PEOPLE THERE ARE THE MORE CHANCE THERE IS OF SOMEBODY GETTING INJURED AND IT IS SLIPPERY MUD AND ROCKY MUCH LIKE MANY OF OUR TRAILS ON KAUAI BUT JUST THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT GO ON THAT ARE UNPREPARED FOR THE CHALLENGES OF KAUAI HIKES MAKES IT OUT MOST COMMON TRAIL WE RESPOND TO. BUT I WOULDN'T SAY ITS ANY MORE DANGEROUS THAN SOME OF THE OTHER ONES.. HANAKAPIAI STREAM OR ANY OF OUR STREAMS ARE IN FLASH FLOODING ARE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS AND IT'S NOT ADVICE TO TRY TO CROSS THEM.

WOULD YOU SAY THIS TRAIL IS FOR MORE EXPERIENCED PEOPLE?

ALL YOUR GUIDEBOOKS RATE THE KALALAU TRAIL OR THE NA PALI COAST TRAIL AS AN EXPERIENCE HIKE FOR SURE. ITS DEFINITELY RATED DIFFICULT. THERE ARE STEEP CLIMBS, AND ITS IS ROCKY AND SLIPPERY AND MUDDY SO YES, IT IS A DIFFICULT HIKE FOR EXPERIENCE PEOPLE.

WHAT IS YOUR WORD OF ADVICE..

MHY WORD OF ADVICE FOR HIKERS HIKING THAT TRAIL IS TO BE PREPARED AND PAY ATTENTION TO THE WEATHER. AND THE CHANGING WEATHER AND WHAT YOU HAVE TO LEARN WHEN YOU'RE HIKING OVER HERE IS NOT ALWAYS THE WEATHER THAT IS DIRECTLY OVERHEAD OF YOU BUT THE WEATHER IN THE MOUNTAINS AND BACK OF THE VALLEYS BECAUSE THAT IS WHERE THE RAIN THAT'S GOING TO AFFECT THE TRAIL CONDITIONS AND STREAM CONDITIONS. AND OF COURSE BE PREPARED, BRING WATER, BRING A LIGHT RAIN JACKET AND MAYBE A LITTLE EXTRA FOOD AND TO HAVE THE ESSENTIALS YOU NEED TO HAVE A SAFE FUN OUTING.

If I knew you better what should i have asked you about the hanakapiai rescue?

WELL, HOW ABOUT WHAT DID YOU EAT FOR DINNER THAT NIGHT? AND UM THERE WASN'T A LOT OF FOOD TO GO AROUND SO I KNOW IN THOSE SITUATION I ALWAYS BRING A LITTLE SOMETHING AND I BRING A SOME COMFORT FOOD WITH ME, AND MY FAVORITE COMFORT FOOD IS PEANUT COVERED M&M'S AND POUND FOR POUND THEY GIVE YOU A LOT OF ENERGY THEY GOT THE PROTEIN AND THE PEANUTS AND THEY TASTE REALLY GOOD ON A COLD NIGHT AND THEY KEEP YOU GOING ALL THRU THE NIGHT AND KEEP YOU HAPPY.

IN YOUR OPINION WHAT IS THE AVERAGE AMOUNT OF HIKERS OR CAMPERS THAT GO UP TO HANAKAPIAI?

OH I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY GO UP THERE.. I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THE AVERAGE IS. THERE IS A LOT OF PEOPLE THO. PROBABLY SEVERAL HUNDREDS.

UM SO IN MY OPINION WHAT IS THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT HIKE THE HANAKAPIAI TRAIL
I'M UNSURE OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT HIKE IT. I KNOW THE VISITORS BUREAU KEEPS SOME OF THE STATISTICS. I KNOW THAT ITS A VERY POPULAR TRAIL AND WE RESPOND THERE QUITE FREQUENTLY, ESPECIALLY THROUGH THE SUMMER MONTHS

JERRY RICH

What's your name and how do you spell it?

MY NAME IS JERRY RICH

Where do you work and what's your position?

I WORK AT THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND IM A MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR FOR STATE PARKS ON THE EASTSIDE OF KAUAI.

On average how many people go up to hanakapiai either hiking or camping?

ON AVERAGE THERE ARE BETWEEN 4 AND 500 PEOPLE WHO GO TO HANAKAPIAI EACH DAY.

What do you do every day at work?

MY JOB ENTAILS THAT EVERY DAY I SUPERVISE THE PARK CARETAKERS THAT THEY ARE CLEANING AND MAINTAINING THE PARKS SO THAT THEY ARE CLEAN AND PRESENTABLE FOR THE PUBLIC.

Have you heard about the hanakapiai 121 rescue?

YES IM VERY AWARE OF THE RESCUE AT HANAKAPIAI OF THE 121 PEOPLE THAT OCCURRED I BELIEVE ABOUT 6 WEEKS AGO.

I CAN TELL YOU HOW MANY INJURIES AT AVERAGE...

THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 2 TO 3 INJURIES THAT HAVE TO BE AIRLIFTED OUT OF THE HANAKAPIAI AREA DUE TO EITHER STRAINS OR BROKEN UM BONES USUALLY TRYING TO CROSS THE STREAM.

Were you surprised on how many people had to be rescued that day?

I WAS SURPRISED AT THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT HOW MANY PEOPLE HAD TO BE RESCUED BUT NOT UNEXPECTED BECAUSE OF THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT UP A DAY. UM THE FLASH FLOODS CAN HAPPEN REALLY QUICKLY BEFORE THEY WOULD BE TRAPPED ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STREAM

Would you say that the hike is for more experienced people?

THE HIKE IS FOR MORE ADVANCED HIKERS SIMPLY BECAUSE IT IS A VERY STRENUOUS HIKE MOST PEOPLE DO NOT TAKE ENOUGH WATER OR NOT IN GOOD ENOUGH CONDITION TO TRAVEL THE DISTANCE AND THAT'S WHY INJURIES OCCUR

Do you guys have signs posted to warn the hikers?

YES THERE ARE SIGNS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE STREAM TO WARN OF FLASH FLOODING THERE HAVE BEEN YOU KNOW SEVERAL DEATHS THERE AND WE DO HAVE SIGNS POSTED.

Can you tell us what happened during the rescue and why the kid got swept out?

THE UM I'M NOT SURE WHAT HAPPENED UP THERE I CAN ONLY GIVE YOU A CONJECTURE BUT MORE THAN LIKELY HE TRIED TO CROSS THE STREAM WHEN IT WAS TOO HIGH AND THE WATER SWEEPED OUT FROM UNDER HIS FEET AND HE WASN'T ABLE TO RECOVER HE PROBABLY GOT CAUGHT UP IN THE ROCKS AND GOT SWEEPED OUT IN THE OCEAN

Would you recommend checking the weather before they start hiking?

PEOPLE SHOULD ALWAYS CHECK THE WEATHER BEFORE THEY GO ON THIS HIKE SIMPLY BECAUSE THE FLASH FLOODING CAN OCCUR VERY QUICKLY THERE DOESN'T HAVE TO BE ANY WARNINGS IN PLACE FROM THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IT CAN JUST HAPPEN VERY LOCALIZED AND THAT STREAM CAN RISE VERY QUICKLY IN LESS THAN 30 MIN.

What advice would you give these people who are hiking?

DEFINELY BE IN SHAPE AND BRING PLENTY OF WATER START THE HIKE AS SOON AS YOU CAN IN THE MORNING BECAUSE IT WILL TAKE PLACE 3 HOUR ROUND TRIP TO GO FROM KE'E BEACH TO HANAKAPIAI AND BACK AND THATS WITHOUT ANY REST. AND IF THEY ARE PLANNING ON GOING TO THE FALLS THEN THEY NEED TO ADD ANOTHER 3 HOURS OF TIME. SO IT WOULD BE A ALL DAY HIKE IF THEY ARE GOING TO GOT FROM KE'E BEACH UP TO HANAKAPIAI AND TRY AND RETURN BEFORE IT GETS DARK IF THEY TRY AND LEAVE TO LATE AND THEY GET STUCK IN THE DARK IT WILL BE A VERY TREACHEROUS TRIP TRYING TO GET BACK TO KE'E BEACH

Did you hear about the accident last night?

THE ONLY INFORMATION THAT I HAVE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT WAS THAT THROUGH THE LIFEGUARDS THAT WERE AT KE'E BEACH AND I BELIEVE A 25 YEAR OLD MALE WHO FELL OF THE SIDE OF THE CLIFF UM THERE WAS APPARENTLY SOMEBODY ELSE WHO FELL THEY WERE BOTH... WELL ONE WAS RESCUED AND THE OTHER BODY WAS RECOVERED YOU KNOW PRONOUNCED DEAD AT THE SCENE.

DO you work with the firefighters?

ONLY IN CONSULTATION WE WORK WITH THE FIREFIGHTERS WHO DO THE RESCUE WE DO NOT GO WITH THEM TO RESCUE THEM.

If we knew you better what should we have asked you?

PROBABLY A GOOD QUESTION TO HAVE ASKED WAS WHY DO I THINK PEOPLE GET INJURED? AND ITS USUALLY BECAUSE THEY ARE CARELESS AND DON'T PLAN AHEAD AND TRY AND DO TOO MUCH IN ONE DAY

If hikers come down when its darker, what's the best type of food to eat?

THEY REALLY WOULDN'T NEED ANY FOOD OVER NIGHT IT'S NOT A LONG ENOUGH PERIOD AND THATS USUALLY THE PROBLEM IF THE RIVER RISES AND THEY ARE ON THE OTHER SIDE THEY NEED TO JUST BE SAFE AND STAY ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER UNTIL THE RIVER RECEDES THEY REALLY DON'T NEED ANYMORE WATER OR FOOD OVERNIGHT