

# Maui county sues Hawaiian Electric over wildfires that killed more than 100

**The lawsuit claims the electric utility failed to shut off power during high winds, resulting in downed lines that ignited blazes**

Maui county sued the Hawaiian Electric company on Thursday over the fires that devastated Lahaina, saying the utility negligently failed to shut off power despite exceptionally high winds and dry conditions.

Witness accounts and video indicated that sparks from power lines ignited fires as utility poles snapped in the winds, which were driven by a passing hurricane. The 8 August fire killed at least 115 people and left an unknown number of others missing.

A spokesperson for Hawaiian Electric didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

Had the utility heeded weather service "warnings and de-energized their powerlines during the predicted high-wind gusts, this destruction could have been avoided", the lawsuit said.

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## **Source:**

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/aug/24/hawaii-fires-lawsuit-maui-county-sues-hawaiian-electric>

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