



## JOINT BASE WATER DAILY UPDATE

Joint Information Center

(808) 471-5013

[www.navy.mil/jointbasewater](http://www.navy.mil/jointbasewater)

**[2/7/2022]**

00:00:09:10 - 00:00:38:25

CAPT. GUENTHER

Hello, everyone, and welcome to the daily water update for February the 7th. I'm Capt. Darren Guenther, chief of staff for Navy Region, Hawaii. Welcome back from the weekend. Over the past several days, we're getting closer to completing the, all of our in-home flushing throughout each and every one of your neighborhoods, which is bringing us that much closer to a declaration within your homes of water that's fit for human consumption.

00:00:38:25 - 00:00:57:29

CAPT. GUENTHER

You still have a lot of questions, and so today we're going to answer more of those questions covering a broad scope of topics, but before we start, I want to remind you of the CDC Department of Health survey to assess potential health impacts in our community from the water.

00:00:57:29 - 00:01:15:00

CAPT. GUENTHER

Today is the last day that that survey is open and it's open to anyone who's affected. You can take that survey at the following address, its go.usa.gov/xtg8v.

00:01:15:27 - 00:01:52:09

CAPT. GUENTHER

Now let's take a look at the map and where we're at with our flushing status. So the latest chart is posted that latest update on our water website, that's navy.mil/jointbasewater. We have 18 at neighborhoods that are complete with all of their flushing in-home system, flushing and awaiting the next stage, and then we have only one neighborhood that's in work currently with Flushing, so that active flushing is taking place at Iroquois Point, Kapilina Beach Homes.

00:01:52:09 - 00:02:00:17

CAPT. GUENTHER

There are several schools out there. Both those schools have been flushed. There are a number of facilities outside of the homes.

00:02:00:17 - 00:02:18:15

CAPT. GUENTHER

All of those facilities have been flushed and on the homes. There are 1459 homes. We've completed 1034. So a little over 400 to go. We should be able to get through most, if not all, of those homes, those remaining for today.



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00:02:19:02 - 00:02:41:00

CAPT. GUENTHER

We may go into tomorrow morning for the final homes out there, but Kapilina Beach Homes should be done with their flush between today and tomorrow. Over the weekend, the results from our drinking water distribution system tests, which came back from our labs on the mainland.

00:02:41:00 - 00:02:58:11

CAPT. GUENTHER

Those are our DOH and EPA certified labs. The results were posted for several neighborhoods McGrew Point, Halawa, and let's see, Makalapa, were also posted. You can take a look at that. There's two documents for each of those neighborhoods.

00:02:58:17 - 00:03:11:20

CAPT. GUENTHER

One document is just sort of a summarization, five to ten pages and then the broader document, if you're interested in reading all of the results and how they came to those is 50 to 100 pages for each of those neighborhoods and finally, some progress.

00:03:12:07 - 00:03:37:00

CAPT. GUENTHER

We got our full test results for both the system and facilities in home drinking water, and that's a package that has been passed from the Inter-agency Drinking Water team. It was endorsed by that team and passed through the Department of Health on Friday, February 4th and so that's progress there.

00:03:37:08 - 00:03:47:10

CAPT. GUENTHER

That is for the neighborhood of Red Hill. Or sometimes we refer to it as I-four as a zone, but the Red Hill neighborhood, a lot of progress there and looking forward to that.

00:03:47:10 - 00:04:18:19

CAPT. GUENTHER

All right. That's our update for our map for today. We'd like to do now is go through some questions that you've asked. We have a number of them and the first question is from Sarah.



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Her question is this there have been a lot of stage two sampling results from different zones appearing on the Joint Base Facebook page, and she is asking what these reports mean. The stage two documents posted on the web.

00:04:18:00 - 00:04:40:15

CAPT. GUENTHER

They're also on the Water Resources website, are designed to help the viewers better understand the data packages for each zone. Please keep in mind that the Inter-agency Drinking Water System team used these results to inform their decision to recommend flushing actions be initiated in residential and nonresidential buildings.

00:04:40:15 - 00:05:06:23

CAPT. GUENTHER

This is just one step in the process as we move towards Hawaii Department of Health to clearing individual zones and their water fit for human consumption. We are sharing this information to be transparent to those who are served on that navy water system, and we'll continue this process as we move into being able to share the more extended residential and residential test results.

00:05:06:23 - 00:05:19:03

CAPT. GUENTHER

All drinking water samples were sent to EPA and DOHC certified laboratories on the mainland, and in order to speed that process, the Navy has been flying those samples to the West Coast via military aircraft.

00:05:19:03 - 00:05:46:01

CAPT. GUENTHER

Once the laboratory completes the analysis, the data is then reviewed for quality control and quality assurance before it's being provided to the inner agency drinking water team to make a recommendation on actions to be taken. All actions to date have been based on the data results and have followed an approved scientific process approved by that Inter-agency Drinking Water team, and that was not.

00:05:46:01 - 00:06:15:10

CAPT. GUENTHER

Those decisions were not made solely by Navy or Army or DOD. Ok, The next question is on home flushing, it's from Brian, who resides in Pearl City Peninsula. He'd like to know if test results from a home in the neighborhood show the presence of contaminants above the acceptable level, and his question is, will the entire neighborhood be re-flushed or just that individual home the parameters?



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00:06:15:24 - 00:06:25:09

CAPT. GUENTHER

Here's the answer the parameters for the re-flushing of homes are laid out in the approved drinking water sampling plan and Drinking Water Distribution System Recovery Plan.

00:06:25:09 - 00:06:49:26

CAPT. GUENTHER

The need to flush is evaluated on a case-by-case basis where there are exceedances or sample results of a concern in the initial water samples. The Inter-agency Drinking Water System team evaluates each incident separately to determine the appropriate actions that need to be conducted to ensure drinking water is in compliance with regulatory standards.

00:06:49:07 - 00:07:04:24

CAPT. GUENTHER

For example, if there are a number of residences or facilities that would exceed standards in the same general area, the Inter-agency Drinking Team would evaluate them as a group and then determine if additional distribution of flushing would be needed, possibly in a larger number of units in that area.

00:07:04:24 - 00:07:41:05

CAPT. GUENTHER

Since the distribution systems data has come back in compliance for this neighborhood is unlikely that an entire neighborhood will have to be flushed in that case, and in the case of Pearl City Peninsula, the Inter-agency Drinking Water team determined that one residential unit with a result about the Department of Health incident specific parameter in front that they directed that one additional unit nearby would also be sampled, would be sampled, re-flushed and then re sampled after the flush to ensure that the flush was successful.

00:07:41:05 - 00:07:49:02

CAPT. GUENTHER

If you'd like to review the Drinking Water Sampling Plan and Drinking Water Distribution System Recovery Plan, you can find it on the Water Resources Web page.

00:07:49:09 - 00:08:16:07

CAPT. GUENTHER

Ok, question from Caroline on GACs. She asks, how often is the GAC filter being changed out? The granular activated carbon or GAC system at Red Hill is capable of pumping up to 5 million gallons per day, or approximately 200,000 gallons per hour for treatment before being discharged into Halawa stream.



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00:08:16:18 - 00:08:38:24

CAPT. GUENTHER

As water is pumped from the well, it is filtered through the granulated activated carbon system. Water going through the GAC's tanks goes through benchtop analyzing for performance evaluation of the treatment system and to ensure that the GAC's treatment system is removing any petroleum constituents to levels that are safe for discharge.

00:08:38:24 - 00:08:55:16

CAPT. GUENTHER

The monitoring of the GAC material is data driven and is not a visual check. Twice every day, we conduct tests at three points as the water enters the dual tank filters between the tanks and as the water leaves the tanks before being discharged into the basin.

00:08:55:16 - 00:09:14:17

CAPT. GUENTHER

If contaminants are present in the water being pulled, we know if the GAC is working effectively when we see a drop in the level of contaminants in that water. If there's no drop between the two tanks, we know the gas material isn't performing as effectively as it should.

00:09:14:26 - 00:09:34:16

CAPT. GUENTHER

In the moment we don't see the proper drop in levels. We immediately change out that GAC material. Ok, here's a question from Lacy on CDC enrollments. Lacy tells us the base CDC is not taking enrollments for any kids right now due to issues with the water.

00:09:34:16 - 00:09:54:19

CAPT. GUENTHER

Is this still the case and when will they start enrolling kids again? So the CDC has never stopped taking in enrollments. They continue to take new enrollments today. However, recent COVID cases with CDC staff and patrons have slowed the number of new enrollments in the last several weeks.

00:09:54:19 - 00:10:24:18

CAPT. GUENTHER

This is based on classroom availability as the number of cases continues to diminish. We expect to see our number of enrollments increase. Ok, next question is from Diane, it's on health. Diane asks if there is a plan to monitor the long term health of families affected by the water crisis and does it align with the CDC's actions for the nonmilitary population on Hawaii?

00:10:24:18 - 00:10:43:18



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CAPT. GUENTHER

The full roster of all residents impacted by the water contamination in the Navy water distribution system to include military personnel, family members and others living in military housing will be included on the incident report within the Defense, Occupational and Environmental Health Readiness System.

00:10:43:18 - 00:11:13:19

CAPT. GUENTHER

This is called DOORS. DOORS is the DOD system for of record for occupational or environmental exposures for DOD personnel and has been expanded in this case to include family members as well. The data is retained in the door's website for a minimum of 30 years and is available for any future action, research or analysis.

00:11:13:26 - 00:11:36:03

CAPT. GUENTHER

This will apply to service members who transition from service and to family members who are no longer dependents, potentially years from now. The DOD Public Health Enterprise intends to use this incident report and roster as a roster for conducting future health surveillance, and the timing and duration of that follow up has yet to be finalized.

00:11:36:19 - 00:12:00:19

CAPT. GUENTHER

The Hawaii Department of Health, in partnership with the CDC and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, has also been conducting a Web-Based Health survey of all potentially affected members who receive water from that Navy water distribution system, including both DOD families and from and those not residing in the military communities.

00:12:00:09 - 00:12:15:23

CAPT. GUENTHER

As we spoke about earlier, this is a survey we referenced. This survey closes today. Today's the last day, so if you're not completed this survey, please do so today. It's open to anyone impacted and can take in at the website I mentioned earlier.

00:12:15:23 - 00:12:44:13

CAPT. GUENTHER

That's go.usa.gov/xtg8v. Ok, and our final question is from a resident of Red Hill, it's on the safety of the drinking water specific to that area. This resident would like to know where things stand with respect to his family having safe water in their houses, and he asked when his water will be safe to drink.



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00:12:44:13 - 00:12:59:21

CAPT. GUENTHER

We've had some promising news about the water in Red Hill housing after close coordination with the Inter-agency Drinking Water System team, which is comprised of representatives from the Navy Army, Hawaii Department of Health and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

00:12:59:24 - 00:13:23:08

CAPT. GUENTHER

The Navy has completed their review of and validated distribution system and residential and building testing results for the Red Hill Housing Neighborhood. These results were submitted last Friday, February, the 4th to the Department of Health for final review and potentially for them to amend their health advisory based upon previously agreed upon processes.

00:13:23:08 - 00:13:48:06

CAPT. GUENTHER

The Hawaii Department of Health will be completing their final review and administrative actions, and that estimation is that that will take seven days. This means that the Department of Health completing its review and under the Inner-Agency Drinking Water teams improved drinking water sampling plan once, Department of Health determines the Navy's drinking water is fit for human consumption.

00:13:48:06 - 00:14:08:10

CAPT. GUENTHER

It will amend that health advisory once that health advisory has been amended. Residents will then receive a letter from the army's task force Ohana senior mission commander, stating their water has been deemed fit for human consumption. Once that health advisory, those steps have been taken.

00:14:08:10 - 00:14:37:23

CAPT. GUENTHER

Those who are occupying temporary alternate lodging for that neighborhood will be expected to reoccupy the residence within approximately two days. We've been told that the Task Force Ohana will reestablish the Emergency Family Assistance Center at the Aliamanu on a military reservation community center and will have personnel in the Red Hill housing and neighborhoods distributing a welcome home package to those returning residents when that time arrives.

00:14:37:23 - 00:15:07:11

CAPT. GUENTHER



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For any questions, please contact the Task Force Ohana hotline at 808-620-7938 or 808-620-7951 and that is specific to the Red Hill neighborhood and upcoming developments there. Ok, that was our last question for the day, and that was your daily water update for today.

00:15:07:11 - 00:15:24:04

CAPT. GUENTHER

Please join us tomorrow. Same time, we're monitoring your questions on Facebook and you can email those questions to [cnrhpa@gmail.com](mailto:cnrhpa@gmail.com) and we'll answer them as we did today. As we get to them, don't forget our water info website.

00:15:24:06 - 00:15:41:14

CAPT. GUENTHER

That's [navy.mil/jointbasewater](http://navy.mil/jointbasewater) and don't forget to check out the good stuff that [greatlifehawaii.com/wegotyou](http://greatlifehawaii.com/wegotyou). Please remember we're all in this together as one community and ohana. Stay safe.

00:15:41:16 - 00:15:34:07

CAPT. GUENTHER

Take care of yourself. Take care of each other, and we'll see you next time.