



## JOINT BASE WATER DAILY UPDATE

Joint Information Center

(808) 471-5013

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

**[2/15/2022]**

00:00:09 - 00:00:38

CAPT. GUENTHER

Hello, everyone, and welcome to the daily water update for February the 15th. I'm Captain Darren Guenther, Chief of Staff for Navy Region Hawaii, we passed a significant landmark in the ongoing work to restore safe water to your homes. Yesterday, the Department of Health amended its advisory for the Red Hill housing neighborhood, signifying that the water in that neighborhood is safe to drink and safe for all other uses as well.

00:00:39 - 00:01:24

CAPT. GUENTHER

This is the first of 19 neighborhoods. And we're hopeful that with the collaborative work of the Area Agency drinking water team, that includes the Navy, the Army, Department of Health, and the Environmental Protection Agency, that the other neighborhoods will follow. Today, we're going to do an in depth look at one of the tools that we use to keep you informed. Captain Mike Mino, he's a member of that interagency drinking water team is going to be here to walk us through our data, our water data page, and show you all the different various things you can find there and how to find them. First, though, let's go to the map and give you our map update.

00:01:25 - 00:02:07

CAPT. GUENTHER

So the map that you're going to find posted on our water resources page, as well as our water data page, I think you're going to find has some significant changes to it. And I will first and foremost, there are some coloration changes that have been updated. So previously, our page updates were focused on flushing, our new page updates are going to be focused on certifications of the various neighborhoods. So you'll be able to find the amended Health Advisory when they're those neighborhoods under review by the Interagency Drinking Water Team, and you'll go from blue all the way to green.

00:02:08 - 00:03:32

CAPT. GUENTHER

And with that, there's three neighborhoods I'd like to talk about and the first is the Red Hill neighborhood, we've been talking about this quite a bit. It is green via the amended Health Advisory put out by the Hawaii Department of Health late yesterday, you can go to their website to see their press release on this. And they also have they had a virtual presentation that you can see there as well, where they're talking about how they came to some of the decisions that they did on Red Hill. So the Red Hill neighborhood, we call it zone I1 has been declared by the Department of Health as safe for drinking and the water safe for all purposes there. So an update next neighborhood in the queue is going to be Pearl City Peninsula. The Interagency Drinking Water Team has had those results over the last several days they've been reviewing them. And they are going to finalize their endorsement of that zone here today, that data package will be passed to the Department of Health no later than the close of business today, which will give them an opportunity to



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

[2/15/2022]

take a look at them. Can take approximately seven days for the Department of Health to do their full analysis of all those results and make their decision on that zone and that neighborhood for Pearl City Peninsula.

00:03:33 - 00:04:54

CAPT. GUENTHER

And then the next neighborhood to update you, Hukulani and Hale Moku. So this is going to be the next one in line. And the Interagency Drinking Water Team just got the final and full results for the drinking water samples from both the system distribution lines as well as the homes and facilities in that neighborhood. And they'll begin their review shortly on all of that data. Finally, one other piece of this chart that's been updated, so not only the colorations, and sort of the focus of the chart updates, but also the table. On the very right, there's an estimated resident return. And as we receive results, and the full results come in to that Interagency Drinking Water Team, they'll be adding an estimated residents return date. It is an estimation. But we know that having an understanding for your planning is important. And we know that's one of the biggest questions that many of you have. So as we get those results in, we'll be filling those dates in and we have filled those dates in for several neighborhoods. You can take a look at that as well. So that is your map update for today.

00:04:55 - 00:05:45

CAPT. GUENTHER

All right. What I'd like to do now is I'm going to bring Captain Meno in. Captain Meno is a member of our Naval Facilities Engineering Command. And he's also on the interagency drinking water team. And so you work daily with Army water experts, as well as experts from the Department of Health, and the Environmental Protection Agency. And the team has come up with a new sort of data tool in which all that data is going to be displayed on it. And so we wanted to bring you in to talk about that. And we're going to project some of his screen up. So you can sort of see where we come up, where you can find these various items on the website. And so welcome back, Mike.

00:05:46 - 00:05:47

CAPT. MENO

Thanks, Dan. It's good to be back.

00:05:48 - 00:06:10

CAPT. GUENTHER

So for the past several weeks, you know, we've been recommended followers to go to our water resources page. And now we've also brought on a new different page via the Interagency Drinking Water Team. And can you tell us first of all this new, we've been calling it our water data page. How does this page differ from the old Water Resources page? That is still up?

00:06:11 - 00:07:17



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[2/15/2022]

CAPT. MENO

Sure. Absolutely. So if you go to the PAC fleet water page, you're going to find a lot of information, a lot of information regarding how to handle your TLA, TLE information, you know, what's happened to date, and some some other stuff beyond just what is the team, this Interagency Drinking Water System Team doing with the EPA and DOH to make our water safe. And really, it's about a repository of the lab results. It's also a repository of the information supporting the health advisory amendments. And it's also a tool for those that have been affected to get the latest information specific to the process that you just described. And as I walk folks through the website, I can even provide some amplifying information to help them understand exactly what goes on when the the zone is a different color, which I think will be helpful for people to learn.

00:07:18 - 00:07:55

CAPT. GUENTHER

Okay, so the Water Resources page is the page we've had up for several months is really, that's all the support mechanisms that you know residents have available to them, and where they can go to find those. But the water data page and at water resources is [navy.mil/jointbasewater](http://navy.mil/jointbasewater), the water data page, slightly different JBPHH-safewaters.org is everything, all the data being used to test, sample and then make decisions on the water that's in those various zones. So data focused, but water focused,

00:07:56 - 00:07:56

CAPT. MENO

Yes.

00:07:57 - 00:08:02

CAPT. GUENTHER

Okay. So can you walk us through the page, I think a lot of us are visual learners. And if we can, we're gonna beam this page onto work.

00:08:03 - 00:09:14

\*\*\*break in audio\*\*\*

00:09:14 - 00:10:16

CAPT. MENO

...org website. And so you're at the homepage, and you have different links for the flushing maps individual zones. You have the latest information. In this case, the latest information is the amendment to the health advisory for zone I1. And we'll get into some of the details. You also have the terms. So click home. This is where we're at. Well, let's see what the flushing map looks like. So there's a flushing map. Very, very similar to what you see behind or would have seen behind Darren as he walked through it. You have the I1 is green, you have D1. D1 data was just reviewed as a group with IDWST yesterday, and we're going to



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

[2/15/2022]

actually do the removal action report, review tomorrow. And then as Darren said, to this afternoon, we'll drive over the removal action report for DOH for Pearl City Peninsula.

00:10:17 - 00:11:03

CAPT. MENO

We had a very good review on Monday and made some updates to make sure that the DOH and the team, the IDWS team, which comprises folks from DOH, Army, EPA, Navy, Navy Marine Corps Public Health Center are comfortable with the package, because it's going to be really that information that gives the confidence for DOH to amend the advisory that we did everything. So also, you can one, you can click directly, and it will take you to the zone. So that's good. So there's a couple different ways you can get there. You could also click on the flushing zone, and you can go down straight to I1.

00:11:04 - 00:11:43

CAPT. MENO

He made me curious what the estimated dates are, you just click on the top of the flushing zone. And then you can go through the different zones. This is the approximate order of which they're expected to be released. Just pay attention to "note one" that they are estimates and it does require that all the laboratory data to be received. And you may recall last week when I spoke, we talked about level two and level four validated data. So we need all of that data to do our review. Very, very important. And so I think it'd be a good time is any let's talk about the I one zone.

00:11:44 - 00:11:49

CAPT. GUENTHER

Yeah, can you show us a little about what's on that page that people might be interested in?

00:11:50 - 00:13:03

CAPT. MENO

Absolutely. So let's go back a little bit in time, when we completed the distribution flushing, we created what's called a stage two report that stage two report is available, all you have to do is click on it. I'll go ahead and click let it pull up. That's that's the distribution. And this shouldn't be anything new because they've been posted for some time, you have the lab results. Again, it's a lot less because there were only a couple distribution samples taken. But it gives you an idea. The lab reports for those that have been on the website are probably fairly familiar. But let's look at this new data stage four report. And so this has been posted for I think about a week now. It talks you through the different stages, you know, we did the distribution, flushing, we tested the distribution, we did the stage three of going and doing the resident flushing, this stage four report is the results.

00:13:04 - 00:14:03

CAPT. MENO



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

[2/15/2022]

After the results were reviewed, things look good, the ID and at that time, it would be the IDWST where we got the stage four data, when I say that it's the level two level four validated data you're in this hashed yellow zone and and so that's really where we're at not only reviewing the data but making sure the removal action report is good. Once we submit it to DOH it turns hash green and that just gives an idea is that hey the IDWST has reviewed all the data, has written up the report, and feels comfortable recommending to DOH to mend the advisory and then they take their time to go through and make sure all the information is there because that information packet becomes public record it's available on the DOH website as well as will be available in the library one of the Hawaii libraries and we'll get you that information.

00:14:04 - 00:14:09

CAPT. GUENTHER

And Mike that that same that is also available on this website is that correct?

00:14:10 - 00:15:16

CAPT. MENO

That I will show you where it's at. We're in the process of migrating that or being able to include it but right now it's with the DOH and and I'll show you how to get there and actually show you some other parts of the DOH website that has some good information. And it was designed. We are a team, EPA, DOH, Army, Navy it was not designed to be linked between the Navy and DOH website because there's a lot of good information out there that the folks have been impacted by this in this incident need to know and know that this is not just the Navy's data. This is the the data that the team including EPA and DOH has reviewed and we've worked through any issues or concerns to make sure things are answered. So I'm going to pull up the complete laboratory results. I'm going to go down. And so just to give you an idea, there are 109 laboratory reports, which make up multiple samples for zone I1. And so a lot of information.

00:15:17 - 00:15:19

CAPT. GUENTHER

And zone I1, again is Red Hill neighborhood.

00:15:20 - 00:16:45

CAPT. MENO

Yes, sir yes sir. And so we're going to go back to I1. So now you have the distribution results, the laboratory reports, you have the residential, non residential flushing, which also includes the schools, CDC, in this case, there's not it's just the schools but the future reports will have the schools CDCs as well as the residential testing results and non-residential facilities testing, so a lot of good information on the website. I think it's really good to help answer questions that some of our residents might have. And so let's let's click onto this health advisory amendment for Red Hill housing to see what that looks like. So it's going to take you to the State of Hawaii Department of Health website. You can see that there was a



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

[2/15/2022]

declaration yesterday that the water distribution system for zone I1 is safe, you can see their legend very similar. You can see here that I1. You can zoom in a little bit. And now I need to make sure I can go back. Oh,

00:16:46 - 00:16:46

CAPT. GUENTHER

That's your back button.

00:16:47 - 00:18:29

CAPT. MENO

I'm just gonna do this and start over, it happens. And so we're going to scroll down a little bit. And so you can download the map. You can review the DOH certification memo that I think it's good to see. Here you can see where our Commander, Navy Region Hawaii Admiral Kott got the official notice from the Department of Health, who that review went through, and some details behind what it took to get the amendment. You'll see our joint mailbox for the IDWST. And then essentially, the checklist that was used and all the things that the Navy, I shouldn't say just the Navy, but the team put together to make sure that we could document completion of the investigation and test results, to ensure that DOH was comfortable amending the health advisory based off of you know, deliberate, scientific information. And I think it's very valuable to be able to do that. And I sincerely believe that, you know, this is fairly transparent, or we're being as transparent as possible, as well as sincerely hope that is really helping build some confidence in a system in the system that there's information there to support the decision. And so we're going to go ahead and close that one.

00:18:30 - 00:19:10

CAPT. MENO

So I'm not sure how to go back, we'll go right back to where we were. There's some additional information. If you click on the validated sampling results, it takes you back to our website. So I'll show you. There's a really good one pager that DOH put together. I know we have some other information. They have a really good one pager on how to read laboratory results for those that are interested or may have some questions. Talks about the different things that were sampled for. And it also talks about some different terms, particularly what laboratory method.

00:19:11 - 00:20:15

CAPT. MENO

You hear this acronym MDL thrown around, it's the method of detection limit and what that means, you might have also heard reporting limit or method reporting limit, you'll see that on the laboratory reports, and then sometimes just on the way that laboratory results are reported, sometimes you have a number and so the result is is that number. Sometimes you have a "j" flag. "J" flag is just means it's an estimated value, but there is confidence behind that. And then you have a "u" and the "u" value seems to cause confusion. It took me quite





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

[2/15/2022]

a bit of reading and getting people to explain it to me to be able to say with confidence that when you see a you it's actually a non-detect. What it's saying is that it's at, or below or in this case, it's actually below the method of detection limit. And so, so even though you see a number, you just know that it's below the detection limit, commonly referred to as not detected.

00:20:16 - 00:21:44

CAPT. MENO

And so hopefully that provides a little bit of clarification, you know, some of the questions that I think there are probably pretty common, especially if you haven't reviewed lab data, or if it's been a while, it's been a while for me, so I had to do a refresher. And then if you want to get into the details, and really understand what went into the report to this removal action report, which we'll be preparing for each zone, and why it takes a little bit of time between the IDWST, reviewing the level two and level four validating data, and then submitting the report to DOH is that the the completion of this removal action reports and the details behind it, so you can see that right there kind of gives you a flip through the table of contents, you can see how it aligns to the letter that was sent from DOH to the region, stating that the health was amended. And it just has some background of how we isolated the Red Hill shaft how we're using the Waiawa shaft for drinking water, what the Waiawa shaft sampling looked like. What the what they call the entry point to distribution, the post chlorination sample point, Waiawa what that is, and the results.

00:21:45 - 00:22:56

CAPT. MENO

And then some other stuff of how we did the distribution system, referencing the different sampling plans and drinking water system recovery plans that you can still find on the the websites, the PACFLT water site. And then just some other details, you know, of the the sampling the reports and then the different certifications that we did what we're supposed to do to ensure that the water is safe, and that the Department of Health could amend the health advisory. And so what I sincerely hope is that folks that are very interested to really understand what went into the health advisory amendment, the level of rigor, the transparency, that we want to have with each and every one of you that there will be some confidence that we are doing the right thing. And with the oversight of EPA, and DOH, that you should feel confident that the water is safe to drink once the amendment is made to the health advisory for specific zones.

00:22:57 - 00:23:19

CAPT. GUENTHER

Hey Mike, let me ask you a question that we've gone through some of the technical terms and sort of how to, it looks like there's a document on there on sort of how to read some of those pieces. Is the website designed to make this process go any faster, or is this mostly just to ensure everybody sees exactly every step of the way and every number that you're seeing?



## JOINT BASE WATER DAILY UPDATE

Joint Information Center

(808) 471-5013

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

[2/15/2022]

00:23:20 - 00:24:11

CAPT. MENO

So talking specifically to this website, this is about a public facing transparent website so that we can share the data. And it can have data from not only the Navy, but from DOH. But there is another site that we use, that allows us to facilitate the data review the volume of information. And that's what the team uses the IDWST team uses to make sure that we can go through literally 1000s of pages of lab data very, I wouldn't say quickly very methodical and deliberately in a short period of time, which wouldn't be possible if you had to review reports by hand. Does that answer your question?

00:24:12 - 00:24:37

CAPT. GUENTHER

Yeah. But all the everything. You know, I think this zone has like over 1000 pages of data that people can review right here. I mean, this is these are all the reports that you got from the labs. So we're putting that and the Department Health is putting that out just for everyone to see so that they can pour through it and see, you know, how I guess the team and how Department of Health came to these decisions.

00:24:38 - 00:24:39

CAPT. MENO

Absolutely.

00:24:39 - 00:25:24

CAPT. GUENTHER

And I you know, our communications team was telling us that the first 24 hours and on this website got 32,000 hits. So I think that's, that's good and hopefully with with some of this a little more detail on how to use it, it'll be a little more effective for folks who are looking for that info. Because I know our old Water Resources website is a little hard to find it on this one sort of, you know, click on the, the neighborhood you're looking for and everything comes up. So just from my perspective, hopefully a little easier to find stuff. Anything, anything else. Finally, you want to add on on using this or the processes that y'all are, are using.

00:25:25 - 00:26:42

CAPT. MENO

Probably two things. One is, again, like I did before, just thank the DOH and EPA team. They worked all weekend to make sure that the amendment to the health advisory can be completed to help get our Army families back into their residences. And so I'm very grateful to EPA and DOH for their efforts. And then additionally, just to really make sure folks understand the color chart. A lot of angst when you don't know what's behind something. So if it's blue, I think we said, it means we're waiting for the level two and level four validated data. Once we receive that, our team schedules a meeting to do a data review. And we go





## JOINT BASE WATER DAILY UPDATE

Joint Information Center

(808) 471-5013

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

[2/15/2022]

through all the sample results and look for any problems or issues. And if we find something we'll investigate it. If everything's below the MCL, or incident specific parameters, then we decide as a group that, hey, the data supports the removal action report completion. And we finalize the report and then we review it as a group.

00:26:43 - 00:28:24

CAPT. MENO

Once we do that, you know it's yellow during this periods, it's yellow striped, why we're reviewing the data that we receive level two, level four validate that are building this removal extra important. But once the team agrees that we've done everything we need to allow DOH to do their final review and issue an amendment that gets sent over to the Department of Health. And then this map that we've been using will turn hash green. And then once they've had a chance, the Department of Health, to go through their checks and balances to make sure everything's supportable, and they issue that amendment, it will turn green. Between the green stripe and the green, solid green, we will release the stage four data report as well as the lab results. And that's how we did it and I1 is a reminder. So once someone sees a go hash screen, they should know within the next 24 to 36 hours, the stage four data report with lab results will be available. And that sometime in the next, you know, four to five days after that, you know about within seven days DOH should be able to issue that amendment to their health advisory for that zone. So hopefully that provides a little more clarification maybe a little more granularity than we've had in the past, as our team is, you know, I1 was our first zone. And so the team had some lessons learned and growing pains. And we think we can get more effective and efficient as time goes on as well.

00:28:25 - 00:29:26

CAPT. GUENTHER

Okay, good. So tomorrow, our map should show sort of all the all three of those different colors between a green fully cleared hash green with a package for Pearl City Peninsula at Department of Health, which will hopefully make it over there delivered by you here this afternoon. And then one that's hashed yellow Hale Moku, Hokulani, which your team it sounds like just started yesterday and will be developing over the next couple of days. So hopefully a lot of movement in the next couple of days. And I want to thank you for coming by. And thank you for all the work, you know that the team is doing to get us through these next, this final phase in order to get our families back. And you know, we've got one neighborhood complete and 18 to go. And we're all looking forward to safely and methodically doing it the right way. But getting the water back up to where it needs to be. So, Mike, thanks for coming on.

00:29:27 - 00:29:33

CAPT. MENO

Thanks for having me.



## JOINT BASE WATER DAILY UPDATE

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(808) 471-5013

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

[2/15/2022]

00:29:34 - 00:30:32

CAPT. GUENTHER

All right, that was your daily water update for today. Please join us tomorrow, same time. We're monitoring your questions on Facebook. And you can email those questions as well to CNRHPAO@gmail.com. Don't forget to check the water info website. That's navy.mil/jointbasewater that's the one that has all of the offerings and outside of the data and then separate to that the data water website which is JBPHH-safewaters.org Make sure also to check out the good stuff at greatlifehawaii.com/wegotyou. Please remember we're all in this together as one community and one ohana. Stay safe, take care of yourself, take care of each other, and we'll see you next time.