



JOINT BASE WATER DAILY UPDATE

Joint Information Center

(808) 471-5013

www.navy.mil/jointbasewater

[2/24/2022]

CAPT. GUENTHER 0:08

Hello everyone and welcome to the daily water update for February the 24th. I'm Captain Darren Gunther, Chief of Staff for Navy Region Hawaii. Great news today concerning Pearl City Peninsula in what we call zone A1. The Department of Health has declared the water safe for all uses. This is the second of 19 affected neighborhoods in the Navy water system to have that health advisory amended. Now there's a detailed process that goes into that decision based on reviews and endorsement by the Inter-agency Drinking Water Team that's made up of Navy Army, as well as the Department of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency. That endorsement on a Navy neighborhoods, drinking water must be unanimous in order for that team to forward that recommendation. So in other words, the representatives from Army, Navy but as well from Department of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency, all must agree on that endorsement.

CAPT. GUENTHER 1:19

So the Inter-agency Drinking Water Team sent their endorsement of Pearl City peninsula to the Department of Health on the 15th of February. That process took about seven days and we know that's lengthy, but the Department of Health wanted total assurance that the water was safe to drink. I think that benefits all of us and I'd like to emphasize that it's strictly the Department of Health and only the Department of Health, who, when the final step adjudicates the final test results and makes an independent decision on whether the water is safe to drink. It's only then that the public health advisory for neighborhood, in this case Pearl City Peninsula, is amended by the Department of Health and families can return to consuming the water. In full transparency, those lab results that they use are posted then on several websites to include both the state website at health.hawaii.gov as well as the Navy data website that we talk about pretty often. There's also a guide that can help to explain how you read those results if you're interested in that. Now, please keep in mind that once a Health Advisory is amended and you're notified in your neighborhood, you'll have two calendar days to move back into your homes with benefits continuing. So for Pearl City Peninsula residents only. That's today and tomorrow, Thursday and Friday, that benefits will continue for those Pearl City Peninsula residents to include a hotel room Friday night, if you're in that situation, but you'll need to be checked out of that hotel Saturday morning. Now that's for Pearl City Peninsula residents only in Zone A1.

CAPT. GUENTHER 3:13

To ensure that we're monitoring any future water issues, the Navy has created a Rapid Response Team that's available 24 hours a day. If you have any water quality concerns, returning back to your home, please call the emergency operations center so that we can help. Now we're going to talk more about this today and we'll have Doug Carpenter on he's the deputy Crisis Action Team chief, he's going to talk a little about the return to home for the residents of Pearl City Peninsula and what they can expect, but first, let's go to our map and look at our latest progress and updates there.

CAPT. GUENTHER 3:59

This map is posted on several of our websites. It's one click into both our water resources website as well as our water data website. So we've talked about Red Hill neighborhood officially all residents are back in our Red Hill neighborhood. Thank you for your patience as we



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worked through that process. And we're finally all green on zone A1 which is Pearl City Peninsula. So that declaration and information was passed yesterday, making today and tomorrow the move in days essentially and the benefits will continue through these next two days to include the hotel room on Friday night with the checkout Saturday morning as we've discussed. So that's Pearl City Peninsula. We've also got some progress depicted on this chart with Ford Island as well as Hale Moku and Hokulani. They're both a striped green today, which indicates that the Inter-agency Drinking Water Team has endorsed their full data package. That's all the tests for the water samples that were taken back from the lab and that package has been put together. That package has been passed to the Department of Health and it's currently at the Department of Health again, that next process, so those three neighborhoods across two zones will be sort of the next in the queue, approximately seven days, we'll be looking for that. So that's progress there and more progress on the rest of this map, you'll notice that the entire remaining neighborhoods or zones are now a striped or hashed yellow color. That indicates that all test results from the independent labs certified by Department of Health and Environmental Protection Agency, which we utilized on the mainland, that's well over 1000 tests across all these neighborhoods, all those results are back on island and each of these neighborhoods is either in review by the Inter-agency Drinking Water Team, or they're awaiting that next step review. So that's progress that you're going to see across the entire map today.

CAPT. GUENTHER 6:18

Now, the next zones up that the Inter-agency Drinking Water Team is now looking at, I'll give you three or four of them actually Camp Smith, McGrew Point, Halawa Housing, and Earhart, those are likely the next ones that the Inter-agency Drinking Water Team is going to be looking at to assess putting those packages together and those are the next ones that we would anticipate going to the Department of Health for their independent look. So a lot of progress and changes on the map today and that's your map update for today.

CAPT. GUENTHER 7:03

Okay, what I'd like to do now is bring in our guests, you know, yesterday, the Department of Health amended the health advisory for zone a one which is Pearl City Peninsula and the Inter-agency Drinking Water Team also officially passed on the their endorsed packages for for the island, as well as Hale Moku and Hokulani. So a lot of progress in hopefully we're moving forward in getting our community back in their homes with clean water. So today we're going to talk with Doug Carpenter about some of the resources that we've given to folks out there. He's part of the crisis action team. He is here from Navy installations Command Headquarters in Washington, DC. He's been here for quite a while with us helping us through this and Doug, I have a couple of questions to start off with. Can you talk about and go over what residents received in preparation for this move back home?

DOUG CARPENTER 8:04

Yeah, absolutely and Captain Guenther, just want to say thanks to you for having me on. And, and I want to say hello to everybody who's watching on Facebook Live either now or later. Appreciate the opportunity to come on and talk through this next step in our response to the water crisis. So if you're a resident of Pearl City Peninsula zone A1 as Captain Gunther



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mentioned, you should have received a letter from the Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam Commanding Officer, Capt. Spitzer in through email from your-(break in audio)

DOUG CARPENTER 8:45

If you can't get a copy there, then please reach out to the Joint Base EOC. And we'll provide a copy of the packet. I want to walk through the packet. Okay, and, and just make sure everyone understands exactly what they receive in their email. So I believe we have a depiction on screen of the actual letter and I just wanted to walk through the letter real quick. It starts off, just making sure that we emphasize that safety and health is very important. And then that's our main mission here is making sure that we're taking care of, of our community walks through as Capt. Gunther mentioned, the decision to declare the water fit for all purposes for Pearl City Peninsula was a joint decision not an easy decision, but through the Inter-agency Drinking Water Team and the Hawaii Department of Health with participation from the EPA. It also talks about the TLA benefits which he walked through and I'll walk through that in a little bit greater detail but from the day of notification to be two days of delay benefits and then a return to your home, basically, by Saturday morning, I'll walk through that in more detail. Then finally it gives the phone number to the Joint Base Emergency Operations Center. If you have a problem with your water quality in your home, please reach out and we'll get you connected with the Rapid Response Team who can either answer your questions, walk you through an issue, or send a team out to respond to any water quality problem that you might have.

DOUG CARPENTER 10:21

So we can go to the next graphic, which will lead off saying four steps to safe drinking water. So on this graphic, which is the second page of the PDF in the email that you have, it walks through the four steps, samples and the testing thing have been subjects of Facebook Lives in the past. I won't, I won't hit on that, but the admin advisory is something that that's new like Capt. Gunther mentioned, we this is our second amended advisory from Red Hill and now Pearl City Peninsula and we walk through the steps that it takes to get to an amended advisory where many, many people and experts have reviewed the data and declared the water in those residences fit for all purposes. As soon as that amended advisory was released on on the Department of Health website, Capt. Spitzer released a letter that you have and what that does is that's if you look down on where it says Day Zero, on the four steps of drinking water, Day Zero for Pearl City Peninsula is yesterday the 23rd.

DOUG CARPENTER 11:28

So day one and day two, the 24th. So today is day one, the 24th of February, day two is the 25th. So the benefits, benefits and entitlements will end on the 25th at basically midnight, 23:59 as it says in the letter and what that means is if you are in government procured lodging or self procured lodging, if you're in a hotel, you can spend Friday night in the hotel and gain benefits for that day but then we expect you to check out of the hotel on Saturday morning at the normal time and you won't be able to claim meals and incidentals on on Saturday, we'll expect you to be back at your home.

CAPT. GUENTHER 12:08



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Okay, so Doug, benefits today and tomorrow. That's day one and day two, those benefits will stop on day three but again, the hotel is covered for that night of day two, in other words, hotel Friday night but just to check out on Saturday morning.

DOUG CARPENTER 12:30

Right, so Friday night, stay in the hotel, and then check out Saturday morning and it's exactly right and there's additional resources and graphics on Facebook that talks specifically to the timeline for Pearl City Peninsula and A1 that if you have questions, you can reach out to your parent command or again to to the joint base. I want to move on to the next graphic, which is run the taps graphic. So this is important if you haven't been in your house for a long time. Each of the residences were flushed by the flushing team but if you haven't been in the house for a while the water can stagnate and get stagnant in your in your in the pipes inside the house. So the recommendation is to run the taps for 15 minutes. That's hot and cold water every every faucet in the house plus any external spigots and, and if you have water delivery in your refrigerator, the same goes for that.

DOUG CARPENTER 13:26

So the run the taps graphic runs through the steps you know open the windows for ventilation, run all your faucets, make sure you include them all including your refrigerator, talks about running the washing machine for at least one full cycle. Replacing your filters if you have any filters in the house and then that's claimable, in you're when you file your final claim for benefits, and then it also mentions on your icemaker if you have an icemaker in your freezer to run that for at least three cycles throughout the ice and then after the drum for three cycles, you can use your your icemaker again for drinks.

CAPT. GUENTHER 14:08

So Doug, I have a question on this one. You know, I was on a forum this morning with some school administrators and I was going over this step with them and they made the remark that when you know Hawaii was under a shutdown two years ago with COVID in the schools were not in session, that one of the things that the Department of Health emphasized at the time was before they came back that they ran the taps. And what I explained was I thought this was the same situation. So running the taps for our residents going back home is not necessarily tied to the incident in any possible contamination. It's tied to the fact that these taps may not have been run since the flushing teams came through and it's sort of normal to try and push any stagnant water or what not out.

DOUG CARPENTER 15:04

Right, so if you take an extended vacation, it's advisable you always run the taps when you come back from the vacation after a week or two, you might have some sediment buildup, some stagnant water, run the taps and again, if after running the taps for 15 minutes throughout the day, again, every faucet in the house, track it down. If you have an issue with water quality in your residence, call the EOC and they'll set you up with a Rapid Response Team to take care of your water quality issue and that's really important. I did mention on the claims briefly, I just want to make sure I hit that so on when the benefits in the 23:59 on Friday night for the Pearl City Peninsula residents and you can still stay in that hotel on Friday night checkout Saturday



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morning, the recommendation is to file your reimbursement claim within seven days to get expedited processing. So we've got teams of people that are processing these these claims to make sure that we finalize that process but that's the recommendation is to file with it very important to file within seven days after your benefits and that way you can close out that gap and get the get the claims to you as soon as possible.

DOUG CARPENTER 16:12

I'd like to move on to the next slide, which is the Oahu military water response resources. These resources are available in lots of different ways and lots of different forums but we just wanted to put the numbers out here again, that walk through the rapid how to get in contact with the Rapid Response Team, the Joint Base Emergency Operations Center, some additional resources and contacts for housing communities and then your claims contacts. Again, there's additional we update these these numbers in these resources from time to time, there are additional resources that walk through these numbers on Facebook and on some of the other websites that speak to the water crisis.

DOUG CARPENTER 16:53

Alright, moving on to the last handout that was included in the resident return package is a graphic that talks is titled The Rapid Response Team during this transition period from uncertified water to getting back to certified for all purposes, water for each of the 19 zones, Capt. Gunther mentioned, we've built an enhanced response for water quality concerns and we call this a Rapid Response Team. These are a team that's available to answer the phone answer calls from residents have concerns about their water quality and then respond and respond quickly. There was a Facebook Live, if I'm if I'm correct on Tuesday talking with Lt. Cmdr Forney, who's the OIC of the Rapid Response Team. So I won't dwell on exactly what they do here but this, this graphic just reminds people how to contact and contact them through calling the EOC if you have a water quality concern, and we'll get you set up with the right person to talk to to work through your issue and we'll send a team out to respond very quickly on that. Those are the the graphics that were included, and CAPT. GUENTHER to you if you have any other questions.

CAPT. GUENTHER 18:07

Yeah. So Doug, one of the questions that came up yesterday, and as we were talking with the Lt. Cmdr. Forney, was when we set to declare a zone or a neighborhood as safe water, and as the, again, the Department of Health makes that assessment and decision and declaration. How is it that we can make that declaration for Pearl City Peninsula, but not necessarily an adjacent zone? I think when some of our viewers, one of our viewers in particular had a question on how that works and why we can do that.

Unknown Speaker 18:43

Yeah. Hey, CAPT. GUENTHER, thanks for asking the question. I've seen that pop up on Facebook and some of the questions before and what the team has done again, in coordination with the Inter-agency Drinking Water System Teamed EPA and the Hawaii Department of Health is a insured they flushed and tested the entire distribution system first, before going into the residential flushing and sampling. So, the Navy water system distribution system that what



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takes the water from the the well, the Waiawa well to the distribution line to the homes was certified cleared by the Department Health prior and before we moved into recertifying the houses and doing the residential flushing, so inside of each house and now that the distribution system is certified, the every house has what's called a backflow prevention system. So the houses themselves once the water comes into the house, that water can't get back into the distribution system with a series of backflow prevention. So when you run to the faucet in your sink that the water comes from the the well of the distribution system that goes out to the sewage through the drain and so the the teams are go out and clear zone by zone. The provide very detailed data on the sampling and testing results. So that the Inter-agency Drinking Water System Team and the Hawaii Department Health and EPA can, can pour through the data and in chunks that are manageable and clear housing zones, fit for all purposes, zone by zone. So it's a method of just breaking down the housing the 8000 houses by neighborhoods to give to phase and how we clear people and yeah.

CAPT. GUENTHER 20:40

But it sounds like each of those areas, and the way they're able to break them apart is because they are able to essentially isolate them from one another.

DOUG CARPENTER 20:47

Right exactly, Because the overall distribution system is clear and each of the houses is isolated from the distribution system once the water comes into the house.

CAPT. GUENTHER 20:57

Okay. One final question. Just we talked about it a couple of times here but I want to make sure that it's clear for our residents across the peninsula. So benefits and when they need to plan to move in. So benefits today and tomorrow, Thursday and Friday, to include a hotel room if applicable Friday night and then that all ends Saturday morning.

DOUG CARPENTER 21:22

Yeah, absolutely. So the day zero follows the day the decision was posted on the website from the Hawaii Department of Health and that was the 23rd. So today is the 24th is day one. So the two days where the benefits will continue. The 25th is the last day of TLA and then we expect everybody to be out of DLA by on the 26th. So you can spend the night of the Friday night the 25th in the hotel room if it applies, but just be checked out on Saturday morning and meals and incidentals will end 23:59 on Friday night.

CAPT. GUENTHER 22:03

Okay, Doug, thank you for coming. Thank you for being here and I really appreciate you know your service to our community. You know, you've been here away from your your family in Washington DC over the last couple of months and I do want to thank you for that.

DOUG CARPENTER 22:16

I appreciate, it's a pleasure to serve.

CAPT. GUENTHER 22:17



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Thank you. That was your daily water update for today. I want to thank all of our residents out there for their patience as we work through this process of getting you back to clean water in your homes. Please join us tomorrow same time. We're monitoring your questions on Facebook and you can also email those questions to us on cnrhpa@gmail.com. Don't forget to check out our water info website that's at navy.mil/jointbasewater and check out the latest water data at Jjbphh-safewaters.org and don't forget to check out the good stuff at greatlifehawaii.com/wegotyou. Please remember we're all in this together as one community and ohana. Stay safe. Take care of yourself. Take care of each other and we'll see you next time.