



## JOINT BASE WATER DAILY UPDATE

Joint Information Center

(808) 471-5013

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

[3/8/2022]

00:00:08 - 00:00:44

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Hello, everyone, and welcome to the daily water update for March the eighth. I'm Capt. Darren Guenther, chief of staff for Navy Region Hawaii. Today, we're going to answer questions that we've received from you. They cover a variety of issues that relate to the restoration of water in your homes. As of today, the Hawaii Department of Health has amended the health advisory for the water in seven of our 19 zones. Additionally, they're working on the packages for a number of other zones as we speak.

00:00:45 - 00:01:23

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

So as you are either in the process of, or looking forward to transitioning back to using your water, or transitioning back into your home, we want to ensure that you have all the information that you need. I'd like to remind you of the different flyers that we produced to help you and help answer the questions that you may have. As you return to using the water in your homes, I want to remind you to ensure that you don't forget to flush the water in your taps, especially if the water in your home hasn't been run in several weeks or more.

00:01:24 - 00:02:06

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

And if you have any concerns whatsoever with the water that you're seeing, please call our Emergency Operations Center, and I'm going to read the phone numbers for you here at 808-449-1979 or same area code 448-3262, 448-2557, 448-2570 or 448-2583. So before we get to the questions, let's take a look at the map and see the progress that we've made.

00:02:07 - 00:02:50

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

The map here is posted on our water resources website, it's one click away and the sort of upper right quadrant of that when you bring up that page. And of course, this is also resident on our water data website so you can find it at either one of them. So let's talk first of all about our completed move-ins. We have completed move-ins in six zones that cover eight neighborhoods, Pearl City Peninsula, Ford Island, Halawa housing, McGrew Point, Camp Smith, this is Hale Moku and Hokulani and Red Hill neighborhood.

00:02:51 - 00:03:42

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Now we have an additional zone that has had the health advisory amended by the Hawaii Department of Health and that's one of the three zones for Aliamanu, as we've been talking about over the last couple of days, Army Garrison Hawaii is going to wait to execute the move-in for the Aliamanu neighborhood until the other zones are cleared.



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So with that, there are two other zones for Aliamanu, we call them H2 and H3, and they are at the Hawaii Department of Health as we speak. So we'll see when we get those back and when we get a decision on that. And once all three of them come in, that's when Army Garrison Hawaii intends to execute the move-in for the Aliamanu neighborhood.

00:03:43 - 00:04:10

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Now we have several other packages that are also at the Hawaii Department of Health. Those packages were endorsed by the Interagency Drinking Water Team that includes members of the Hawaii Department of Health as well as members of the Environmental Protection Agency on that team to come up with their recommendation on those packages pushing those packages to the Department of Health for their final independent decision on whether to change the health advisory.

00:04:11 - 00:04:31

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

So those other neighborhoods, Makalapa, and just yesterday, the area down here on the bottom portion of our map, we call it zone D4, sort of the Hickam beach area, so that zone was forwarded to the Hawaii Department of Health later yesterday and so that is also in the queue there.

00:04:32 - 00:05:09

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Also I just got a phone call about 15 minutes ago with our Interagency Drinking Water Team with some progress for a number of other zones. So what they told me was that the full endorsed packages from the Interagency Drinking Water Team for zones F1, D2 and A3, were forwarded this morning and accepted by the Hawaii Department of Health. So that means that the packages for Hawaii Department of Health for these neighborhoods are now at Hawaii Department of Health.

00:05:10 - 00:05:55

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

That's D2, is sort of one of those Hickam zones, and it includes Hale Nacoa, includes Officer Field, and Onizuka housing. F1 includes NEX, as well as a Moanalua Terrace housing. And finally A3 is that Kapilina beach homes area held in sort of the Ewa beach vicinity, sometimes we call it Iroquois Point. So those three zones A3, D2, F1, just delivered to the Hawaii Department of Health and our thanks to the Hawaii Department of Health, for their work in looking at all the information that we have, and all the work that's been done moving forward.



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[3/8/2022]

00:05:56 - 00:06:39

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Finally, the rest of the zones, all those packages are at the Interagency Drinking Water Team and that team is looking at sort of the final zones. And I'll say that they're prioritizing those zones that have the most neighborhoods and homes in those neighborhoods. So there's a few large neighborhoods within outstanding zones still at the Interagency Drinking Water Team and those are the ones that are getting the most attention with that team in order to try and expedite those packages as quickly as we can. So with that, that's our update. That's our map update for today.

00:06:40 - 00:07:34

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Okay, what I'd like to do now is go over some questions. So I think we have six questions from you that you've either emailed in to us or that we've picked up off of our Facebook pages in comments. And so the first question is from Amanda, and it's on the review process. So Amanda asks, she has an observation and a question concerning the steps that ultimately led to the Department of Health's modification of their advisory of the safety of water in neighborhoods. She comments that three zones with all data information were cleared in under 24 hours and the next four zones, she says we cleared shortly afterwards. After all this time does this show there's a rush to certify neighborhoods? And here's the answer that I was provided.

00:07:35 - 00:08:26

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

The Interagency Drinking Water Team, provided this answer, prioritizes the safety of those affected over speed to ensure safe drinking water. Each zone's data package and assessment contains a considerable amount of detailed information and the interagency review process for each zone's package is deliberate and thorough. These packages are informed by a zone's sampling plan, its recovery plan, its home flushing plan, the non-residential facility flushing plan, the Department of Health's guidance on amending the health advisory, and additionally Department of Health's checklists to amend the health advisory as well as all the lab results.

00:08:27 - 00:09:23

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

The Interagency Drinking Water Team established incident specific process requirements to cover all regulatory requirements, ensure public safety and then provide public transparency. The first several zone packages took considerable interagency coordination to ensure complete package integrity. Once the administrative requirements were agreed upon and understood, reviews of subsequent zone packages became more efficient. The final steps in the process are when the Department of



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Health accepts a thorough and complete package at which time they may amend that zone's Public Health Advisory when they determine the water is safe to drink, and then make that package a matter of the official and public record. Okay.

00:09:24 - 00:10:07

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

So the second question we have is from Alexia and the question is on using the water upon returning home. Alexia has a question about using the water in her home once she moves back in, she asks this question, "So we just turn on taps and have at it? No buildup or residue or fear from the pipes?" Question mark. Here's the answer. The process of returning safe water to your home had many steps and has many steps and one of the most important is the flushing of pipes and fixtures in your home's. Home flushing was done according to a plan developed by the Interagency Drinking Water Systems Team.

00:10:08 - 00:10:51

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

In developing this plan, the team carefully considered how to remove any contaminants or sediments that may have settled in the pipes without placing undue stress on fixtures or other plumbing in the residence. The plan used by flushing teams ensured that faucets were not left unattended, drains were not allowed to overflow, water heaters were drained by hoses running outside in most cases to the nearest sewage drain, fixtures were closely checked to ensure there were no leaks and any water spills cleaned up, anything unusual documented, and any windows or doors opened during flushing were closed afterwards.

00:10:52 - 00:12:04

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Once a zone has been amended by the Department of Health, families should refer to the run the taps graphic, it's this one right here, provided to them in their return to home packets for the steps they need to take to resume water use in their homes. This information is also available in the run the taps video which is found on that Joint Base Facebook site. Those steps include open all windows for ventilation before starting the flush, run all the taps for 15 minutes both hot and cold, run the washing machine for one full cycle without clothes, replace under sink reverse osmosis filters if you have them, the cost of which can be claimed, wash household items, appliances and plastic items like toys and plasticware with warm water and mild household detergent, discard ice for three cycles and wash the bin with mild soap and water. Again, please look at the run the taps graphic online that's this one right here which can help you with that.



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00:12:05 - 00:12:36

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Okay. Now the next question is from Kim. It's on the calibration of sampling kits. I assume this is for the quick sample kits, which we're utilizing today. Kim has asked about the calibration of water sampling kits prior to their use. She would like to know if the kits are tested with contaminated water to ensure that these quick tests actually work. Here's the answer.

00:12:37 - 00:14:06

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Every morning before any sample tests are run, the chemists run several calibration checks on the sight lab, that's the equipment, to ensure it's functioning properly. The calibration checks consist of a blank curvette filled with hexane and analyzed as a method blank. This is followed by analyzing a calibration check standards provided by the manufacturer. The concentration of the standard is at the midpoint of the instrument calibration for TPH-D and TPH-G. These are the chemical compounds that come from crude oil. TPH-D are compounds generally considered to be diesel and TPH-G are compounds generally considered to be gasoline. Once the blank in the midpoint standard have been verified for each analytical fraction, the instrument is ready for the analysis of samples that have been taken. Now after every 10th field sample a method blank in the midpoint calibration check are analyzed again. That method blank and midpoint standards are run to ensure that that site lab equipment is properly detecting TPH-D and TPH-G in accordance with the manufacturer's tolerances.

00:14:07 - 00:15:25

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Okay, so the next question comes from Denise it's on air testing in homes. Denise asks about air testing in homes. Why aren't we doing air sampling in these homes and not just water sampling? I keep asking this and no one can answer. I have the smell I have in my house that makes me cough every time water is used in the house. Although air sampling is not part of the flushing and sampling plan for residences, any resident with concerns about air quality in their home should contact your PPV property manager. Now if you have concerns about the quality of water in your home or water that may be giving off some sort of an odor you should call the Emergency Operations Center. As for air quality in general though, there are other self help actions you can take to improve your air quality in your home, such as replacing the air filter. However, you can always contact your property manager for new filters or other questions. However, if it's a water issue, I would ask you to call the Emergency Operations Center at the numbers we talked about earlier.



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[3/8/2022]

00:15:26 - 00:16:31

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Okay, next question is from Stephanie and the question is about mold. Stephanie would like to know if steps will be taken to mitigate the mold issue. Here's the answer. Families who have a concern about mold or suspected should report the issue to their housing property manager so that a work order for the issue can be initiated. As of today, there are no current work orders related to flushing that have been reported to housing management or to the Navy's Rapid Response Teams. Families can work to prevent the growth of mold by keeping humidity levels in their homes low, no higher than 50%, and be sure that the air in their homes flows freely. Families should also ensure no leaks within their roofs, walls and plumbing, so moisture cannot grow. But if there is an issue with mold out there, please call your property manager so that we can respond to that.

00:16:32 - 00:18:04

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Okay, next question is from Shea. Shea, asked a question about health concerns. The question is this. What is the Navy doing to ensure it understands the long term effects from exposure? How can affected personnel report their health concerns to the Navy? Good question. The Department of Defense has initiated an incident registry for all families that have been or may have been affected by the water contamination. The Navy is diligently assisting with keeping this registry updated and responding to the health concerns of our servicemembers, civilians and their dependents. If you are a resident or assigned personnel in housing on the Navy water distribution system, you will be automatically entered into the registry, and a QR code has been included in your resident Resource Guide to receive the latest information. If you temporarily lived in a house on the water distribution or feel you may be affected or are just unsure whether you're on that registry and want to ensure that you are, you're encouraged to self report by calling the following phone number to ensure that you're added to the DoD registry. That phone number is 1-800-984-8523.

00:18:05 - 00:19:12

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Okay, that's the last question that we have for today and that concludes our daily water update. Please join us tomorrow, same time. We're monitoring your questions, as you can see, we're answering those. You can send those questions in by adding them in the comment section of any of our Facebook posts and you can also email them to [CNRHPAO@gmail.com](mailto:CNRHPAO@gmail.com). Don't forget to check out our water info website at [navy.mil/jointbasewater](http://navy.mil/jointbasewater) and check out the latest water data at [JBPHH-safewaters.org](http://JBPHH-safewaters.org). And make sure to check out the good stuff at [greatlifeohawaii.com/wegotyou](http://greatlifeohawaii.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 tomorrow.