



## JOINT BASE WATER DAILY UPDATE

Joint Information Center

(808) 471-5013

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

[3/22/2022]

00:00:07 - 00:00:48

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Hello, everyone, and welcome to the daily water update for March the 22nd. I'm Capt. Darren Guenther, chief of staff for Navy Region Hawaii. Three months ago, on December the 21st, we presented our very first daily water update, it's become one of the means we use to communicate with you to pass the information of interest to you, and relay that latest information on the water in your homes. Today marks the 62nd time that we presented a daily water update. And over that time, we brought you the availability of resources.

00:00:49 - 00:01:47

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

We've talked about the flushing and sampling plans, we described the ability to get benefits to our military members, and also our civilian community members. And of course, we've talked about returning clean water to your homes. Now that the Department of Health has certified the water as safe to drink and safe for all uses in all of our zones and all of our neighborhoods on the Navy water system. We're still not finished and we're certainly not finished communicating to you. We are going to move our daily water update to a Tuesday Thursday format. And we'll still be passing important information and answering your questions that you present us on Facebook or through our Gmail account. So please continue to reach out to us.

00:01:48 - 00:02:10

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Today we're going to bring back Lt. Cmdr. Rick Forney, he's the officer in charge of the Rapid Response Teams. He's going to be back with us to talk about the work they've done, and also the way forward. Before we do that, though, let's go to our map update.

00:02:11 - 00:02:47

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

So this chart is posted on our two water pages. The first is our water resources page. That page also has all of the resource information for benefits of water availability, anything really that we can offer to our community and our residents out there, it's going to be on that water resources page. Additionally, this chart is posted on our data page. That data page is also where you can find all the test results that led the Hawaii Department of Health to make their determinations. Now, let's go over this map here.

00:02:48 - 00:03:29

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

In case you weren't with us yesterday, you can see that our map is all green, indicating that all of our neighborhoods, and all of our zones have been certified by the Hawaii Department of Health independently upon looking at all of the data and from all of the



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testing results, that water has been certified as safe to drink and safe for all uses. So our very first zone was Pearl City peninsula on the 23rd of February, and going to sort of our final zone and final neighborhood which was D3 or Earhart, which was certified on Friday. That was 18 March. So that is our map update all green.

00:03:30 - 00:04:14

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

All right, what I'd like to do now is bring in our lead officer in charge for our Rapid Response Team. You know, a lot of work has been done over the past month to certify all of these zones. And thanks again to our Interagency Drinking Water Team members and our interagency partners, who did so much work to certify these and the Environmental Protection Agency as well as the Hawaii Department of Health. And so Lt. Cmdr. Forney, Rick, thank you for coming back on really appreciate all the efforts that you've put in on this project to restore the water. So thank you for coming.

00:04:15 - 00:04:15

LT. CMDR. RICK FORNEY

Yes, sir. Thank you.

00:04:16 - 00:04:23

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

So it's been a while since you've been on though, but can you first talk about the Rapid Response Teams that all report to you? What exactly do they do?

00:04:24 - 00:04:50

LT. CMDR. RICK FORNEY

Yes, sir. So the Rapid Response Team is built of several different groups. One is the call center that receives the residents concerns, talks to the resident about what's going on in their home what they're seeing, if they're smelling anything, documents all of that, and then offers a site visit from my seabee teams, who will go to the resident's home at the resident's convenience and see what's going on, offer a flush and test that we have on island.

00:04:51 - 00:04:57

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Okay, so how many calls have you gotten and how many visits and tests have you done?

00:04:58 - 00:05:09

LT. CMDR. RICK FORNEY

So to date we have done 189 concerns we've received 189 concerns and 142 tests have resulted from those concerns and site visits.



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00:05:10 - 00:05:15

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Okay. And of the tests, the 142 tests, how many have identified a contaminant?

00:05:16 - 00:05:24

LT. CMDR. RICK FORNEY

So I have zero contaminants for total petroleum hydrocarbons is my test to test for total petroleum hydrocarbons for diesel and gasoline.

00:05:25 - 00:05:36

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Okay. Now tell us during a routine visit or during a visit, I guess none of them are routine, what can happen during that visit? How does it work?

00:05:37 - 00:06:03

LT. CMDR. RICK FORNEY

So the seabee team will show up and talk to the resident about their concerns, the reasons they called in to the call center, they want to go see what the resident is seeing and then offer a flush. So we flush out the hot water heater, we flush out all of the water in the house that can take about two hours if the resident requests that. Additionally, we can take samples for tests and the test samples take about two minutes to pull and then we'd bring those back to my lab.

00:06:04 - 00:06:11

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Okay, and restate what you just said that the tests are testing for that contaminant from the incident which is fuel?

00:06:12 - 00:06:18

LT. CMDR. RICK FORNEY

Yes, sir. Correct. Total petroleum hydrocarbons for diesel and gasoline is what my site lab machine tests for.

00:06:19 - 00:06:27

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Okay. And again, you've done 142 tests, and you've had no detect of that contaminant?

00:06:28 - 00:06:29

LT. CMDR. RICK FORNEY

Yes, sir.



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00:06:29 - 00:06:34

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Okay. Now what if after a visit resident is still not satisfied, what happens then?

00:06:35 - 00:06:58

LT. CMDR. RICK FORNEY

If they still have a concern with their water, if they still think they're seeing something there, please call the EOC, call the Emergency Operations Center and get back to the water cell and we can dispatch another team. If they're still not satisfied with the results that what I can do, what we do is before their information up to the Joint Base leadership, for engagement with that resident's chain of command to see what can be done for that resident.

00:06:59 - 00:07:20

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Okay. Now, let's shift to sort of looking forward, we're still, you know, we still have some or all of our residents are back in their homes. We're still receiving some calls from residents who are asking us to come out and help them through something which we're doing. But what is what is our shifting? Looking forward? What is our emphasis or what happens next?

00:07:21 - 00:07:51

LT. CMDR. RICK FORNEY

Yes, sir. As we shift to the steady state ops, what we are looking towards doing as the Engineering Working Group is working closely with the housing partners to identify the points of contact that the resident is going to be calling in if they see any other concerns. The big point I would like to make is that my testing capability is going to remain on island, the Rapid Response Team is going to be turning that testing capability over to NAVFAC. So they are going to maintain the ability to run those tests.

00:07:52 - 00:08:27

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Okay, so same sort of capabilities, same responses as we go forward. I know we're having some folks who will sort of rotate back to the mainland, including yourself. So thank you, you're going back home later this week to the mainland. So thank you for your service to our community and helping us through this, this incredible challenge. And I hope you feel some value in helping to return that water to our residents. And I appreciate all the work of that Rapid Response Team in responding to our residents. So thank you, Rick.



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00:08:28 - 00:08:31

LT. CMDR. RICK FORNEY

Thank you, sir. Okay.

00:08:32 - 00:09:30

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Okay, that was our daily water update for today. Please join us Thursday, Thursday, same time. We're monitoring your questions on Facebook and you can email those questions to us at our Gmail account that address is CNRHPAO@gmail.com. Don't forget to check out our water info website at navy.mil/jointbasewater and check out the latest water data at JBPHH-safewaters.org and make sure 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.