



JOINT BASE WATER UPDATE

Joint Information Center

(808) 471-5013

www.navy.mil/jointbasewater

[4/5/2022]

00:00:03 - 00:00:37

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Hello everyone, and welcome to the water update for April the fifth I'm Capt. Darren Guenther, chief of staff for Navy Region Hawaii. It's been about two weeks since the last of our communities returned home following the Hawaii Department of Health's certification of the water as safe to drink, and safe for all uses. We continue to monitor the quality of that water going to your homes and we've started to see the first results from our long term monitoring coming back in.

00:00:38 - 00:01:06

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Today, we'll have Captain Randy Harmeyer and he's the joint base public works officer and he's also taken over the lead of the Rapid Response Teams. He'll be here to talk about their work, and also how they can support our residents out there who may still have concerns. Before we go to Randy though, let's go to our map for an update there.

00:01:07 - 00:02:01

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

So our map is posted on our water websites, that's our water resources website, as well as our water data website. So you can see that it remains all green, all 19 zones continue to have their water certified as safe for all uses and safe to drink, most importantly, by the Hawaii Department of Health, as that covers 9,715 homes, and 24 neighborhoods in total across those 19 zones. So you'll recall, the first neighborhood that was certified was all the way back on 14 February. That was the Red Hill neighborhood that was followed closely by Pearl City peninsula, and then Ford Island.

00:02:02 - 00:02:58

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

And then we had sort of the rest of the areas across the installation and those supported by the joint base water system also went green, including McGrew Point, Halawa Housing, Camp Smith up here, Aliamanu all the zones and neighborhoods in the Aliamanu area over here to our Moanalua Terrace area. That includes our NEX that was probably one of our biggest water users. And then all of the homes in our F2 zone that was everything from Catlin Park, Malaoelap, Doris Miller, Halsey Terrace and Radford Terrace. And then over here, we had Makalapa. We had some of our more base areas, a sub base area, we had Hale Alii, Marine barracks, Hospital Point and our shipyard area.

00:02:59 - 00:03:37

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

The neighborhood's of Hale Moku, Hokulani and then our Hickam areas. We had our Hickam beach but also the neighborhoods Hale Na Koa, Onizuka Village, Officer Field.



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Big neighborhood out here Kapalina beach homes and what we sometimes call Iroquois Point and the final neighborhood that was cleared was Earhart, that was on 18 March so a little more than two and a half weeks ago. All zones remain in the green with their water and certified safe to drink and save for all uses by the Hawaii Department of Health. So there's your map update.

00:03:38 - 00:04:27

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Okay, what I'd like to do now is bring in Captain Randy Harmeyer. You know, over the last two and a half months really, we've had all 19 zones that had their health advisories amended by the Hawaii Department of Health and it's been two weeks since those zones all were declared water safe to drink. Since that time, our Rapid Response Teams have somewhat changed and undergone a transition. Some of the personnel that we had here helping us out from the mainland, returned to the mainland. And so we've taken over those duties and responsibilities here by some of our folks that live and work here in Hawaii. So like to bring on Captain Randy Harmeyer. Randy, welcome. Thanks for joining us.

00:04:28 - 00:04:29

CAPT RANDALL HARMEYER

Thank you, sir. Good to see you.

00:04:29 - 00:04:38

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

So Randy. You know, first of all, you're now the head of the Rapid Response Teams as the joint base public works officer. But can you talk a little about the transition that that Rapid Response Team is doing?

00:04:39 - 00:05:14

CAPT RANDALL HARMEYER

Sure, yes, sir. So we're very thankful to have the resources of the construction battalion maintenance unit for a good amount of time, they have to get on with their mission. So now, our public works department Seabees are the main part of our Rapid Response Team. We still have the EOC, the base EOC, that receives the call. And then our NAVFAC CDO, which is a 24/7 watch, we've always had, will take that call about a water concern and we have Seabees that will respond to the residents address and provide basically the same level of service that we used to provide.

00:05:15 - 00:05:21

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Okay, so let me ask you that question. In terms of level of service, has there been any change in the level of what we provide for residents?



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CAPT RANDALL HARMEYER

No, sir, from the residents perspective, it'll be pretty much the same experience. Thankfully, we've had a good procedure up to now. And so we've just basically copied that procedure. Two Seabees will arrive and will provide the same sort of information and testing capability.

00:05:40 - 00:05:44

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Okay, so what is, talk about what that assistance is that we're providing with our Rapid Response Teams?

00:05:45 - 00:06:37

CAPT RANDALL HARMEYER

So number one, what we can provide is information to the residents. So if there's any question about the status of the system, or resources to get information about the current water distribution system, we have that available and we can answer questions. We can also provide a test for the water in their home so we can take a sample, and then we can go to our own public works lab and provide a total petroleum hydrocarbon test result. And then provide that response within 24 hours to the resident in whatever manner they would like. So our CDO will arrange with the resident a good time to have our Seabees come to the home, we'll provide information, take some data from the resident about their concern, and then take that sample if warranted, and provide that result within 24 hours.

00:06:38 - 00:06:48

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Okay, now, how does a resident initiate this? I understand they're going to call if they have any concerns with their water, they're going to call the EOC and then exactly what's gonna happen?

00:06:49 - 00:07:44

CAPT RANDALL HARMEYER

Yes, sir. So EOC will transfer that call to the NAVFAC CDOs I mentioned. NAVFAC CDO, usually a junior officer could be a lieutenant or a first lieutenant in the Air Force, Navy Lieutenant, arrange a good time with the resident. So have that call, that initial response, and arrange a good time for the Seabees to arrive. We are working, generally working hours, but within 24 hours, we're able to get there and take that sample. And then again, answer any questions that they may have. Also look at the water, you know, it may be a concern unrelated with the quality of the water, there may be something going on with the water that, you know, our Seabees will then be able to kind of assess



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and then if we need to carry on different type of analysis, but then we take it back to the lab and we give them the results within a day.

00:07:45 - 00:07:51

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Okay, so how many calls have you gotten? And what is the results of those calls?

00:07:52 - 00:08:32

CAPT RANDALL HARMEYER

Yes, sir. So since the 14th of February, we've received 208 calls to the Rapid Response Team. We performed 114 flushes, but we've done 168 tests. So sometimes we do a test and a flush, sometimes just a flush, sometimes a test. Now what we'd like to do is, emphasize the testing that's really what we want to do when we go out. The initial reason to be there is to take a sample and then do a test on that water. Of all the calls and all the samples we've tested we've had no exceedances and no detects of any petroleum hydrocarbons with our equipment in our lab.

00:08:33 - 00:08:40

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Okay. Now, if a resident and after they've called and after they've gotten a visit, if they're still not satisfied, what should they do?

00:08:41 - 00:09:13

CAPT RANDALL HARMEYER

They should call again to the EOC. If there is an issue that we haven't resolved with the information in the test results, there may be something going on that we'll need to look a little bit deeper. And there's always potential that a pipe in the home or a pipe, you know, along the distribution system may have had a little issue and is causing some problem with the water that's coming into the home. And so we need to look into that. So if they call back, we'll get the again public works, we'll get the request for some additional investigation, and then we'll proceed on from there.

00:09:14 - 00:09:26

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Okay, so bottom line, call the EOC to initiate, you know, resolving that concern. And if there's still an issue, call us back at that EOC number and we'll get involved. Take a longer look.

00:09:27 - 00:09:28

CAPT RANDALL HARMEYER

Yes, sir.



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00:09:28 - 00:09:32

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Okay, Randy, thanks for coming. And I appreciate you taking on this responsibility to serve our community.

00:09:33 - 00:09:33

CAPT RANDALL HARMEYER

Yes sir.

00:09:33 - 00:10:34

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Thank you. Alright, that's our water update for today. Please join us, same time on Thursday of this week. We're monitoring your questions on Facebook and you can also email those questions to CNRHPAO@gmail.com. Don't forget to check out our water websites. The first one is our water resources website. That address is navy.mil/jointbasewater. And don't forget to check out the latest water data at JBPHH-safewaters.org. Also, take a look at the good stuff at greatlife.hawaii.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.