



## JOINT BASE WATER UPDATE

Joint Information Center

(808) 471-5013

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[4/19/2022]

00:00:11 - 00:02:05

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Hello, everyone, and welcome to the water update for April 19. I'm Captain Darren Guenther, Chief of Staff for Navy Region Hawaii. Since all our residents and neighbors have their water certified as safe to drink and safe for all uses by the whole aid Department of Health, that happened for the last of you on March the 18th, our focus is shifted to supporting you in several ways. First, we've been helping you through the processing and the filing of any claims that you have. And that was the subject of our discussion on this program last week. But we're also supporting you through our rapid response teams. And that's going to be the subject of our discussion today. Additionally, though, we're well into our first month of long-term monitoring and testing program of the water to your homes and residences. If you're on the Navy water system, the long-term monitoring and testing program is an integral part of ensuring your health and safety by ensuring that the water goes into your homes and facilities remains safe to drink. So, we'll be talking about that piece next week. But today, we're gonna have Capt. Randy Harmeyer on you might remember, he's the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Works officer. He's in charge of those rapid response teams. So, he'll be on to talk about the work they're doing to support you. But first, let's take a look at our map. And we'll give you an update on what we're seeing there.

00:02:06 - 00:05:14

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

So, this map is posted on our water page, that's really our two water pages. Our first is our water resources page. But also, our safe waters page, which is our water data page. So, here's the update our Navy water system, our neighborhoods and zones remain in the green signifying that the water is safe to drink and safe for all uses, as certified by the Hawaii Department of Health. That is across the 19 zones that we have sort of designed as isolations within our Navy water system, but also that's across 24 neighborhoods that many of you live in. And 9,715 homes and one of them which is mine. So, we remain green. But I do have an update on our long-term monitoring and testing program that I mentioned in our opening, we late last week, we completed the last samples off of what is Zone C2 and C3. That's our sort of shipyard zones. There, we took the last samples late last week, which wrapped up our month one long term monitoring and testing program. So that was 804 samples that were taken in month one across all of our neighborhoods that included 5% of all of the homes, as well as 5% of all of the facilities within our zones. It included all child development centers, and schools. Because when we do a round of drinking water tests, we test each and every child development center as well as school within those areas. So, each of those is going to get a test. During each round here, we have a handful of those results in back from the labs. When we take those samples, we send them off to the mainland, to labs which are certified by the Hawaii Department of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency. We have a handful of those results back when we get a result back. What we do is we share those results with the Hawaii Department of Health and then work to validate it within that team to ensure that everything's correct in it. And what we'll be doing then shortly is uploading those results to our safe waters website so that you can take a look at them yourselves. So, we are month one complete. We're starting to get handfuls of those results back and we look forward to having the full samples back. And we're gonna have



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that discussion next week here on this program, where we'll bring in one of the experts to talk about what they're seeing. That's your map update for today.

00:05:15 - 00:05:47

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Okay, what I'd like to do now is work. I'd like to bring in Captain Randy Harmeyer. So, he is the Joint Base Public, Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Works officer. And he's in charge of our rapid response teams. So our rapid response teams are the ones who have been basically on the call, anytime you have concerns with your water. So, I'd like to Randy, thanks for being here. I appreciate you coming back. It's nice to see you.

00:05:48 - 00:05:48

CAPT RANDALL HARMEYER

Good to see you as well, sir.

00:05:49 - 00:06:08

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

So, a lot of work and a really important mission that you have in your team, which we call the Rapid Response Team, in answering back to residents who have concerns with their water. So can you tell us, first of all talk about the role that the rapid response team serves in supporting our residents?

00:06:09 - 00:06:53

CAPT RANDALL HARMEYER

Sure, well, we respond that when called to go to a residence and talk to the resident. And so first of all, we provide them information and some avenue for them to ask questions about things that we have done in public works or ongoing efforts to keep the water safe and clean. We also will take information, we put it in our electronic data management system to ensure that if they have a concern, it's recorded in our kind of database. And then if requested, we will take a sample of the water at their home. And we can run a quick test not locally at the residence, but we take it back to our public works lab, run a quick test for total petroleum hydrocarbons.

00:06:54 - 00:07:08

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Okay, so overall, part of your role is to give, I think, residents' confidence in some of these things that you're doing. And in so what are the specific sort of services do you perform when you show up?

00:07:09 - 00:07:37

CAPT RANDALL HARMEYER

We can if needed, and if requested, we can also flush. Now, some residents I think they all know that each home was flushed, but some would like a reflush just to get that double assurance. So that's another service we can provide. And then if they have particular questions about things that may or may not be related to water we give and we give them that opportunity



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to tell us, you know, what they what they have concerns about and give them you know, other resources, depending on that concern.

00:07:38 - 00:07:43

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Okay. You mentioned a test? How are tests conducted?

00:07:44 - 00:08:24

CAPT RANDALL HARMEYER

So, very simply, so the rapid response team will arrive at the home with small containers. And I think I believe there's three, and we will take a small sample of the tap water essentially. And then take that back to our public works department, we have machines, basically, lab testing machines that run a quick a quick analysis for total petroleum hydrocarbons, which is the indicator of fuel contamination. And it doesn't take long to run, it takes a little time to kind of put it in the queue. And so, it's basically about a 24 hour response. Once we get that test result, then we provide the results to the resident.

00:08:25 - 00:08:29

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Okay. How many tests have you taken? And what were the results of those tests?

00:08:30 - 00:08:55

CAPT RANDALL HARMEYER

We've had up to date since the 14th of February 217 visits to homes per resident request. And I'm tracking about 175 tests, we've done some flushing as well. And then when we do a flush, we also do a test, but 175 tests, all of which have been what we say non detect, or definitely well below any kind of indication of any total petroleum hydrocarbons.

00:08:56 - 00:09:04

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Okay, so I wrote those numbers down. So, you've had about 217 visits. And that's for any concern that a resident has with their water.

00:09:05 - 00:09:06

CAPT RANDALL HARMEYER

Yes sir.

00:09:07 - 00:09:25

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

You're gonna show up and offer them whatever services they're interested in. And you've had, though, 175 of them asked for a test, which you've provided. And, again, when you say non detect, so you haven't detected anything in any of those 175 tests.

00:09:26 - 00:09:26

CAPT RANDALL HARMEYER



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That is correct.

00:09:27 - 00:09:38

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Okay. So, my final question is if residents still have concerns with their water, well, first of all, if a resident has a concern, they should call the rapid response team and how do they call that rapid response team?

00:09:39 - 00:10:29

CAPT RANDALL HARMEYER

Yes, sir. So, the EOC Emergency Operation Center and most residents have been made aware of the three or four numbers I think there are two call the EOC the base Emergency Operations Center and if it is a water concern, that EOC transfers that to our Public Works department Command Duty Officer then begins to implement the rapid response. If we've have paid a visit done a test, and they still have some concerns, and then there, there could be some legitimate concerns about other issues with the water not related to any kind of total petroleum hydrocarbons, they call back to the EOC. And then the EOC will do the same thing. Let our CDO know. And if there's another concern, we will be contacting that resident to figure out what's going on.

00:10:30 - 00:10:50

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

So, any concerns whatsoever, call the EOC. And if there are follow on concerns, call the EOC. That's really the one stop shopping set of numbers. There's a couple of them where they can reach your team and your team is happy to respond to address their concerns and walk them through any anything they'd like that team to go through.

00:10:50 - 00:10:51

CAPT RANDALL HARMEYER

That's true. That's how we do it.

00:10:52 - 00:12:30

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Okay Randy thanks. I appreciate it. It's really important service to our community. And I really appreciate my thanks to you and your teams that are that are serving, certainly out there. Thank you. Okay, that was our daily water update for today. Please come back on Thursday, and we'll see you same time. We're monitoring your questions on Facebook, and you can email those questions also to CRHPAO@gmail.com. Don't forget to check out the water info website that's navy.mil/joint base water and you can find the phone numbers that we talked about for the Emergency Operations Center there and for any other services that you need. Should be your one stop shopping there. Check out our latest water data at our safe waters website, that's JBPHH-safewaters.org. And make sure you 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.