



JOINT BASE WATER DAILY UPDATE

Joint Information Center

(808) 471-5013

www.navy.mil/jointbasewater

[2/22/2022]

Capt. Guenther 0:10

Hello everyone and welcome to the daily water update for February the 22nd. I'm Captain Darrin Gunther, Chief of Staff for Navy region, Hawaii, I hope you had a nice long weekend. As we get back to business and get closer to moving you back into your homes, we understand that you're going to have a lot of questions on how this is going to work moving forward. To help answer some of those questions and concerns when we get to that point, we've stood up a water rapid response team, we call it and so today we're going to have the lead for that team. His name is Lieutenant Commander Rick Forney on to talk about how that's going to work.

He's a professional engineer from Dahlgren, Virginia and he's with the Navy Civil Engineering Corps. He's actually the director of facilities engineering and acquisition development at the command in Dahlgren, Virginia. So we're going to have him on here in a minute to answer some questions on plans for that team and how they can serve you but before we do that, let's take a look at the map and where we're at today, and some progress that we've made. So this map is starting to change colors, as you can see, really over the last three days, since we were on, we've had a lot of coloration changes, and a lot of our neighborhoods are classified as striped-yellow. In fact, most of our neighborhoods are now in that zone and that's the, under the interagency drinking water team per view.

So that's the category that most of our neighborhoods are in, which is a good step forward. So just to review, This, incidentally is posted on our water data website, you can go there to take a look at it but we are through the move in for the Red Hill neighborhood. Thank you residents again for your patience in getting in there and again, if you have any ongoing concerns or questions about that move in or at the water, please make sure you contact the Task Force Ohana, folks who are standing by to help you. Now the next neighborhood, we're still awaiting the Department of Health's decision on clearance for Pearl City Peninsula. So that is the next step and the next neighborhood there. Following that we have a lot of neighborhoods, as I mentioned, that are under interagency drinking water team review, but the first packages or neighborhoods that I expect to be ready to go to the Department of Health which is the next step there. Hale Moku Hokulani and Ford island. Those are the next ones that should be passed to the Department of Health hopefully this week.

Following that we have a lot of new neighborhoods that are either being reviewed by that Interagency Drinking Water Team currently or in the stack on the desk next in line to be reviewed. So we have Camp Smith is in that situation Halawa McGrew Alia Manu neighborhood, we have the Doris Miller Radford terrace Halsey terrace area, as well as Moanaluna terrace and then NEX area. Earhart is getting ready for that review, as well as that mean area on Hickam Airfield, which includes Onizuka housing, Hale Na Koa, as well as Officer field and finally sub base no homes in that sub bass area, but a lot of facilities where people work.

So that so there's a lot going on. Right now, there's a lot under review of that Interagency Drinking Water Team. They worked through the weekend through this long weekend in order to



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start pushing those packages through and so looking forward to seeing how that works out here over this coming week into so that's our update. That's our map update for today.

Okay, what I'd like to do now, though, is bring in Lieutenant Commander, Rick Forney. He is a civil engineer with works on the east coast, but he has been tasked with standing up these Rapid Response Teams. So he's the officer in charge of our Rapid Response Teams and really, when you go back to your neighborhood and to your home, this Rapid Response Team is who is going to be essentially sorting to help you if you have questions or concerns. So hey, welcome. Thank you for coming. Thank you, sir. So tell us about the Rapid Response Teams and what they do.

LT. CMDR. FORNEY 5:05

So the Rapid Response Team is divided into four groups within the overall construct, we have the call center, which receives the calls from the residents. We have a dispatch center, we have field teams that will go to the residents house, and we have a testing, so.

CAPT. GUENTHER 5:18

Okay and really, so for someone who is moving back into their home, or has already moved into their home, or is looking forward to moving into their home but has questions or concerns, they're going to call and your Rapid Response Teams are going to be on tap. So if that resident has any issue, tell us what they should do and how they get in touch.

LT. CMDR. FORNEY 5:41

So if they have any concerns, they should call the EOC same numbers they've been using, call the EOC and discuss what they're seeing, the EOC will transfer them to the Rapid Response Team call center and we are when they pick up the phone at the Rapid Response Team call center, we're going to collect some basic data from the resident, what it is they're seeing their address contact information in case we get disconnected and what their questions are. So we're hoping to answer any questions that they have that we can answer over the phone and then if the resident wants a field team dispatched to their home, we will schedule that with them.

Capt. Guenther 6:18

Okay, so when you say EOC, of course, you mean the Emergency Operations Center. So that is a one stop shopping for our residents who have questions or concerns and that's how they're going to get in contact with the Rapid Response Team. So you mentioned the possibility of the team coming out to the to the home and so if flushing, say is required, during the site visit, because that's something that they may do, what can residents expect in that case?

LT. CMDR. FORNEY 6:45

So the flushing procedures, the same procedures for flushing we've used the whole time, they are going to run a cold water flush hot water flush drain the hot water heater, run the dishwasher, run the washing machine, basically take all the water that's in the house and get it out, pull the new water from the pipes back in and that process can take about two hours depending on the hot water heater in the makeup of the house.



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Capt. Guenther 7:08

Okay, but in the same way if that Rapid Response Team comes out, and that's what they need to do. That response team is going to perform all those actions on behalf of the resident.

LT. CMDR. FORNEY 7:17

Yes, sir. So the Rapid Response Team comes to the resident's house at the scheduled time ready to do the flush ready to take any samples that are required. So it's a one visit evolution.

Capt. Guenther 7:26

Okay and talk about the training that these teams have. So when when the Rapid Response Team, what kind of training they have they gotten and are these sort of experts coming out to the homes?

LT. CMDR. FORNEY 7:39

Yes, sir. So the Rapid Response Teams that that come to your house are the same ones that did the flushing initially. So they are really subject matter experts for flushing of homes and navy distribution systems. They also got training on how to take the samples from the homes, the testing cell, we're using AECOM chemists to test the water samples that come in the call center receive training on the environmental data systems that we're using to input all of the the data and risk communication training in order to ensure that everyone can communicate properly.

Capt. Guenther 8:14

Okay and how does the team decide if a home visit is necessary off a call.

LT. CMDR. FORNEY 8:19

So the call center isn't the one that's going to design the call center is going to ask the resident if they would like a home team, a team dispatched to their home. So it's really at the residents discretion that we're working. If the resident has a concern, and they feel comfortable after talking to the call center, then we feel comfortable that their their concerns have been resolved. If they want a team dispatched, we're going to dispatch to them.

Capt. Guenther 8:42

Okay. Is there anything that a resident should do before, during or after? You know, calling that team or having a team show up to their house? Is there any preparation they need to take?

LT. CMDR. FORNEY 8:54

So anything you can do to make the flush if required go faster, so empty the dishwasher, empty any tubs or sinks that you may have water in them expect to be present when we're doing the flush. So when the team shows up, we'd like to talk to the resident about what their concerns are, get the resident to show us you know, where did you see the concern and so we can see it ourselves as well and then to be present throughout the flush, which can take about two hours.

Capt. Guenther 9:23

Okay, if a test is required, how long, how long does that test take to turn around?



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LT. CMDR. FORNEY 9:29

Our goal is same day results for the test. It can take up to 24 hours depending upon the volume of requests we get.

Capt. Guenther 9:37

Okay, what is that test? What does it test for?

LT. CMDR. FORNEY 9:40

So I'm screening for total petroleum hydrocarbons. So we take a sample and we run it through an analyzer that gives a detect /non-detect result.

Capt. Guenther 9:51

Okay, and so it's not a drinking water test, but it is a test to analyze for that one possible contaminant. Yes sir, which is obviously that you know, the question that we have here with this incident? Can you tell us a little about, you know, how long have these teams been at it and what's the response so far? Because we have the response team has gone out to a number of residents in the various neighborhoods. Yes, sir.

LT. CMDR. FORNEY 10:15

So we went live on 14 February and to date, we've responded to 97 calls, 54 home visits, 48 flushes and 37 additional tests.

Capt. Guenther 10:31

Okay. And what do residents do if they're still not happy once the flushing team has been or this Rapid Response Team has been through,

LT. CMDR. FORNEY 10:41

If they're still not happy, what we do is we refer them to the Joint Base leadership to see what else we can do to support that resident in answering their concerns.

Capt. Guenther 10:51

Okay, but to date, Rapid Response Teams, they're all trained up and their, their job that you've given them is to one, see if there is an issue in the home and just as importantly, to make sure that that family is comfortable in that home and has confidence. Is that correct?

LT. CMDR. FORNEY 11:11

Yes, sir.

Capt. Guenther 11:11

Okay. Well Rick, I really appreciate it. Thanks for being on and thanks for your service to to our community out there.

LT. CMDR. FORNEY 11:19



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Thank you, sir.

Capt. Guenther 11:26

That was your daily water update for today. Please join us tomorrow, same time. We're monitoring your questions on Facebook and you can also email your questions to cnrhpa@gmail.com. Don't forget to check out the water info resources website at navy.mil/jointbasewater as well as the data page that water data page at jbphh-safewaters.org. You can see all the testing that's been done and all the data behind that testing. Make sure also 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.