



JOINT BASE WATER DAILY UPDATE

Joint Information Center

(808) 471-5013

www.navy.mil/jointbasewater

[1/12/2022]

00:00:02:24 - 00:01:14:23

CAPT GUENTHER

Hello, everyone, and welcome to the daily water update for January the twelfth. I'm Captain Darren Gunther, Chief of Staff for Navy Region, Hawaii. Yesterday, we spoke about the CDC survey to assess potential health impacts on our community. This survey is now open to anyone impacted, and we encourage you to visit this site to take that survey at: go.usa.gov/xtg8v. DOD affiliated personnel and your families are being also tracked through a separate DOD registry for the same purpose. We'll be joined in a few minutes by Commander Rob Uniskiewicz from Naval Hospital Bremerton. He was one of the many experts that put together a recently published Resident Resources guide. It contains helpful information for you as and that is going to be of interest as the water is certified safe for use in your homes.

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CAPT GUENTHER

Before we do that, though, I'd like to give a few policy notes and updates with respect to our home testing, our home flushing and water testing. Original letters that were sent to your homes informing you of system flushing indicated that you would receive those test results prior to your home flush. That process has changed, now the Inter-Agency Drinking Water Group will be reviewing preliminary test results, and that same prior to home flushing in that same interagency group will be sharing test results from both the system and home flushing after that group has performed its final exhaustive analysis prior to declaring your home and neighborhood water as safe for consumption. In short, those results will be shared, but they're going to be shared after both system and home testing results are in and you'll be shown those results together.

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CAPT GUENTHER

For those neighborhoods currently in home flushing, the Department of Health and Environmental Protection Agency has given out approval for us to move to that stage and has certified it as safe to conduct that flush of your home. One final note I want to reiterate on benefits that hotel benefits or in-home TLA benefits. Those will not stop until 48 hours after the water in your home is declared safe for consumption by the Department of Health. It is not tied to flushing. It is tied, those benefits are tied to the certification of your water as safe for consumption. OK, now before I bring on Commander Uniskiewicz, I'd like to give you an update on our flushing progress. This map, this chart is posted on our website on our Navy.Mil/Jointbasewater, so we have our final system flush occurring right now up in Aliamanu.

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CAPT GUENTHER

It was broken up into three zones; two of those zones are complete in the final sort of third at Aliamanu, which is going to complete here this afternoon for its system of flushing. They will then move on into the system sampling to send those samples off to the mainland labs for testing.



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CAPT GUENTHER

So that's the final system flush that's going on in the communities. For home flushing, our Red Hill neighborhood is complete with home flushing. They are 100% of 135 homes, as well as facilities there. For our Hickam neighborhoods of Hale Na Koa, Onizuka and Officer Field. We are almost complete there, we've done 1544 homes out of the 1577, so just a few more to go in a few of the facilities, although the CDC and school are complete in that neighborhood. For Ford Island, that flushing is going on today and we should get through most of that neighborhood today.

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CAPT GUENTHER

All right. Flushing coming up, so for Moanalua Terrace as well as our NEX area. We are still awaiting the final test results coming in from the lab. We expect them today and our interagency drinking water team made up of the Department of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency will be looking at those results tonight to give the preliminary approval to move to home flushing starting tomorrow. So, we anticipate that approval to move to that phase will come tonight. More information to follow there, OK. The rest of the neighborhoods are awaiting test results from either their home flushing in two neighborhoods, Pearl City Peninsula, Hokulani and Hale Moku, that's three neighborhoods. The rest are awaiting test results from the system flushing in order to move to the next phase, which is home and facilities flushing there. OK, that's your map update for today. All right. What I'd like to do now is bring Commander Rob Uniskiewicz on, he is a doctor out of Naval Hospital Bremerton.

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CAPT GUENTHER

Welcome, and I'm pleased to have you on to talk about a resource that a lot of work has gone into. This is our Oahu military response, water response, resident resources guide and wanted to ask a few questions on this. This document is posted and I think it is a wealth of information for folks who before they are moving back to their homes and looking at the water usage. And so, I want to ask some questions, first of all, who actually developed this guide?

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CMDR UNISKIEWICZ

Yes, sir. Well, first of all, thank you for having me back and hello to all the families out there watching. This resident resources guide was developed collaboratively with subject matter experts in various fields of medicine, public health toxicologists from all four services, as well as members key subject matter experts from the Interagency Working Group, which includes the EPA and Department of Health.



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CAPT GUENTHER

And all of them signed off on it?

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CMDR UNISKIEWICZ

This is endorsed by all parties, and if you look at the cover, they have the seals of all the major agencies that are involved in this response, and they have all endorsed the highest level. We also vetted this through legal channels and all the different services as well. And we've made a lot of collaborative effort at all those levels to ensure that we put out the best product that we can based upon the most recent information that we have available.

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CAPT GUENTHER

OK, got it but the smart scientists doctors have looked at this, which is, I think is the most important piece of that. Tell us about the major components of the guide what's in there?

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CMDR UNISKIEWICZ

So, what you'll see when you look at this guide is there's do's and don'ts, what you can and can't do with the water based on different stages of flushing that your home or your neighborhood might be in or once the fit for human consumption declaration has been made by the Department of Health. It also goes into how we recommend certain cleaning procedures for appliances in the home to include some plastics, which I know is a big question for a lot of families out there. There are there is based, in science, research that we've done with our experts and toxicologists and to come up with some strategies that people can have at their hands to go and know how to do that from a practical standpoint, to clean some of their things. There's also a frequently asked questions section that speaks to flushing as well as cleaning in general.

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CMDR UNISKIEWICZ

And then we also provide a number of resources in there for individuals to be able to reach out to ask further questions. And this document, while I say is based on the most current information, the best information that we have from the subject matter experts. We also understand, like everything in medicine, things change, things evolve. And so, it is a living document that can grow as we get more information and as the situation may or may not change.



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CAPT GUENTHER

OK. So, you kind of answered my next question, which is “how should residents use the guide?” I think it covers a lot of different things and also a lot of different phases that they might find themselves in throughout this sort of drinking water restoration. Is that right?

00:09:17:13 - 00:09:35:15

CMDR UNISKIEWICZ

Yes, sir If there's very specific questions about my coffee maker, for example, how do I clean my coffee maker? Can I clean my coffee maker? We outline that in there, we highlight certain products specifically, and we outline protocols that you can follow that's grounded in science to be able to clean the products that you have and then also, if you have questions beyond that, should you still have concerns about your products, where do you turn? Who do you call and who do you reach out to?

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CAPT GUENTHER

OK. So, you know, we've gotten a lot of questions on household appliances and plastics. And so let me ask the questions, you know, on the guidance there. You know who developed that, that guidance? You know what, if I... here is another question that we've gotten, what if I have a coffeemaker? What do you recommend? Other plastics? What do you recommend?

00:10:07:13 - 00:10:20:28

CMDR UNISKIEWICZ

Right. So, if... what a lot of people will see when they go out and research on their own is papers that speak about plastics as containers for pure petroleum products. Which is a very different scenario than what we're dealing with this situation and this response. We're dealing with very, very dilute amount of petroleum product in a water system, and there's not a lot of research out there on that, but what we could find and what we're able to gather from the scientific literature, from our toxicologists, from both the Department of Health as well as Navy and other services was how can we best use the information that we have to show that we can clean the products that we have? And that's where that step-by-step process, there's even a second level cleaning, mainly out of an abundance of caution if people felt like they really need to go the

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CMDR UNISKIEWICZ

Extra mile. They could do that. We don't want people to feel that because of the situation, because of some of the literature that's out there that they just automatically have to discard all of their products. That's just simply not the case in this in this particular instance, and we offer alternatives to that so that people can clean as they can.



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CAPT GUENTHER

OK. So, good information for people to make choices. You know, for your homes and for your families. You know, in our CDCs, we're starting new or replacing our plastics, but information for people to consider as they look at some of the other things out there, so.

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CMDR UNISKIEWICZ

Certainly, sir, this gives people options and this people gives them best guided recommendations from experts who have done the deep dive on what is what makes the most sense. From a health perspective for our families. And so, this gives them a rudimentary guide to help navigate through that and through their return back to safe drinking water.

00:11:47:06 - 00:11:49:15

CAPT GUENTHER

OK, OK, thank you for coming on.

00:11:50:05 - 00:11:50:17

CMDR UNISKIEWICZ

My pleasure.

00:11:56:10 - 00:12:19:28

CAPT GUENTHER

That was your daily water update for today. Please join us tomorrow, same time. We're monitoring your questions on Facebook and you can email those questions as well to CNRHPAO@Gmail.com. Don't forget to check out our water updates page where you can find that resources guide that we just talked about at Navy.mil/jointbasewater, 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.