



JOINT BASE WATER UPDATE

Joint Information Center

(808) 471-5013

www.navy.mil/jointbasewater

[4/21/2022]

00:00:05:01 - 00:01:05:23

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Hello everyone and welcome to the water update for April 21st. I'm Captain Darren Guenther, chief of staff for Navy Region Hawaii. Today marks four months to the day since we started these updates. Our very first one, the daily water update was on December the 21st. As we continue these updates, we want to ensure that you have your questions answered, those questions you've been putting to us on email or on social media. And we want to ensure that you have the latest information and resources available to you that you need. We have an extensive list of those resources available to you on our Water Resources website. That's Navy.mil/jointbasewater. Today we're going to answer some of your questions that you've sent us on email or on social media on a variety of topics.

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CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

But first, let's take a look at our map for an update there. You can see on the map to my left that all of our areas remain green. So, this map is updated on our water resource website, as well as our water data website, you can find it there. All areas are green signifying that the Hawaii Department of Health has certified the water in those areas as safe to drink and safe for all uses.

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CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

That includes the 19 zones that we had delineated out within the Navy water system, as well as 24 neighborhoods that you and I live in across that area. And that encompasses 9715 homes. So, all areas remain green and the water is safe for all uses So with that, let's move on and go back to our questions.

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CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

So, our first question comes from Meredith it's a medical question. Her question goes like this. She says, "Why don't you make a medical case study of us?" Here's the answer. Early in the response to this crisis, the Department of Defense set up an incident registry for all DOD personnel, including families that have been affected by contamination of the joint base water system. The Navy continues to assist in keeping this registry updated. And responding to the health concerns of our service members, civilians and their dependents. If you are a resident or assigned personnel and housing on the Navy water distribution system, there is no immediate action you need to take in order to get on that registry. You'll be automatically entered into it. That's the registry. And if you temporarily lived in a house on the water distribution system and feel you may have been missed on that registry or whatnot, you're encouraged to self-report by calling 1-800-984-8523 and you'll be added to that DoD registry.



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Okay. The next question is from Marg, and it's a question on claims. Marg asks, There has been a delay in reimbursement for claims. Can we get an update on that?

Absolutely. Good question. So, for civilians, and this is where we may have seen some of those delays, for civilians, we continue to process claims as quickly as possible.

As of close of business yesterday, we have disbursed 84% of all claims. The vast majority of them. If there are additional questions or you request a status update after 14 days after a submission, please reach out to our Reimbursement Support Center at 808-473-5729. That's Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. or via email at jbphh_evac_auth_fct@Navy.mil.

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CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Now for Navy Service Member Claims issues please first with check with your command CPPA. If you filed through that CPPA since they have access to the system to see if you have a payment pending and they may be able to rectify any issues or questions you have relatively quickly.

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CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

You may also call the Regional Support Center or RSC. That's formerly the Personal Support Detachment at Pearl Harbor TLA Hotline, which is for Navy members. 808-471-2314 or 808-471-2330. That's Monday through Friday. During normal business hours there. An email is also available from those Navy service members it's www._prlh_PSD-emergent-water-TLA@Navy.mil.

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CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Now for any Air Force service members please, if you notice a delay of payment, please contact your personnel or finance office. Additionally, Air Force personnel can email this email with questions. 15.cpts.fmf.2@us.af.mil through or discuss with your First Sergeant if it's been three pay periods without payment since the claim was made.

00:06:30:14 - 00:07:09:01

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Okay. The next question is from Sherry, and that question is on environmental action levels. Sherry asked, why is the EAL, that's an environmental action level, why is the 211 parts per billion for petroleum hydrocarbon? Good question. Here's the answer. After conducting a risk based analysis, the Hawai'i Department of Health determined that the total petroleum hydrocarbon and screening level should be a cumulative 211 parts per billion.



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This means the sum of all three total petroleum hydrocarbon ranges, that is diesel, oil and gas must be below 211 parts per billion. It's important to note that this level is more health protective than both the Department of Health and Environmental Protection Agency's normal screening levels, and that all zones in the Navy water system are being evaluated against this higher fidelity level Okay.

00:07:43:08 - 00:08:45:15

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Next question is from Jamie. It is on testing in homes. So, Jamie asks, why are we not testing 100% of homes? Here's the answer. The Interagency Drinking Water System team made up of the Hawaii Department of Health, the US Environmental Protection Agency, Navy and Army together developed a comprehensive scientific process for selecting homes for initial sampling within each flushing zone. This process considered multiple factors in its selection from how water flows and the connected water distribution system. The 10% sampling rate was determined to give a representative sample of the entire system. The 10% sample gives a 99% confidence level based on statistics. It is not 100% of the homes, but the 10% sampling is enough to give a representative sample the initial round of sample locations was geographically based.

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CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

We also chose locations that were determined would be most likely to have a positive result. But that's just the start of a long-term testing and monitoring process. Cumulatively, by the time the first two years of testing have concluded, as many as 60% of all structures will have been tested after that initial 10%. It then moves into a short-term monitoring system, which is between the first and third months after initial drinking water sampling So month one, month two and month three, the Navy will sample an additional 5% each month. This is in addition to the 10% sampling if possible. These are spaces not sampled in previous testing, and that gives a more robust picture of the entire zone long term monitoring and then follows that initial short-term monitoring. And it begins at the fourth month mark and extends from four months to 24 months after the initial drinking water sampling.

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CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

The Navy will sample another 10% of the homes in that long term monitoring in houses and buildings in each flushing zone every six months for two years. That's four more testing periods in two years. Again, the plan is to try and not sample spaces, the same spaces that were used in previous testing periods. However, as a reminder, 100% of



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our schools, child development centers and medical facilities will be tested in each round of this process.

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CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Okay. The next question is from Selena. It's on home sampling and testing. And the question is, are individual home tests sent to the mainland? I think Selena asked this on our last update. The rapid response team has the capability to test only for the presence of fuel related contaminants, and these tests are conducted on island with a quick turnaround. Testing for additional potential contaminants is being done. As that part of a long-term ongoing monitoring that's over next ten years, NAVFAC is going to be testing an additional 6000 samples from more than 60 different contaminants from approximately 55 to 60% of the homes and other facilities on the water system. Those tests are the ones that are sent to the mainland, to Department of Health and Environmental Protection Agency approved testing facilities. So, in short, the rapid response tests, which are testing high fidelity tests for the presence of fuel related contaminants, stay on island. The drinking water samples that are being taken as a part of the long-term monitoring and testing program. Those are all sent to Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Health Certified Labs on the mainland. Okay. Good question.

00:12:03:09 - 00:12:35:12

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Final question today is from Angela. And the question is on lead found in school sampling. Angela, the question is, can we talk about the lead that was recently found in schools? The answer to that is yes. But I'm going to table that question for Tuesday. On Tuesday, we're going to have Mr. Chris Waldron on the program, and we're going to talk about the long-term monitoring and testing and some of what they're seeing during that process.

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CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

You'll recall he's an environmental engineer with the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center. So, we'll ask him that question on Tuesday with that. That's our last question for today. And that concludes our water update for today. We'll see you on Tuesday. Same time, we're monitoring your questions on Facebook. And you can also email those questions to us on our CNRHpao@gmail.com email address account.



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And don't forget to check out our water info website that we talked about to get all the resources available to you. That at navy.mil/jointbasewater. Also, don't forget to check out our water data at our data website. That's JBPHH-SafeWaters.org and make sure to check out the good stuff at GreatLifeHawaii.com/wegotyou. Especially with a weekend coming up. 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.