



JOINT BASE WATER UPDATE

Joint Information Center

(808) 471-5013

www.navy.mil/jointbasewater

[5/26/2022]

00:00:04:00 - 00:00:38:02

Capt Darren Guenther

Hello everyone and welcome to the water update for May 26th. I'm Captain Darren Guenther, chief of staff for Navy Region Hawaii. Since the first days of our efforts during this water crisis, the Navy has been committed to serving the needs of those most affected. We've heard your questions in we've looked for various ways to answer them and get you the information that you needed during sometimes difficult times.

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Capt Darren Guenther

Initially, this took place during face to face meetings where we heard your correct your questions directly, and we also heard the emotion, the emotion in your voices. Many of you also reached out by email. In fact, we've worked through answering over 600 emails over the last five to six months. We also established our water resources page. That's our one stop shop for information on everything from housing to water quality to claims to medical issues.

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Capt Darren Guenther

And we used social media to post various updates for you that we thought were important or ones that you were looking for. We also began this water update periodically on Facebook to share the status of what was initially our system flushing and system testing, followed by our home to home flush and then test and then certification of your water.

00:01:51:09 - 00:02:25:09

Capt Darren Guenther

During those programs, we also brought you interviews with subject matter experts where I took your questions and I directed them to the expert themselves so they could hear from you and you could hear their answers directly. As our work to Restore the Water found success, we started to decrease the frequency of these updates. And today, we think we've come to a point where we can provide you information through other venues.

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Capt Darren Guenther

We started this Facebook program on December the 21st, and so just last week we



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passed our five month period of these regularly scheduled updates, first daily, then weekly, and then once a week. Over those 23 weeks since December we've done a total of 78 shows. So today will be our last live update show We'll continue to use other ways to communicate information to you to keep you up to speed, communicate the information that you want to hear, answer your questions and also communicate information that we think is new or you need to hear.

00:03:14:28 - 00:03:39:25

Capt Darren Guenther

Now if at any time during this upcoming period we feel a need to come back, you'll see me right back here in front of you live But today, we'd like to shift and start talking about where, again, you can find the information to answer your questions. And where we'll be posting some of that here in the near future.

00:03:40:20 - 00:04:31:09

Capt Darren Guenther

But first, let's go to our map for an update. There So our map looks similar. It has no updates to any of the colors. Our map which is posted on our Safe Waters website, is all green, signifying that all areas on the Navy water system, the Navy water distribution system, are clean, safe to drink and safe uses for use for all uses as certified by the Hawaii Department of Health, that includes 19 zones as we have depicted them, or broken up that Navy water distribution system that includes 24 neighborhoods that you and I are living in and almost 9715 homes.

00:04:31:18 - 00:05:05:27

Capt Darren Guenther

In addition to those homes all of the structures on the Naval and Air Force joint base are covered and covered under these green areas. And this offer to certification from the Hawaii Department of Health that the water is safe to drink safe for all uses. Recall where we started back in December as we started with these updates, we initially had our colorization scheme looking and broken out by our system flush.

00:05:05:27 - 00:05:31:03

Capt Darren Guenther

So we started out doing flushes of each of the systems in each of our various zones. Once we had all of the system zones flushed, we went to testing in each of the zones. We sent those tests off to our mainland labs that were certified by the Hawaii Department of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency. We then moved to get all those test



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results back.

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Capt Darren Guenther

Those test results are all hung on that Safe Waters website, and then we moved into the home to home flushing and our sort of coloration scheme changed to match the home to home flushing status. So we went zone by zone flushing in each and every home, in each and every structure or facility where we might work on the base and on the distribution system.

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Capt Darren Guenther

And then we moved into testing all of that, following all of the testing within the homes and within the facilities and structures. All those tests were sent to the mainland and those labs, once we got those results back we package those results up after and push them to the interagency drinking water teams, which gave their assessment. And then finally package them for the Hawaii Department of Health for those final evaluations and that final certification from the Hawaii Department of Health.

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Capt Darren Guenther

And then that's when we saw our areas really turn to a final green. So that first neighborhood, you might recall, was Red Hill, where that that health advisory was amended in early March. And to declare that safe, that water is safe to drink. And then the final advisory I'm sorry, that was in February, apologize, that first neighborhood in February and then the final neighborhood in March, that was Earhart Village.

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Capt Darren Guenther

Since then, our emphasis has been turn to long term monitoring and testing and so we have on our testing regime month to month, we have been testing 10% of all the homes and structures each month. We've completed month one following the certification, and those results are posted on that Safe Waters website. We are just finishing up month two.

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Capt Darren Guenther



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The final results are at our final tests and samples are at those mainland certified labs by an EPA. And we're actually into month three of testing during each of those rounds. All of our CDC is in all of our schools, both public and private on the Navy water distribution system are tested during each round. So that's been our focus as we've moved.

00:08:05:21 - 00:08:14:24

Capt Darren Guenther

That is your update. Our map is all green, signifying the water is certified by the Hawaii Department of Health. Safe to drink and safe for all users.

00:08:19:16 - 00:08:47:15

Capt Darren Guenther

OK. I'd like to do now is move on to talk about sort of a resources recap and talk about the various places where you can find information going forward. And, you know, the first one I'd like to talk about is our water update page. So Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam has a water update page. They continue to post the latest and greatest updates there.

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Capt Darren Guenther

And that's going to include sort of a comprehensive wide range of topics, everything from filing claims tells you how to report any water problems. We're going to talk about that here in a sec. How to address medical concerns, information on flushing and sampling plans that were designed to ensure the safety of your water. And also links to other websites that you might find of interest.

00:09:16:09 - 00:09:46:14

Capt Darren Guenther

So that Web page for the water resources page is at Navy.mil/jointbasewater. Now, the second important page that has a lot of information is our Safe Waters page. That's the data page that includes our map of our areas. You've seen me reference so many times during the earlier updates, but there's a lot more information with that page.

00:09:47:15 - 00:10:21:12

Capt Darren Guenther

But the historical and current test data is all hung on that Web page, and you can go to that map click on the zone that you're interested in, and it will bring up a separate page with links to all of the water tests that have been done all the way from system tests to



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home to home tests to include the long term monitoring tests that are being done They're all on that page, hundreds and hundreds of pages of documents for each zone, if you're interested.

00:10:22:00 - 00:10:49:08

Capt Darren Guenther

And if a lot of data is too much for you. There's also a summary page. Well, it's a summary document, which is probably ten to 12 pages on each of those zones, which talks about that round of testing. So a summary document for the the system test, summary document for the home tests. And then there will also be summary document for those following long term monitoring tests.

00:10:50:11 - 00:11:22:10

Capt Darren Guenther

So that website address is a JBPHH-safewaters.org, and that will continue to be updated there. Over the past months, we've also relied a lot on social media as a means to keep you informed. And, and this water update was one of those. But I want to ensure that you and you know that we're going to continue to post information on that Facebook page.

00:11:22:25 - 00:11:48:18

Capt Darren Guenther

And in addition, since we've been sort of on a Tuesday, Thursday at noon sort of sequence or cycle with our water updates, we're going to be posting something every Tuesday and Thursday at noon to fulfill that need. So you can look for something in each of those days. It may not be me, but it will be information that may be of interest to you regarding the water.

00:11:49:22 - 00:12:14:03

Capt Darren Guenther

And if you've watched these updates, you hear me refer to e-mail quite a bit. In fact, that's where we get a good number of questions along with your comments on social media. And so email will continue to be live and available for your questions so you can push your questions to that email. We'll answer them on that email or find a way to get them to you.

00:12:14:03 - 00:12:48:23

Capt Darren Guenther



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That email address is CNRHPAO@gmail.com, and we'll work to provide responses to you on that email address. Now, here's one that I want to I want to make sure everyone understands If anyone has medical concerns, we want you to reach out and contact your primary care physician, and especially if you're DOD We really want to hear about any concerns you have.

00:12:49:25 - 00:13:17:20

Capt Darren Guenther

There is, of course, the DOD appointment line. But the one, frankly, I like a lot is the TRICARE nurse advice line. You can get someone a little quicker there and maybe get to your your an appointment and actually talk to someone a little quicker. So I'm a fan of that one. Of course, if you're experiencing a medical emergency, please go to Tripler Army Medical Emergency Room or call 911.

00:13:18:00 - 00:13:47:03

Capt Darren Guenther

But please continue to visit your primary care physicians. If you visit a DOD physician, that information, not necessarily your name or your private information, but that information does help us determine if there are any concerns or issues and helps us to track those. And finally, another number that I really, really would like to emphasize is our Joint Base Operations Center call center number.

00:13:48:15 - 00:14:22:12

Capt Darren Guenther

We haven't gotten that many calls from our residents recently with concerns on their water, but I want to emphasize that that number is still available for anyone that has any concerns with their water. We want to hear from you. When we get a phone call and a water concern we are going to send our rapid response team or offer them and try to schedule an appointment with you at your convenience to come to your home, take a look at your water test your water and answer any questions that you have.

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Capt Darren Guenther

So I want to first on their phone numbers. Once again, they're 884483 to 62 or 4482557 or 4482570 or 4482583. You can also email that team at J.B. p. H. H. Dash Water Dash Response at Navy Dot Mil But I want to emphasize, if you're having concerns with the water, just please pick up your phone and call our emergency operations center.



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00:15:05:16 - 00:15:30:09

Capt Darren Guenther

And those teams will work with you to find a time convenient to come and take a look at your water. We haven't gotten very many phone calls there. If you're having a concern, though, we want to work with you, okay? Those are the various resources that are still going to be live and that we're still going to be monitoring every day and pushing information to you.

00:15:31:01 - 00:15:56:20

Capt Darren Guenther

One of the things I do want to work I want to move on to is some of the questions that you've had to answer those questions. So first question that we have is from Lindsey, and it's a question on B, C, E testing during the long term monitoring. So Lindsey's question is, why aren't we testing for B, C, e anymore?

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Capt Darren Guenther

Here's the information that our engineering team provided. The Interagency Drinking Water Systems team that includes Navy, Army, EPA, and the stated state of Hawaii. Department of Health thoroughly reviewed the data for BIS to chloral after ether, which is B, C, from the emergency response phase and concluded that it was not necessary to sample for BCE during the LTM or long term monitoring phase.

00:16:26:26 - 00:17:09:09

Capt Darren Guenther

Because of several reasons. One, it was not detected in any of the drinking water samples collected from the 19 zones during the emergency response Phase two. It is highly unlikely it would be present at Red Hill because it is typically used in the manufacturing of pesticides or and as a solvent for fat waxes, greases or esters. And three, it could not be naturally formed in a distribution water system because of a reaction with other elements like petroleum or chlorine So that's the answer from our engineering team.

00:17:11:10 - 00:17:55:15

Capt Darren Guenther

We have a question from Mandy on 100% testing. Mandy asks, Why are we not testing 100% of the homes Here's the answer The Interagency Drinking Water System team made up of the Hawaii Department of Health, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,



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Navy and Army, 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 Navy water distribution system that 10% sampling rate was determined to give a representative sample.

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Capt Darren Guenther

The 10% sample gives a 99% confidence level based on statistics. It's 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 or chosen. We also chose locations that were determined it would be the most likely to have a positive result should it contaminant be present.

00:18:25:24 - 00:19:02:24

Capt Darren Guenther

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 55 to 60% of all structures will have been tested after that initial 10%. The long term monitoring regime looks like this short term monitoring is for the first three months between the first and third months after initial drinking water sampling the Navy will sample an additional 5%.

00:19:03:16 - 00:19:33:24

Capt Darren Guenther

This is in addition to the initial 10% sampling. If possible. These are spaces not sampled in the previous testing and that gives us a more robust picture of the entire zone. So that's for the first and third months. An additional 5%. I may have misspoken earlier. 5%. And that's in addition to the initial 10% sampling for long term monitoring.

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Capt Darren Guenther

Now, beginning at the four month mark and extending four to 24 months after initial sampling, the Navy will sample another 10% of the houses and buildings in each flushing zone every six months for two years. That's four more testing periods and two years. And again, the plan is to try not to sample the same spaces from previous testing periods.

00:19:58:06 - 00:20:35:04

Capt Darren Guenther



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So that we can cover more of your homes and facilities. As a reminder, 100% of our schools, child development centers and medical facilities will be tested throughout the process in during each round of testing OK, Lynne has the next question. Her question is on the presence of lead in long term monitoring test results. So Lynne asks, how is lead ending up in the testing results?

00:20:35:09 - 00:21:07:10

Capt Darren Guenther

Very good question. Every sample the Navy takes, as required by the long term monitoring plan, includes testing for levels of lead, along with a lot of any number of other things. Please keep in mind that as part of the two year long term monitoring program, approximately 55 to 60%, as we mentioned, of the residents and facilities overall will be sample and includes sampling schools, CDC, medical and dental facilities during each of their sampling rounds.

00:21:08:12 - 00:21:42:10

Capt Darren Guenther

Each sample taken from these locations includes analysis for all Safe Drinking Water Act constituents which includes land and additional metals. In addition, all samples include the incident specific parameter sampling constituents required by the Hawaii Department of Health. The Navy continues to monitor the source water and water within the distribution system. And the results have consistently shown the water in the system is at safe and compliant levels.

00:21:43:05 - 00:22:13:19

Capt Darren Guenther

This indicates that the small numbers of vaccines as we've seen during the monitoring program, are likely caused by plumbing premise issues and fixtures within the facilities and not related to the quality of the source water. The Navy, in cooperation with the Department of Health, is confident that this long term monitoring plan is addressing the potential concerns with lead levels in other constituents within the Joint Base.

00:22:13:19 - 00:22:55:16

Capt Darren Guenther

Pearl Harbor-Hickam water distribution system, OK, next question is on testing. Jennifer asks the question Is the Navy only testing for fuel now? The rapid response, here's the answer. The rapid response team has the capability to test only for the presence of fuel related contaminants so that rapid response team is only testing for fuel constituents.



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However, testing for additional potential contaminants is being done as part of the ongoing long term monitoring that we've talked about in the previous several questions.

00:22:56:00 - 00:23:33:11

Capt Darren Guenther

And over the next two years, in fact, we'll be testing approximately 6000 different samples across our system for more than six different contaminants. And from approximately 55 to 60% of the residents and other facilities on the system OK, here's another question from Wesley Clark. Wesley asks, Why isn't the Navy still distributing water? Water distribution was stopped after the Hawaii Department of Health amended its advisory on March 18 for each of the 19 zones.

00:23:35:06 - 00:24:11:23

Capt Darren Guenther

If you have water concerns in your residence please call the EOC. Excuse me at the number I specified earlier OK that was your water update for today we're going to continue to address and monitor your questions on social media as well as email. Don't forget to check out our websites and our Water Resources page as well as our data page.

00:24:12:27 - 00:24:29:03

Capt Darren Guenther

Make sure to check out the Good Stuff at Great Life Hawaii and please remember we're all in this together as one community and ohana, so stay safe. Take care of yourself take care of each other and we will see you next time.