



JOINT BASE WATER DAILY UPDATE

Joint Information Center

(808) 471-5013

www.navy.mil/jointbasewater

[1/24/2022]

00:00:10:00 - 00:03:25:16

CAPT GUENTHER

Hello everyone, and welcome to the Daily Water Update for January the 24th. I'm Capt. Darren Guenther, Chief of Staff for Navy Region, Hawaii. Welcome back from the weekend. I'd like to express my gratitude to our flushing teams and our water distribution teams for their efforts over this weekend in particular. Their hard work continues to move our recovery forward. Also, over the weekend, we saw the release of the results from our drinking water distribution system tests for the Pearl City Peninsula neighborhood. There's a lot of information now up on that website for us, and we've asked Mr. Chris Waldron, who's a member of the interagency drinking water team, to join us to assist in interpreting those results. But first, I'd like to go to the map and give you an update of our progress over the weekend. So, our updated chart is posted on our drinking water website, that's navy.mil/jointbasewater. A lot of progress I'll start right over here in Halsey, Catlin, Radford, Moanalua Terrace, Maloelap neighborhoods. So, our home flushing teams got through all 1,435 homes over the last two to three days, and we still have a few facilities to go, but the two CDCs and schools in that neighborhood are also complete. Also, over the weekend, we were able to finish most of Earhart, so we're complete with all 912 homes. And we got pretty far along on flushing the various facilities there. We're done with 99 of 105 of those facilities, and notably we've completed all ten CDC schools. That includes the public and private schools in that area, with facility flushing. Over to sort of the main base of Hickam, we were working late last week on finalizing and finishing all of the system flushing. Excuse me, the facility flushes in the buildings outside of the homes. We'd completed the homes and we were able to complete the rest of those facilities in that area. We got a good start on our Hale Alii, Hospital Point, Marine Barracks and Shipyard neighborhoods, all of the homes there are 38 homes there are complete and we're working through the facilities. We have 101 of 126 facilities complete in sort of the lower half of that area in the shipyard area. That's where we're putting our emphasis on flushing those facilities there. We're through about eleven of the 137, so a lot of shipyard facilities over there that we'll be working through over the next couple of days and then Ford Island is complete. We were done with all the homes over there for home flushing, and we were just working on some of the facilities. So, we are complete with all of the facilities flushes on Ford Island now. So, today we got some starts for resident and facility flushing in two areas. Aliamanu, who has gotten started on their home flushing up there and also our Sub Base area also started facility flushing today.

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CAPT GUENTHER

And now Sub Base doesn't have any homes but does have a number of facilities where people work and visit. So, we're flushing those today, and then tomorrow we have some starts in three neighborhoods in particular. We have Makalapa getting started tomorrow, the 25th, and that should be a one-day flush. We have McGrew Point Housing starting tomorrow, the 25th that'll be a one-day flush and Halawa housing starting tomorrow, the 25th, for a one-day flush as well. The rest of the neighborhoods are awaiting either our drinking water distribution system test results



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or the facility home drinking water testing results and they're captured there as well. So that's your map update for today. I'd like to point out one letter that was sent out on the weekend to three neighborhoods and you also should have gotten a knock on your door that said to the residents of Makalapa, residents of Halawa, and residents of McGrew Point. So that announced the one-day home flushing for the 25th. That letter went out over the weekend. So now what I'd like to do is bring in Mr. Chris Waldron. He is a part of our drinking interagency drinking water team. He is with Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Office, and like to thank you for coming on.

00:05:15:00 - 00:05:16:00

MR. CHRIS WALDRON

Great. It's nice to be here today.

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CAPT GUENTHER

I'd like to ask you about some of the distribution system drinking water test results that were posted yesterday and what they mean. So, the first question I have is, does this mean I can drink my water if I'm in the Pearl City Peninsula?

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MR. CHRIS WALDRON

Yeah, at this time, it's still the answer is no. The State of Hawaii Department of Health's public health advisory is still in effect for the Pearl City Peninsula area. DOH recommends that the users not use the water for drinking, for oral hygiene or for cooking. Also, not for pets. And if you see sheen or smell an odor that you don't use it for laundry purposes and other purposes as well. The key message is that no, it has not been amended yet. We're still working through our process that we set up

00:06:07:03 - 00:06:18:23

CAPT GUENTHER

OK, and we'll talk about that process here in a minute, and what's the way forward. But what is the purpose of this stage two sampling report results?

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MR. CHRIS WALDRON

So, the purpose of the stage two report is to share the results that we have now. And so, it's essentially a progress report. We want to communicate to the Pearl City Peninsula community, the users there, the results of the distribution system flushing, which is part of the interagency drinking water system team process. So, I think we've talked on previous Facebook lives about flushing and testing and then going to building house flushing and testing, and so this is that first checkpoint where we've done the system flushing. We've collected samples. Those have been



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tested, and we've got the results. We've evaluated those results, and that's what's documented in that report. So, the idea of showing our work being transparent about the data that we've got and how we're moving forward to make decisions.

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CAPT GUENTHER

OK? Can you talk about what was found in the report?

00:07:11:04 - 00:07:44:04

MR. CHRIS WALDRON

So, in the report, the report we tested for a lot of different chemicals. The report found that all of the results came back and met EPA and DOH standards, which is what we expected, which is great news. We confirmed that. So, the water came back, has met all of EPA and DOH standards, and then from that the recommendation from the interagency team was to go to the next step in the process, which has already been done, but which is the flushing, building flushing, home flushing process.

00:07:44:17 - 00:08:03:27

CAPT GUENTHER

OK. And I know what's posted on the website is that there's a more simplified table with those results. And there's also, I think the expanded entire report with everything on it. Is there additional information on that website to assist in getting more help with understanding the table in that lab report?

00:08:03:28 - 00:09:16:25

MR. CHRIS WALDRON

Yeah, yes, there is, and you're exactly right. So, what we tried to do is to take the information in the lab reports, because the lab reports are hundreds and hundreds of pages of information and where we've published that information for transparency purposes, but it's difficult to get through that. So, we put together a summary report which has a summary table that really gives a high-level big picture. Here's what the results are that are in all of those pages. So, if somebody is really interested, they can dig into the lab report if they're not dealt. If that's not the way they want to go, and they just want to look at the summary table. They can do that as well. We're trying to kind of help people get through it. And then in addition to that, on the Joint Base website, we also have a fact sheet, which is how to read the table, the summary table. And so, there are step-by-step instructions for folks to be able to look at the information on the table, the table's color coded in it says in green whether it meets criteria or not, and everything on it is green, so it's easy from that standpoint, but you get more information by looking at the fact sheet. You can also call the EOC if there's questions. So, or through Facebook or other outlets so that if people have other questions, they have follow-on actions they can take as well.



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00:09:17:12 - 00:09:20:19

CAPT GUENTHER

OK. Talk about what happens next.

00:09:20:19 - 00:10:11:02

MR. CHRIS WALDRON

Well, so within the interagency drinking water system process, you know, our next step is building and resident or home flushing. Now that's already been completed for the Pearl City Peninsula area, and, but what we have then is collected samples. So again, I think as I said before, we have a stepwise process where we flush and then test evaluate the results before we move to the next step. And that's what the team EPA, DOH, Army, Navy, we work through that together and develop that plan together. So, for the Pearl City Peninsula area, we're waiting on actual test results from the buildings and residences. And when those come in, we'll evaluate those as a team, as a group, and then we'll make a recommendation to the Department of Health regarding the health advisory.

00:10:11:27 - 00:10:17:07

CAPT GUENTHER

OK, and then final question, who ultimately makes the decision on certifying that water is safe to drink?

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MR. CHRIS WALDRON

Yeah, that's a good question. And so, within the interagency drinking water team, we make a recommendation in the end to the Department of Health. So, EPA, DOH, even though they're on the team, Army and Navy, we pull together all the information collectively and then we make a recommendation to DOH. But ultimately DOH, it's their legal authority to make that determination. And so, they will make the determination as to whether or not the health advisory can be amended, and they'll do that by what we call flushing zone. So, this would be for Pearl City Peninsula. So, they'll make that determination.

00:10:56:27 - 00:10:58:27

CAPT GUENTHER

OK, Chris, thank you for coming to appreciate it.

00:10:58:27 - 00:11:00:27

MR. CHRIS WALDRON

Thank you. Glad to be here.



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00:11:05:27 - 00:11:46:01

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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 those questions to cnrhpa@gmail.com. Don't forget our water info website where the results that we just talked about are posted. That's at navy.mil/jointbasewater 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.