



JOINT BASE WATER DAILY UPDATE

Joint Information Center

(808) 471-5013

www.navy.mil/jointbasewater

[1/26/2022]

00:00:24:20 - 00:01:48:04

Captain Guenther

Hello, everyone, and welcome to the Daily Water Update for January 26th. I'm Captain Darren Guenther, Chief of Staff for Navy Region, Hawaii. Today, we're going to answer questions that we've received from you. They're primarily related to flushing testing benefits. Really, anything that you've asked? We want to provide you with as much information as possible. Before we do that, though, I'd like to go to the map to show you our updates in progress there. This chart is posted on our water website that's Navy.mil/ joint base water. And the first thing I want to point out, we talked about yesterday, our chart has turned completely to blue, really with different shades of blue, and that indicates that we are complete with our drinking water distribution system flushing and testing in the interagency drinking water team has approved all of our neighborhoods to move into the next phase, which is home and facility flushing. Many of the neighborhoods have already completed that, and the rest of them are either awaiting that or in the midst of that. So first neighborhood here that is in the Flushing Home Flushing phase right now is Aliamanu.

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Captain Guenther

They started that over the last couple of days and they're going to continue that today going forward. Additionally, we have some neighborhoods going through their facilities flushes. In other words, neighborhoods that are complete with the homes in those areas but have moved on to the other facilities in the vicinity. So those areas in particular, we have our Hickam beach area down here. Our Shipyard area up here in our Sub Base area there. They're also completing their facility, flushes lots of sort of working facilities in those areas they're completing now.

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Captain Guenther

Yesterday, we completed one day flushes in several neighborhoods. Makalapa, McGrew point in Halawa housing about 320 homes across those three neighborhoods, and those were all completed yesterday in one day. And finally, last night we had a town hall for the residents in the Kapilina Beach Homes area or Iroquois Point, where we talked about the upcoming home flushing, and our team is still developing the timeline for that. We're looking at next week for that home flushing and more information we'll be following later this week when we come up with those dates that we can give you those timelines for your planning.

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Captain Guenther

If you are in the Kapilina Beach Homes area, OK, that is our map update for today. All right, now, what I'd like to do is go to some questions that you have sent in over the last several days and we've grouped a few of the questions together and they sort of run various across the different questions that you've been asking from about benefits to flushing to testing. And so



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we'll get started. First question is on flushing environmental impact. It's from Elena, and Elena is asking where is the contaminated water going? And the answer is the Interagency Drinking Water Team, which includes the Hawaii Department of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency, approved a drinking water distribution system recovery plan that's guiding the efforts to flush and restore the drinking water. And that plan also includes where that water is discharged to. As a part of that plan, the Navy is filtering pollutants from the water used for the system, flushing with granulated activated carbon units.

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Captain Guenther

Those are the big GAC units that you've seen in many of your neighborhoods. The purpose of those GAC's is to filter out contaminants from the water to ensure the water is safe for discharging into the storm drains or onto a field, for instance, or anywhere else. The Navy has obtained a discharge permit from the Department of Health for that purpose, and that permit establishes the requirements for discharge sampling and testing so that discharge water after it goes through one of the GAC is sampled and tested to ensure that that GAC is working properly and removing all of the pollutants from the water. All water being discharged has been filtered and is authorized for disposition using those methods by the Department of Health. Second question is on flushing environmental impact, as well as from Megan. The question is how do the GACs help if you are just flushing right into the storm drains from homes?

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Captain Guenther

So the granulated activated carbon filtration system plays an important role in our work to restore that drinking water, but it's not used as part of the in-home flushing. It's used as part of the system distribution line. Flushing GAC's are specifically for that purpose for the home flushing well. First of all, the GAC treatment is a proven technology used to remove those organic chemicals from the water. And as water is filtered through the distribution system in into the GAC's, that GAC material absorbs those chemicals. And the end result is that the water being discharged to the storm drains is clean and poses no threat to the environment. That's for the system distribution lines flushing. Now, for the water used for internal home and building flushing, it doesn't go through the GAC's but it doesn't go in the storm water system. It goes into the sanitary sewer system, which flows into a wastewater treatment plant.

00:06:33:21 - 00:07:15:29

Captain Guenther

And that's where in that wastewater treatment plant. Any contaminants are filtered out of that water before that water is disposed. Those methods for both have been approved in the discharge permit that's been issued by the Hawaii Department of Health. OK, next question is from Erika. It's a flushing and test and test results question, will each house be tested? The inner agency



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drinking water team has established a phase and representative sampling plan to ensure drinking water meets all EPA and Hawaii Department of Health Standards.

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Captain Guenther

The process for testing that water following the system and residential flushes is outlined in the Drinking Water Sampling Plan, which is posted on our website. That plan was developed and approved by the Interagency Drinking Water Systems team, which includes DOE and EPA, to ensure the distribution system in the residences will have drinking water that's fit for human consumption in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. And in most cases, the EPA recommends in a situation like this that approximately 5% of homes are sampled in this situation. Homes and residences 10% of those homes and residences will be sampled as a representative sample across the geography of the water lines. Plus, 100% of schools will be sampled, 100% of child development centers will be sampled, and 100% of any medical facilities on the navy water system will be sampled. In addition, the Navy will conduct long. Her monitoring of residences for 24 months with expanded testing, sampling and testing, and that additional sampling will cover approximately 60% of all residences over the monitoring period. All right, next question is also on flushing and test results. This one comes from Ivana. Why is Pearl City Peninsula taking so long to get results back? It's been several weeks at this point. Over the weekend, the Interagency Drinking Water Team announced that they've updated their processes for releasing test results for the drinking water system. This new process will ensure greater speed and transparency and provide a clear, understandable information for you. Under this change, the agency released the validated distribution system, a flushing data for the Pearl City peninsula on Sunday. This is a change from earlier plans where data would only be released after the Hawaii Department of Health amended its health advisory and declared a zones drinking water safe for household uses. But the updated process allows for earlier publication of those validated test results, as that data will be made publicly available after both distribution system flushing and then later after the home flushing instead of after only the latter or both at the same time.

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Captain Guenther

You can read more about those changes on the Water Resources Web page site. OK, next question is also on flushing and test results, it's from Ada. Can you post the full water test result reports? So a summary of results, including explanations on how to read the report along with a fault lab results will be posted following the approval of the Inter-Agency Drinking Water Systems team. So you've already seen this? Results were posted for Pearl City Peninsula, as we just mentioned, and then included the full test report, which was 180 pages, I think. All of this information is available at our Navy.mil/Joint Base Water Web page.



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00:10:46:18 - 00:11:23:13

Captain Guenther

That's where you can go and pull that report and take a look at it. The housing sample reports in the Department of Health's determination that water in a particular zone is fit for human consumption will be posted once 100% validation is complete with both the system drinking water, as well as the residential drinking water and the Interagency Drinking Water Team has concurred and the Department of Health makes their final determination. OK, next question is from Michael. It's on also flushing and test results.

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Captain Guenther

Michael points out that the testing results from Pearl City Peninsula shows chloroform Izzy also shared a screen capture of the test results showing chloroform as well. Chloroform has been detected in some drinking water distribution samples, and this is not unexpected.

Chloroform is a member of a group of chemicals called tri hollow methane. Tri hollow methane, including chloroform, are frequently detected in drinking water that is disinfected using chlorine around the world. The concentration in the screenshot that is shared is 3.9 parts per billion. The United States maximum contaminant level for total tri hollow methane is 80 parts per billion, so the levels shown in the test results are well below the United States maximum contaminant level. And the next question is a returning home question.

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Captain Guenther

Does anyone know when we can expect to go home? Very good question. Residents may return home at any time and many of you have remained home, but we ask that if residents decide to return home, that they should not use the water for internal consumption that is drinking, brushing teeth or cooking until the water in their zone has been declared as fit for human consumption by the Hawaii Department of Health. There are many steps that have to be completed before the Department of Health makes that declaration. The water distribution systems and residences must be flushed in the water as tested, and then those test results have to be analyzed and validated by the Interagency Drinking Water Team and then separately by the Department of Health, who then and only then will make will amend their advisory to say that the water is safe for your consumption. Now, if at any point the results, the test results show that flushing and testing needs to be repeated in that process will be delayed until that step can be satisfactorily redone. We know that those timelines may be frustrating, but the important thing is that we provide clean drinking water in this entire process is in place to ensure that ultimately you have confidence in the water supply to your home.



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Captain Guenther

When we do have a better idea on timelines, we certainly will be sure to share that with you. And the next question is on a TLA tax reimbursement question, and it's Anne Marie who's asked this question. Our family has chosen to self-procure lodging to ensure we have a place for basic necessities. We have recently been informed that TLA reimbursement for self-procured lodging families will not include transient accommodation, tax and Oahu transient accommodation tax to transient taxes, which we are being charged every day. Can this discrepancy be corrected through assistance so that these taxes can be reimbursable?

00:14:38:20 - 00:15:43:24

Captain Guenther

So service members and others living in the communities served by the US Navy water system and have experienced health or safety concerns are authorized TLA from the original date of notification from Navy housing beginning on three December until two calendar days after the appropriate housing office sends notification to residents that their community has been flushed in the department and the Department of Health has certified that the drinking water is safe for human consumption. To specifically, though, address your question about the tax for the transient accommodation tax. The Hawaii tax facts 96.2 states that the exemption for transient taxes, transient accommodation taxes does not apply to transient accommodations provided to persons in the military on permanent duty assignment in the state and who have temporarily departed from their permanent homes and principal establishments elsewhere.

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Captain Guenther

So for this reason, you will be charged that tax. However, this tax is reimbursable through your TLA claim. However, the reimbursement for the taxes mentioned is only up to the maximum daily lodging rate. So please keep that in mind. However, that tax can be claimed under your TLA reimbursement, OK, and that those are the questions that we have. I do want to put a reminder out there for our CDC Department of Health survey. The link for that survey is still alive, and I'd invite you to go to it and fill it out. It is go.usa.gov/xtg8v. So there were some answers to your questions in a map update, and that is your daily water update. Please join us tomorrow. Same time, we're monitoring your questions on Facebook, and you can also email those questions to cnrhpa@gmail.com. And we'll try to answer those questions like we did today. Don't forget our water info website. That's navy.mil/jointbasewater, and don't forget the good stuff at greatlifehawaii.com/wegotyou.

00:17:12:11 - 00:17:22:14

Captain Guenther

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.