



## JOINT BASE WATER DAILY UPDATE

Joint Information Center

(808) 471-5013

[www.navy.mil/jointbasewater](http://www.navy.mil/jointbasewater)

[12/21/2021]

00:15:58:00 - 00:18:15:04

CAPT GUENTHER

Hello and welcome to the daily water update I'm Captain Darren Guenther again. Once again, I'm the chief of staff for Navy Region Hawaii. So, it's been a difficult time for us you know, this water issue has really affected our entire community you know, our service members, your families, our families, our civilian employees and partners, and even some of the schools and businesses and communities local communities, office and whether you wear a uniform or not you know, whether you're on base or not You know, community, we believe, means all of us you know, this has struck home to everyone and water is Life, and what we're seeing in our water is not OK. Ever since our call to action, we worked really closely with important agencies and agency partners like the Hawaii Department of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency and with our partners in uniform many of you whom you've seen in your neighborhoods. Army, Air Force, Marine Corps all pitching in with a helping hand to restore our drinking water and support us and support us as a community. It's going to take some time to do this only because we want to do it right and gain everyone's confidence in what we're doing, and we're committed to see this through to the day when we have our drinking water back with confidence you've been a lot, through a lot and you've been through a lot of uncertainty changing information In a lot of stressful times Many of you have moved out to a hotel or you're still in your residence and you're using bottled water or you're going out and getting jugs of water to help you through all during the holidays, which makes this that much harder on all of you, know I see the stress of the unknowns, which is why we're going and doing everything we can to increase the amount of information that we get to you. That's why we started This daily update. We want to help You and we're with you every step of the way.

00:18:15:19 - 00:22:26:08

CAPT GUENTHER

So, before we get to today's updates, I'd like for you to write down two important websites We read your comments yesterday, we hear you and we're adjusting the info that we provide you and so one of the things I want you to do is go to these websites to see the offerings and information that we have for you. The first is our water website, its Navy.Mil/jointbasewater. It's your one stop shop for up-to-date info on everything from a recovery plan to our testing service hours claims process. Where you can pick up drinking water and really everything, we have for you in one spot. The second page Is where we have all of our fun activities, our morale, welfare, recreation stuff so that the website is [greatlifeHawaii.com](http://greatlifeHawaii.com) \Wegotyou. In addition to all the great programs they have they've added all kinds of stuff for the Holidays and stuff to help you through this tough time. So, thank you for joining us I appreciate your feedback and now on to the daily water update. OK so, what we'd like to focus on is the question that I think is on all your minds and that is our flushing update. You know, our primary focus is on supporting you, our community, our families and getting your whole back into your homes. Part of that is restoring your trust in that water. So, with that, I'm going to go up here to our chart



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---Break In Audio (43 sec)---

This is our first shot at this, we're really excited about how it's going but we're learning a lot as we go as well. We anticipate being done with a system flush at 2000 That's 8:00 tonight. Once that's done for Pearl City Peninsula tomorrow morning, we're going to take samples from the system. The system pipes it themselves and send them off to the mainland. It's going to take us a few days to get those results back, it takes us a day to really ship it out, get it to the mainland, have the lab actually receive it and then the lab that's actually doing these tests is certified by the Department of Health, certified by the Environmental Protection Agency. And this is a high-end test It's not the test that you dip in your pool or spa This is a high-end scientific test. So it takes time when they get the sample, the sample has to settle and then when they actually conduct the test, it takes a certain number of hours in which the testing equipment has to sit and sense and then it's analyzed by chemists who look At the results to tell exactly the safety of the water So it's going to take a little time for that test and then the next step for Pearl City Peninsula is home flushing once we receive results, positive results, good results on our testing will go into home flushing. We anticipate no earlier than 27 December that we will be ready for that.

00:22:26:10 - 00:26:13:08  
CAPT GUENTHER

We're going to be updating you daily as we go along. We're learning as we go on our schedule to see how long each actually takes, each step, and you will have no less than 48 hours' notice before we want to start from flushing. We're still developing the home flush plan and what we're going to be asking of residents that plan in general You're going to have a team of Navy, Army, Air Force Marines coming through together to help with that flush They're going to be taking on all the flushing Actions for you, but we may be asking you to be present in that home to help us through that. So that's the one piece that we foresee of you. We're going to brief you on that more here in the upcoming days. That's Pearl City Peninsula and where we're at So we've also made some progress up here in Red Hill neighborhood, as well as Alliumanaou on who sometimes we call it AMR. You hear people say that both of those are 5% complete They do not have the large carbon filters in place there because their water system and their sewer system drains to a water treatment plant, and that treatment plant will take out any sort of issues that are in the water before it's disposed of. So, they are 5% complete And so they're just getting started, but doing well there and then we have the Moanalua terrace Area and here it's labeled If when You get a chance to look at the map as F1, but it Moanalua terrace, that's our NEX, Navy exchange, area to include some of the businesses around there now that's a large area they have five of the large carbon filters on site that they're going they're putting the water through. It's going to take some time on that area for this reason, that area is connected to several large water storage Tanks that service us, and those Water storage tanks also will go through the flush process at the same time that Moanalua terrace is going through that flush process That's the reason for maybe a little longer flush that's going to go out into the first week of January for Moanalua terrace. So, we're just started there we're excited about that and that gets us started



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really on our first four zones. So, we're into the first four zones and we're going to be learning a lot from these first four zones and we're going to be learning a lot on timelines. We provided timelines for every zone Every neighborhood out there. However, once we get through these first four zones, we're gonna have a much better idea to give you a better fidelity as to what you can expect for timelines. Are the timelines going to be longer or the timeline is going to be shorter? Well, obviously we hope for the shorter, but we need to get in there and learn how to do this Learn the lessons learned from Actually doing it and as always, we need to do this right so that we all have confidence on the tail end of this So that's where we're at This map is up on that water resources page that you can see and encourage you to go there and it's going to get updated daily.

00:25:50:04 - 00:27:05:04

CAPT GUENTHER

OK, now a couple other updates. We're excited about moving to the next zones. The next zone is going to be Haliamoku and Houlton. In that zone, we anticipate starting with the carbon filters that are coming in today via air lift through our Air Force partners. We have seven of those big carbon filters coming in, and it's going to take us a day or two to get them on site. And we anticipate starting the flush process on Haliamoku and Houlton on the 24<sup>th</sup>. It's the number I've got right here, 24th Christmas Eve, so that's good progress forward. Hopefully, we're going to be showing you this every day and talking about where we're at, where we're going and what. We're looking at. OK. With that, I'd like to bring in Captain Dieguez. He is our public works officer from sub base Kings Bay, Georgia. You know, he's a, you met him yesterday. He's come all this way to help us through this. He's an expert on this and it's, it's good to have you again.

00:27:05:07 - 00:27:05:20

CAPT DIEGUEZ

Great to be back.

00:27:06:02 - 00:27:15:04

CAPT GUENTHER

Thank you. So, we got some questions from our community on the flushing. And first of all, your sense how the flushing going.

00:27:15:08 - 00:27:34:03

CAPT DIEGUEZ

And it's going well. We, as we expect it started up a little slow yesterday, but with our department, department of health partners of fine-tuned some processes and where we were in full effect by mid-afternoon. And as you mentioned, a great update, we expect to be done with that neighborhood, that zone this evening.



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CAPT GUENTHER

OK, that's fantastic. That's great news. We're all we're all pulling for this and this is a this is a really interesting and really good. Here's a question that came in from one of our Facebook viewers yesterday. We've gotten a couple of questions concerning our flushing program. In general some of our viewers question the effectiveness of the use of GACs to flush water. Can you? Here's the question that they put in. Can you explain why this is the option we're using and is it effective?

00:28:06:12 - 00:28:48:06

CAPT DIEGUEZ

Yes, really great question. And as a mechanical engineer myself, I did a fair amount of research on this. The one point I want to make clear, Darren is as we filter this water, it's not going back into the drinking water system. So no, no one is. So, we don't want anybody to believe that we're just filtering and throwing it back in the system. We're filtering it before putting it to storm drains when it goes to the environment and with our department of health partners ensuring we're not affecting negatively affecting the environment, but GAC technology is a very proven technology. It's has a lot of domestic and industrial applications today. As simple as your refrigerator filter uses GAC technology, and it's used on large scale water treatment plants all around the world.

00:28:48:17 - 00:29:23:15

CAPT GUENTHER

OK, fantastic. Here's another question that came in. What should we expect from the flushing process? What do we need to know for ourselves? And I'll tell you, give you some background. I understand that washing of whites is not encouraged. That's an important distinction out there. We've got a few questions on that and some feedback, frankly, on that. What sort of things do your residents need to think about, while we're flushing the main system?

00:29:24:11 - 00:30:03:05

CAPT DIEGUEZ

Another great question, Darren, and we didn't, we didn't do as good of a job communicating this to Pearl City as we should of. System flushing while a normal and very used process and water treatment systems again all over the country. We should have told you earlier that you can expect fluctuations in pressure in some discoloration of the water, of the volume and the speed. We're pushing water through the pipes that will pick up loose sediment and pick up some little deposits. If you're washing white clothing during that time, it could stain the clothing. So, we recommend while we're flushing the system to hold off on washing white clothes, but otherwise the water safe for other use.



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00:30:04:10 - 00:30:05:21

CAPT GUENTHER

OK, um.

00:30:06:18 - 00:30:27:05

CAPT GUENTHER

Let's see. Here's a question. There's a lot of interest in the flushing of homes and testing of homes. Where are we in the plan for flushing of homes, and should residents be worried about their water heater. Where we at with those subjects?

00:30:27:05 - 00:31:23:19

CAPT DIEGUEZ

So, no one should be worried about the system today, their appliances. We are, as we said, the water that the water advisory is still in effect, so consuming water is not advised, but water for other uses and still fine. No concern with the water heater being damaged at this point. What we are going to do in a protocol in how we're going to flush homes. There was another meeting this morning with our joint interagency partners to kind of fine tune that because we're going to use the same process in every home, no matter if you live in Red Hill, if you live in Pearl city where we live, we're going to use the same process. But it'll involve draining the water heater that involve running all the spigots in the faucets and replacing a water filter refrigerator wall water filter. If we're going to do that for all of our residents. All we're going to ask residents to do is to make sure the sink and the bathtub, things like that are empty so that we run, run the system. We don't damage or stain anything that may be in there.

00:31:23:20 - 00:31:31:31

CAPT GUENTHER

OK, fair enough. And so, this plan, as it gets finalized and with Department of Health and EPA, who are going to sign off on it?

00:31:31:32- 00:31:32:04

CAPT DIEGUEZ

Correct.

00:31:32:05 - 00:32:00:06

CAPT GUENTHER

Then we're going to share that with our residents. So, more information to follow. Obviously, our residents in Pearl City Peninsula coming up fairly quickly on that. But we will get you that information before we get to that point. OK. So, I got one final question. Once flushing in the neighborhood has been completed, what's the expected timeline before DOH clears so families can return to quarters with confidence in. The safety of their drinking Water?



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00:32:00:06 - 00:32:38:11

CAPT DIEGUEZ

Another great question, Darren, and you've kinda walked them through them and we'll get take samples and we have to fly them back to the mainland as we after we finish washing homes. We're going to take a lot more samples than we did during the system, per the plan with DOH and EPA, and because of the volume of those samples, it's going to take just a few more days. Then the system flushing sampling goes. So, we expect that to take five to seven days to be able to ship all those off via aircraft and give the lab an opportunity to test them, analyze them and report back their results and then give the interagency team an opportunity to interpret those reports and then share them publicly.

00:32:38:21 - 00:33:05:16

CAPT GUENTHER

OK, OK. So, I appreciate it. Still, some uncertainty there. Hopefully we get a little more fidelity. You know, we've got some dates up on the board and there are initial looks. We're going to refine them as we go. And as I think I understood, really after we get through the first four zones, I think we're going to have, is this correct? A much better idea of the dates for the follow-on neighborhoods?

00:33:06:00 - 00:33:06:19

CAPT DIEGUEZ

Yes, sir. That's right.

00:33:07:04 - 00:33:10:19

CAPT GUENTHER

OK. Hey, thanks for coming. I appreciate it. And we'll have you back.

00:33:11:09 - 00:33:12:02

CAPT DIEGUEZ

Thank you. OK.

00:33:12:15 - 00:35:41:05

CAPT GUENTHER

Thank you. All right. I have a couple of other updates. Just a few things that have maybe tweaked or changed on other service offerings, and I want to make sure that you're tracking. We talked to a bit about our emergency family EFAC, and yesterday that EFAC Service Center is going to be open on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve as well. And so that's good news, and then MWR, I want to highlight they're going to have Christmas meals at our galleys and DFACS as well. And Kona winds and Trade winds as Restaurants. Call Ahead. They'll be serving up



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meals as well that you can order. A BZ, you know, this is a BZ that's been. I think, long coming. How could we not give a Bravo Zulu to our family members out there? It's been an incredible challenge, and I see that resiliency in you. And we're with you and we're thinking of you. So that's your daily water update for today. I invite you to come back tomorrow same time, and we'll give you the latest snapshot of drinking water recovery plan. We're monitoring the questions that you asked on the Facebook page. And you can also email some of those questions to the [cnrhpa@gmail.com](mailto:cnrhpa@gmail.com). I just want to foot stomp those two really important websites where you can get a lot of information, [Navy.Mil/JointBaseWater](http://Navy.Mil/JointBaseWater) and [GreatLifeHawaii.com/wegotyou](http://GreatLifeHawaii.com/wegotyou) for all those MWR activities, and support to your families.

This is a tough time, so please take advantage of those resources. That are going to help you and your families. I also want to say please stay safe with COVID, which is increasing in our state. This is really not the holiday season that. Any of us expected, and we want everybody to be healthy. We're all in this together, and one community and really here in Hawaii. One Ohana. So safe. Stay safe. Take care of yourself. Take care of each other, and we'll see you tomorrow.