



JOINT BASE WATER DAILY UPDATE

Joint Information Center

(808) 471-5013

www.navy.mil/jointbasewater

[12/22/2021]

00:00:17:35 - 00:03:41:19

CAPT. GUENTHER

Hello everyone, and welcome to our daily water update for December the 22nd. I'm Captain Darren Gunther, Navy region Hawaii Chief of Staff. I want to start by wishing all of you the very best during this time. I know many of you are struggling with some of your displacement and that some of you are just feeling out of sorts. We hear you; and we are with you. We're going to talk today about some progress that we're making, and hopefully that's going to raise some of your spirits. I know we're all ready for this to be resolved, but we want to do it right. I know for a fact, so thank you, thank you Families, service members, residents and communities and patience as we work through this. We appreciate your feedback and your comments. Every family, every residence, every community, our team is standing by to answer questions and help you. We pulled lots of questions over the last 24 hours and from our last session yesterday on public health. So later in the update, I'll have CDR Rob Uniszkievics, who's a public health expert and doctor from Bremerton Naval Hospital on to answer some of the questions that you've put in and others, so we'll have him on here in just a few minutes. Remember, you're not alone. We're all in this together, so please share this information with your neighbors and friends, and don't forget to hit our two primary websites. The first is navy.mil/jointbasewater. It's one stop shopping for all of your water updates and for all of the information that we're pushing out there to post. Second websites for your source is your source for some of the fun stuff. Some of the getaway stuff that's greatlifehawaii.com/wegotyou.

So, thank you for joining me. I appreciate your feedback and now let's get on with a lot of updates. So first, let's go to the map. We'd like to do is show you some of the progress that we've made over the last 24 hours since we briefed here. All right These maps are posted the one up there is due to be posted this afternoon, so you'll get what I'm looking at here this afternoon, but I'm going to brief you on the details of the first neighborhood that we've been going through Pearl City Peninsula. I'm happy to say that we are 100% complete with the system flushing at Pearl City Peninsula, and we have taken the system water samples and we'll be sending those back to the mainland lab here this morning, or actually we should have sent them already this morning. So, they're in route, so That's going to be about a four-to-six-day turnaround for those samples. The reason for that one-day transits of the samples will get there late today, and then the samples will take it to the lab, to have some sort of dwell time. So, sell time you might say, and then the actual testing takes a duration of time, and finally, a scientist, chemists will actually look at it and then analyze the results of that test, and then we'll get that information back to us. That lab is certified by the Department of Health and Environmental Protection Agency So we'll be excited that we're starting on that piece in a second to the phase for Pearl City Peninsula, and it's now with that the four granular granulated activated carbon filters there's four big carbon filter gas out there, you'll see those between today and tomorrow start to get loaded up and move to one of the other major points. So that's Pearl City Peninsula. That's where we're at. We're moving into the system test phase of that, and that's the way forward with that. Update for Redhill, uh, similar situation as AMR or Aliamanu neighbor is there.



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CAPT. GUENTHER

Both those neighborhoods, their systems flush into our water treatment facility and so there are no carbon filters necessary to do the system flushing there. And so, the progress at Red Hill, we're at that 35% right now and were at about 40% for Aliamanu neighborhood. Finally, more on Moanalua Terrace. There are five of those large carbon filters there. That's the NEX area sort of that community area, as well as some of our neighborhoods there So there's five of those, they are just over 5% complete. And again, this is one that is our biggest zone out there. It's going to take the longest to do our flushes in and you can see translated over our chart here, NEX Moanalua Terrace from 20 December, which is when we started two days ago, to six January. So that's how long it's going to take a longer time period and the reason for that is because it is connected to two large drinking water storage tanks and we need to ensure that we're flushing those storage tanks as well. This is an entire system flush hundred percent to include those storage tanks, which is why the NEX Moanalua Terrace is going to take a little longer. Now these numbers, when you get the update on this chart later on today, that update will have been sort of the chalk line snapped updated as of last night. This morning, my update is as of this minute. So that's the progress that we've made there Now next on the list, if I go over here, I can read down and see the next neighborhoods up Haliamoku Lane system flush 24 December.

CAPT. GUENTHER

So that's coming up. That's the next one in line and what you're going to see is some of these gacs, the carbon filters moving into that neighborhood and being placed in that neighborhood We got three So we have nine of those big carbon filters here in Hawaii that have been placed within neighborhoods already. We had three that came in overnight and we've got more coming in in the next 24 hours You'll see those move You know, when we get one of those in on the airplane, we have to unload it from the airplane and I think perhaps you've seen the pictures, they're huge You have to unload it from the airplane and we have to put it on essentially a truck flatbed truck to get it going where it needs to go, once we get it there, we have to put it in place and then they build up that system. They'll actually put the carbon materials in there and then there's sort of a dwell time as they build that up to 24 hours before you can start that flush and there's a test that goes with that flush as well to ensure that that carbon filter is actually functioning, doing its job. OK That's where we're at That's where we're going. That's our map update for today. What I'd like to do now is I'd also like to talk about some of the notifications on our drinking water system recovery plan So when we move to a certain neighborhood in a certain phase in that neighborhood, you're going to be getting communications from a number of different sources that will tell you what is coming up So 48 hours prior to your neighborhood starting its system flush, there'll be a letter provided most likely through your PPV partner, but you may hear about it through me, or you may see it through other means as well. We're going to flood those neighborhoods with sort of what's coming up to ensure everybody's aware there's a letter that will go out prior to the system flush 48 hours prior, there will be a letter that goes out 48 hours



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prior to the home flushes that are coming up and finally, it will be a third letter at the end of the entire process when that zone is ready to be certified as safe drinking water, for, by a Department of Health, EPA, and the Navy.

00:09:04:22- 00:09:28:23

CAPT. GUENTHER

So, sort of 3 notifications that you're going to get and so I'll update you daily on who's coming up in the next 48 hours, who's getting those letters and letters are going out today to the residents of Hukulani and of Haliamoku, alerting them to sort of the 48-hour notice that we're going to start system flushing in those neighborhoods, which is scheduled to start on the 24th of December.

One of the notes, and this is one of the lessons learned that we got through Pearl City Peninsula, is we want to foot stomp recommendation not to wash whites while that system flush is going on. You'll see some other information in those letters, though take a look at them and please feed us your questions on that when you have them All right. So, what I'd like to do now is, I'd like to move to bring in our public health expert, his name is Commander Rob Uniszkiewicz and he is coming to us from Bremerton Naval Hospital And he is a public health expert So, welcome.

00:10:19:10 - 00:10:19:23

CDR. UNISZKIEWICZ

Thank you, sir.

00:10:20:21 - 00:10:49:07

CAPT. GUENTHER

So, we've gotten a lot of questions on medical screenings, on medical, you know, health issues and concerns, on the effects of the water, on what we need to do within our homes to account for this and so I, you know, contact, we have screening hotlines, we have walk in treatment facilities and you can get some of that info on the Navy.mil joint base water website. But I want to I want to ask you some of the questions, as the expert on this. Some of these questions have come on and if you're OK, I'm just going to go through them and ask you.

00:11:03:02 - 00:14:35:03

CAPT. GUENTHER

So, first question is what are the symptoms of exposure to petroleum-based products?

CDR. UNISZKIEWICZ

Yes, sir. These are really important questions so people understand how their bodies interact with these compounds. One thing to keep in mind, that we all must keep in mind is, we're all different and so our bodies all respond to these compounds in different ways, and we have different variability in how to what extent we get. We respond to these exposures so things that we commonly see are skin rash. If something has washed with, the with a petroleum based product, they can be very sensitive to that and they can develop a rash. They can also develop a headache



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from the vapors that come up when they smell that the vapor. They can also develop stomach upset, diarrhea, belly pain if they've consumed a lot of the water that has any petroleum products in them, and these typically are the symptoms that we would expect to see during that initial phase of exposure prior, especially prior to when the well was secure. And so ongoing exposure to petroleum products could prolong that. Also, keep in mind is you may have been exposed early on, maybe on your skin and maybe not had a reaction and then when you get re-exposed later, you kind of have more of an allergic reaction and that differs from person to person, but that's typically the symptoms that we see.

CAPT. GUENTHER

OK, thanks, doc. Really interesting. The second question is sort of related to the first one: What are the expected long term health effects of that type of exposure incident?

CDR. UNISZKIEWICZ

So, this is very important because we get to get this asked a lot, especially with these kind of exposures, because this is the important piece that we really want to know the answer to, right? Long term health effects are related to the duration of exposure. Many times, it's on the order of years, months or years of chronic exposure and also the concentration or the degree of which the exposure occurs. Clearly, getting exposed to pure petroleum-based product is different than getting exposed to a diluted petroleum-based product and based on what we know about this situation.

CDR. UNISZKIEWICZ

This would be considered very short duration of exposure and in many cases, the range of exposure based on this test that we have are from a very diluted exposure to nonexistent in many places and so with that, with those results and the time frame that we're talking about, it is not expected to have any long-term health effects, adverse health effects for any of our families and residents. That we said. Even if you've had an acute reaction, that does not necessarily mean that you will have a long-term health effect because you had a reaction early on. Moreover, because we're in a situation where you've had a period of time that there was potential exposure and we're worried about long term effects, we have the defense occupational environmental health readiness system to which everybody that is affiliated with the DOD has been entered into for longitudinal assessments and to make sure that that's captured and so that we're going to monitor everybody who's in there. And for our non-DOD affiliated partners, The Department of Health is standing up a similar registry that they can call into and make sure that they're on for the long-term health monitoring.

CAPT. GUENTHER

OK, thank you doc, you know we know people have felt the effects. We do have some in our community that this has been real for and so I just want to make sure those folks should be reaching out and sharing there on your register and ensuring they're on your roles.



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CDR. UNISZKIEWICZ

100%. And even people who've had transited just come through our area and may not be assigned to our area, they can call in independently and get on that registry, too, if they just happen to be in for a weekend or whatnot. And then I would encourage anyone who has ongoing symptoms, questions about their health, long term health or short-term health to reach out to clinics or standing by their personal care providers are standing by to answer those questions and as you mentioned earlier, we have the call center to address all kinds of needs and concerns. Anything from obstetrics to pediatrics across all specialties.

CAPT. GUENTHER

OK, that was going to be the next question is what would someone do if they have an ongoing concern here, whether they've been in or not been in the expedited screenings and clinics are still open, right?

CDR. UNISZKIEWICZ

Yes, sir, they are.

CAPT. GUENTHER

OK, so this isn't I'm calling in and trying to, you know, it's I'm getting right in.

CDR. UNISZKIEWICZ

Absolutely. And, you know, even if a couple months down the road you're questioning what happened back then and maybe it's something related. That's what your doctors are there for. Ask the question, make sure they know what your concerns are and make sure you get the answer that you need to feel better about the situation and make sure that you're being taken care of.

CAPT. GUENTHER

OK. Here's a question: What can I do with the water now?

CDR. UNISZKIEWICZ

Yes, so the Navy is in alignment with the Department of Health, so all families in military housing on the Navy water distribution system, can use the water for non-consumptive purposes. As long as the water doesn't have an odor or any kind of sign of gross contamination like a sheen after you pour some water into a cup, which we're not really expecting at this point. But you want to make sure you look at it but based on the lab results we have and in coordination with our Department of Health Partners, the water is safe for uses other than cooking, drinking, brushing your teeth. We don't want you to ingest it at this point in time until we get that declaration from the Department of Health that says the water is fit for human consumption.



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CAPT. GUENTHER

OK, and if someone does have that smell or sheen, they should call?

CDR. UNISZKIEWICZ

100%. So that's where it's important that you call the trouble hotline to make sure that they are aware of your situation if you're smelling odor, if you have any concerns about the water and then you can call the medical hotline if you then have any kind of medical questions or concerns as well.

00:17:23:11 - 00:20:56:09

CAPT. GUENTHER

OK Here's a question: Plastic wear appliances? Household goods? What? What is the guidance on some of this on some of these kinds of items?

CDR. UNISZKIEWICZ

So, the challenge that we have is that there is not a lot of scientific literature to explain what to do and a lot of these situations, a lot of the scientific literature points specifically to pure product, pure undiluted product, coming in contact with some household goods and what you should do with them. So, what we have is a multi-agency, multi service panel of subject matter experts from all our services toxicologists, the Department of Health that have all weighing in to develop clear and concise guidance for families as to what to do with different products and materials within their homes. How to clean them, can they be cleaned, that sort of thing and we hope to have that out to everybody very shortly. We want to make sure that it's concise, that we cover all our bases and that we're following the best literature that we have in order to provide the best guidance that we can to families

CAPT. GUENTHER

OK, OK, Doc, we'll be looking forward to that. I know there's a lot of questions over that. I think we're all looking forward to that guidance, but I understand how important it is to ensure that we've got that right, right? And that that, you know, everyone sort of concurs All the experts concur with what that guidance is. That's important for the community, and I thank you for helping with that. Well, I guess my final question is just it would be my question. Are there any other public health concerns you'd like to talk about or highlight here today?

CDR. UNISZKIEWICZ

Certainly, for all our families out there and everybody watching and serve for you and our active duty service members, this is the holiday So happy holidays to however, anybody chooses to celebrate whatever religion you celebrate But the holidays come with it added Mental health concerns, stress we need to have, you know, we just focus on what our fellow family members and service members are doing through the holiday season Make sure they're getting through it



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OK, they have the support that they need. We want to stress the suicide awareness to make sure that people are in a good place. Stress the holidays can be very stressful time for people in general, let alone a global pandemic and now going through the situation we're going through here with the water, that's a lot to put on families and folks and it has its toll, as you know, sir So I would I would stress that we need to we're all in favor. We need to look out for one another, and that doesn't that that just adds this incident adds to that need Furthermore, we are in a global pandemic and COVID cases are on the rise, particularly with the Omicron variant So I would encourage everyone to get your booster. Make sure you get vaccinated, get your booster, protect yourselves to the greatest extent you can. Wear your masks Stay socially distanced when appropriate. Wash your hands good. Proper hygiene. All that stuff still applies. We need to look out for one another. All the studies so far have shown that vaccination helps prevent severe disease and hospitalizations and deaths. And I think that's going to be what we keep pushing so we can have a safe and happy holiday season where we look out for one another and we get through this together.

CAPT. GUENTHER

All right, Dr. Uniszkiewicz, thank you for sharing.

CDR. UNISZKIEWICZ

Anytime.

CAPT. GUENTHER

We'll have you back.

CDR. UNISZKIEWICZ

Yes, sir.

00:20:58:10 - 00:21:51:14

CAPT. GUENTHER

All right Thanks. That was your daily water update Please come back tomorrow We're going to do this at the same time with updated notes and updated progress We're monitoring the questions you asked on the Facebook comment and chat And I also want to highlight you can email your questions to the CNRHPAO@Gmail.com Just a note, but I want to say how grateful I am to all of our volunteers out There supporting our families and our community and taking care of one another. We couldn't do this without you, volunteers, so thank you. Remember, we're all in this together as a community and ohana so stay safe, take care of yourself, take care of each other and we'll see you next time.