



JOINT BASE WATER DAILY UPDATE

Joint Information Center

(808) 471-5013

www.navy.mil/jointbasewater

[12/28/2021]

00:00:08:17 - 00:01:40:03

CAPT. GUENTHER

Hello, everyone, and welcome to the daily water update for December the 28th. I'm Captain Darren Guenther, I'm chief of staff for Navy Region, Hawaii. Over the past few days, we've been updating you on the progress to flush the water in the system outside your homes. This flush was designed to ensure clean water going into your home. Now you'll also start hearing updates on the interagency plan. That includes the Navy, Department of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency, to flush the water inside your home. As we start heading into your homes for this, I want to emphasize that COVID is increasing significantly in our home state. You'll see our flushing teams wearing masks to be respectful of your homes and your families and ensure your safety while they complete the flush. In a moment, I'll have Captain Miguel Dieguez, he's a NAVFAC engineer from naval base Kings Bay in Georgia. He's here in Hawaii, leading one of our water restoration teams, and he'll have a chance to talk about the home flushing plan. Don't forget our water info website, that's Navy.Mil/jointbasewater and make sure to check out the good stuff at GreatLifeHawaii.com/WegotYou.

00:01:40:04 - 00:02:53:17

CAPT. GUENTHER

So now thank you for joining me and onto the Daily Water Update. This updated chart is posted on our water page Navy.Mil/JointBaseWater, and I'd like to bring your attention to the right hand side of that chart. It has a table. That table is a timeline for each and every neighborhood associated to our zones and timelines. You can go there to take a look at when your neighborhood is scheduled for a system flush and a home flush. Now, I'd like to caution you that the dates on there are an early snapshot of what we think will play out. We'll have a better opportunity once we get through the first four neighborhoods to understand our timelines and our requirements, and probably be able to fill in with a little better fidelity, the timeline going forward. But if you haven't taken a look at this slide, which is on that web page for the timelines in your neighborhood, go ahead and bring that up and you can find that there.

00:02:53:19 - 00:04:05:17

CAPT. GUENTHER

I'm going to give you the latest and greatest snapshot, though, of each and every neighborhood. Starting with Pearl City Peninsula. Pearl City Peninsula is awaiting test results, so we expect to get the final test results early this afternoon for the system tests and samples that we took before the holidays. Once those test results are received, our Interagency Drinking Water Working Group, which is made up of Navy, Department of Health and Environmental Protection Agency experts, will go through and certify and validate those results. Once that's complete, we'll be able to move on to the Home Flush Plan and program. So we're still awaiting a final go there. We are still looking towards tomorrow to initiate the home flush in Pearl City Peninsula, and we'll have more information later today to provide you on when that's actually going to start. May not start



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first thing in the morning, It may roll to midday or the afternoon, but we'll have more information to follow later this afternoon on what we're looking at there.

00:04:05:17 - 00:06:59:03

CAPT. GUENTHER

Let me move on to the Aliamanu neighborhood, Aliamanu military reservation. It's completed. We're still waiting on those results. The test results from the samples that were sent in a few days ago. The Red Hill neighborhood, it completed last night. The system flush is complete and Red Hill neighborhood. We are taking samples from the system water today. Those samples will be sent to the mainland lab by close of business today. Moanalua Terrace, that's our NEX portion. We're looking at 35% complete there. That is our largest flush zone, so it's taking some time and it's on schedule. Hale moku Hokulani neighborhoods completed their system flush yesterday, so we are taking samples from the system water today, those will be sent off to the lab on the mainland today. Onizuka Village, Hale Na Koa and the officer field area of Hickam started their system flush yesterday. They are 30% complete as of right now and continue to track forward. Finally, new progress on Ford Island. We have commenced our flush on Ford Island. There are three large carbon filter units over there. They just started this morning. I'm going to put a number on that at 5% complete. So working forward on Ford Island. Let's talk about the layout of our large carbon filters. We have 25 of those large carbon filters here on ground in Hawaii, and they are moving between the neighborhoods, so as Pearl City Peninsula has completed, they've moved out of there and they're moving in place in particular to the next two neighborhoods that are coming up for system flushing. Those neighborhoods are Camp Smith and Earhart Field, Earhart area of Hickam. Those are the next two in line, and you'll see that those carbon filters are going to be moving in place over the next couple of days to support the flushes that are going to commence in the next three to four days in those neighborhoods. That's your map update for today. So an update on letters that are coming, the one that I'd really like to highlight is for our Pearl City Peninsula residents. I'd ask you to look out for that communication via Email on the specific schedule for home flushing and what we anticipate, hopefully tomorrow.

00:07:00:01 - 00:07:18:14

CAPT. GUENTHER

All right With that, I'd like to bring in Captain Miguel Dieguez. He is part of our water restoration team and here to talk about the home flush, what can you tell us about our home flushing plan?

00:07:18:16 - 00:08:03:23

CAPT. DIEGUEZ

So we've been through a lot of preparations now for Home Flush. We finished training the team, so we've trained up almost 65 two man teams and we're preparing to deploy them to Pearl City Peninsula tomorrow morning, in hopes of having a positive outcome today with the test results



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and the interagency team agreeing on the plan. That plan will involve, as we've spoken before Darren. Flushing of the water lines in the home and flushing of certain appliances like the water heater and the dishwasher, replacing water filters and refrigerators if they have them, and then just making sure we run the house for a specified amount of time at each spigot. We think that'll take about two hours and we're excited to hope to be able to get started tomorrow.

00:08:04:12 - 00:08:28:08

CAPT. GUENTHER

OK, I've got some questions that we've seen from the community and I'd like to run them past you as the expert. The first is concerning appliances and water heaters. Is there a concern that appliances or water heaters specifically may have been damaged by fuel contaminated water?

00:08:28:15 - 00:09:02:14

CAPT. DIEGUEZ

We don't believe so Darren, at this point we know several of these homes have been in use since the contaminant was first identified. We've had no reports of a water heater issues to this point. So we're we're confident and we've actually walked through the flushing process on a water heater, just to kind of see what in some sample neighborhoods, what the water here looks like once we've opened it up, and there's been no no reports of any damage, the flushing process is is going to resolve If there's any contaminants, we'll take care of that problem.

00:09:02:14 - 00:09:07:21

CAPT. GUENTHER

But you have a plan for each of those appliances within the homes that run on water.

00:09:07:22 - 00:09:30:10

CAPT. DIEGUEZ

Yeah, that's correct. So for the water heater, we have a plan that's a complete flushing of that up to 80 gallon water heater. We're going to run the rinse cycle on the dishwasher. That'll flush the right amount of volume through that and again, if refrigerators have filters, if they have a drinking water spigot on a refrigerator, we have a plan to replace those filters and run the refrigerator.

00:09:30:18 - 00:09:40:02

CAPT. GUENTHER

OK, next question. Once a neighborhood is flushed, will I know I'm getting clean water in my home? And from what source?



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00:09:40:02 - 00:11:11:03

CAPT. DIEGUEZ

Yeah, that's a really great question. So, similar to what we're doing with system testing, after we flushed the system, and we take screening samples as well as drinking water compliance samples and I think that's an important part for folks to understand. That is not a single test. That is multiple things we're analyzing, for screening samples, we're looking at total hydrocarbons, petroleum hydrocarbons, we're looking at {inaudible} organics, all the things that we've been doing since this initiated a few weeks ago. We're screening them initially and then 24 hours, we're pulling a drinking water sample and similar to the samples we take every year as part of our water quality report, we're testing for lead, copper and anything else that the EPA requires us to test for and those tests are extensive. That's why part of the process takes a while to run those tests, the labs have a need about three to four days to run through every constituent and make sure they're providing a comprehensive report. But we'll do that exact same process in homes after we finish flushing the homes. We're going to take a representative sample that the Department of Health has agreed to and pull samples, those exact same samples and ship them off back to the mainland. Once those results come back, the interagency team is going again huddle look at those results and then our hope is that they've deemed that water safe and meets all the EPA and State of Hawaii requirements, and they'll begin to amend the health advisory that they put up neighborhood by neighborhood.

00:11:11:15 - 00:11:24:06

CAPT. GUENTHER

OK, a follow on question to that one. What is the source of the water that is going to be coming into those homes? And I think the question here is what wells is it coming from?

00:11:24:08 - 00:11:43:12

CAPT. DIEGUEZ

Yeah. So ever since we shut off the wells at Red Hill and Halawa, the only source of drinking water has been from the Waiawa shaft, which has been providing anywhere roughly about 15 million gallons a day to support the Joint Base down here. That is the only place we're drawing water from and it has been since the 20th of November.

00:11:43:21 - 00:12:04:00

CAPT. GUENTHER

OK, question why flushing water. Why is flushing water going out of our homes and not flushing water going into our homes? And I think I may have referenced this earlier. The flushing water that's going into those homes was flushed through our system flush, Is that Correct?



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CAPT. DIEGUEZ

Yeah. So the thought process was we were going to flush the water in the system first and get certification that it is safe and then we move into the home as kind of the down range, downspout effect of certifying the system. So the water that's being flushed through the homes, If all works according to plan today, we'll get a certification that the drinking water is safe, and then we're using that water to flush to the homes, ideally beginning tomorrow, and that'll be the process we do we use in every zone.

00:12:35:12 - 00:12:41:18

CAPT. GUENTHER

OK? Where does the contaminated water go that is being flushed?

00:12:42:16 - 00:13:35:05

CAPT. DIEGUEZ

So in fact, if you look across the neighborhoods, include the Army neighborhood, you'll see a couple of different filtration solutions. On the Navy side because of our permit and the coordination we've done in the Department of Health. We're flushing that water through the GAC units and then they're going to a storm drain. In the army neighborhoods their permit and their coordination with the city and county Honolulu allows them to discharge directly to the sanitary sewer, then it gets treated in the wastewater treatment plants downrange. It's common for wastewater treatment plants to have the capability to treat contaminants, if there's any in the system, you think about as we drive around roads and we spill gasoline, we spill oil, as that runs off. So that capability is kind of a natural capability for wastewater treatment plants. When we flush homes, that water is going into the wastewater system and will get treated downrange if there's any contaminants in it.

00:13:35:11 - 00:13:57:09

CAPT. GUENTHER

OK, so that water that's flushing into homes will be treated for any possible contaminants at the water treatment facility that we have? OK, final question: Pearl City Peninsula and the timelines on Pearl City Peninsula, can you tell us anything about what residents can expect for those timelines?

00:13:57:14 - 00:15:19:08

CAPT. DIEGUEZ

Yeah, that's the million dollar question, if you will, right now. So we are prepared if the Department of Health with the interagency's concurrence today. If the results come back well, we are prepared to deploy 65 teams into Pearl City Peninsula tomorrow morning. Those are uniformed service members that will see all the Airmen, Seabees, Marines providing two main flushing teams with the PPV partners in support and in the event there's any maintenance issues,



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and to help us get access to homes where the homes are vacant or residents may not be home. We're planning to start at 8:00 tomorrow morning if we get approval today and we'll work home by home very methodically. There's a checklist that the service members will follow that they were trained on yesterday. It's pretty simple, but we want to make sure we do it and that it gets documented correctly and in the hopes that we work through 300 or so homes tomorrow. In the event that approval doesn't come today, you may see a bunch of service members arrive tomorrow morning and then be sent home and then come back at noon. We're going to try again, but our goal is as soon as we have that approval, we want to start flushing homes as quickly as possible and begin that process of reassuring residents that their drinking water is one step closer to being certified safe.

00:15:19:17 - 00:15:47:16

CAPT. GUENTHER

OK, one clarifying point: Am I correct in my understanding that right now, we still don't have all of the final results? We still need to receive those and there may be a delay based on that as well, so we need to be able to receive those here this afternoon in time to actually validate them and analyze them with the interagency drinking water team in order to start, so there may be some delays with that.

00:15:47:21 - 00:16:20:12

CAPT. DIEGUEZ

That's correct. Yeah, we're waiting on one or two additional results to come back. The interagency team is ready to huddle up this afternoon once those results are in, do their validation of the results and come to a consensus on whether they'll deem those safe or not. We are optimistic that the results are going to be good and we'll be able to start tomorrow. But we don't want to rush the interagency team, we want to give them the ample time they need to do their work. We're just planning and just want to be ready to go.

00:16:20:13 - 00:16:22:13

CAPT. GUENTHER

Absolutely OK, thank you

00:16:23:06 - 00:16:23:16

CAPT. DIEGUEZ

Thanks, Darren.

00:16:29:15 - 00:17:03:02

CAPT. GUENTHER

That was your daily water update for today. Please come back tomorrow at the same time. We're monitoring your comments on Facebook, and you can also send comments to CNRHPAO@Gmail.com. I'm seeing questions on benefits and we're working to answer those.



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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'll see you next time.