



JOINT BASE WATER DAILY UPDATE

Joint Information Center

(808) 471-5013

www.navy.mil/jointbasewater

[12/30/2021]

00:00:05:05 - 00:01:19:11

CAPT GUENTHER

Hello everyone, and welcome to the daily water update for 30 December. I'm Captain Darren Guenther, Chief of Staff for Navy Region, Hawaii. Yesterday, we were encouraged by the news that we received the results for a system drinking water samples for the Pearl City Peninsula neighborhood. This allowed us to move on to the next phase there, home to home flushing.

Those samples were tested in an independent lab and that lab is certified by the Department of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency. This was a big step on that road to return you, our families, to your homes and a sense of normalcy. Our thanks to the interagency team made up of the Navy, Department of Health, and the Environmental Protection Agency for working collaboratively for the benefit of our community and for clean drinking water. Now I'd like to thank Vice Admiral Yancy Lindsey, the commander of Naval Installations Command, for joining us to give us his perspective. Admiral Lindsey, Sir, welcome and thank you for being here.

00:01:19:14 - 00:01:21:14

VICE ADM LINDSEY

Hey thanks. It's good to be here.

00:01:21:17 - 00:01:29:20

CAPT GUENTHER

Yeah What can you tell us about your perspective, what you've seen sort of on the ground since you've been here, you've been here since really early December?

00:01:30:01 - 00:03:36:11

VICE ADM LINDSEY

Right. Thanks for the opportunity. I think, you know, this is a great opportunity to talk to folks, especially those folks that have been affected by this crisis. We know it's been incredibly difficult for them, It's been challenging and so it's just I'm glad I'm out here to be able to help and to do the things we need to do to get drinkable water back into residences and back in these facilities, so folks can, you know, get back to some normalcy. I did come out, I obviously was monitoring. This is the commander Navy installations command. All the regions and installations in the Navy fall under me and so I'm responsible for what happens on those installations, right? And for making sure that the processes and the people and those things are safe and able to do their jobs and execute their missions for our Navy and for our nation and so, you know, I tracked this initially the first few days of the crisis, and then it became really apparent discussing with Admiral Paparo, the Commander of US Pacific Fleet, that I needed to come out and be on the ground and helping and supporting and so that's why I came out early, early December, so I've been here almost three weeks now, and I'm going to be here for several more weeks until we achieve the the objectives that we've set out, which are basically restore safe, drinkable water, the system, take care of our people, meet regulatory and environmental requirements and get the Red Hill well, to a point where we know for sure that we've got the contaminants out of it and it is not



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going to contaminate our drinking water systems. So that's really what we're out here for. It's really, truly that simple. But I do want folks to know the reason I'm out here. The reason we have several hundred other people out here through the holidays and well into the New Year is to accomplish those goals and to make sure that our people, their families and our missions are protected and have safe, drinkable water. It's really that simple.

00:03:37:06 - 00:03:53:17

CAPT GUENTHER

Thank you. What would you say the upcoming milestones are? I know our focuses have sort of evolved since the crisis began in early December or late November. What would you say? The next milestones that we can look for would be?

00:03:54:10 - 00:05:02:03

VICE ADM LINDSEY

Well, I appreciate that question because I think you touched on it in your opening remarks and those milestones are the flushing of the distribution systems and testing those sampling those across the 19 zones that the water system has been broken up into and then the next step after we do the distribution lines and those is actually flushing of individual residences and facilities and infrastructure testing and sampling those. And then when that's done all done in a particular zone and we have the EPA, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Hawai'i Department of Health and the Navy and our other service friends and the Army and Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard all saying, thumbs up, this water based on our flushing in our testing is fit for human consumption. Then that zone will be drinkable for lack of a better term. It's really fit for human consumption that term, but that will have drinkable water and then our families and anybody else that's been displaced by this process, by this crisis can return and know with confidence that when they turn that tap off, what comes out of there is safe, drinkable water.

00:05:03:11 - 00:05:28:18

CAPT GUENTHER

And I appreciate that. I know the community, that's sort of the biggest milestone, I think for all of us looking forward. But I've heard you say that it doesn't just stop there. There will be follow-on validation that we not only did we get it right the first time, but we continue to get it right and provide that safe drinking water for our community and ensure that our greater community in Hawai'i also is unaffected going forward.

00:05:29:02 - 00:09:26:02

VICE ADM LINDSEY

Correct. Everybody that uses the Navy water system, that's people in uniform, that's our DOD civilians, but that's businesses, that's what we consider unaffiliated civilians or non DOD civilians. There's a lot of different entities, different folks that rely on the Navy's water system and that commitment extends to them as well. And it doesn't stop once we get fit for human



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consumption, there's an extensive sampling that goes on for several years after we've achieved that across the 19 zones, Right? There's there's additional testing and scrutiny and oversight that will continue for, like I said, several years and in conjunction with the EPA and the Department of Health, they're incredibly important partners and we need them and we want them to be part of this, and they have to be and they are, and so I think that's that's all positive, that's goodness, and I think that people can rely on that. Another thing we've done is we're purchasing some water sampling gear and equipment because currently the state of Hawaii has to send all samples, not just Navy, but any other water off island to be sampled to meet safe drinking water requirements. We purchased some of that equipment, it should be arriving soon. And in partnership with the University of Hawaii and the Department of Health, we're going to establish that capability on island. And so it'll be readily available and that'll help not only us, but the Honolulu, Board of Water Supply and other water purveyors. They can get samples done on island. They don't have to worry about the delay of sending it back and forth to the mainland, so that's an incredibly positive aspect that's coming out of this crisis as well. One thing I do want to stress, if I can Capt. Guenther, we have hundreds of people here working on this and if you saw up near the Red Hill well right now, you would see massive tanks, filtering tanks being put in place. You would see a 24 inch pipe, hundreds of feet of 24 inch pipe being put in place all the way down into the well, all the way out to these tanks and then off and so, it's like building a water plant. Literally in a matter of weeks. That's the level of effort in the things that we're doing to make sure that we, not only can provide safe drinkable water to our system, but that that well, any contamination at that well or contained and taken out of that well, and that well can be restored to the condition it was before. I'm not saying we're going to turn that well on anytime soon. That's probably months in the future, right? Because it was contaminated, we need to know exactly why it was contaminated. What's going into that well? Where is it coming from? And we're using actually local firms, engineering and hydrology firms to help us with that. We've contracted with them, but I just want to give people the scope. Think of a 24 inch pipe and hundreds of feet of it. This is a massive effort to not only restore safe drinking water, but to make sure that well is clean and that what contaminants are in there do not migrate beyond that well. We contain it and we clean it up. And so we want to make sure we do this deliberately, safely and transparently. We don't hurt anybody else. We don't damage equipment, and that's why it's going to take a few weeks to do it. It's a massive undertaking, and that's why through January, we're still going to be methodically and safely proceeding through these steps and then ultimately moving families back into their homes, ultimately restoring safe drinking water. And so that's, I just want to give people the scope of this. We're not just pushing hydrants. There's a lot of other things going on to achieve our goals and to help and protect the folks that rely on that water.

00:09:27:01 - 00:09:35:20

CAPT GUENTHER

Well, thank you. Thank you very much for those updates, I really appreciate it. You know, from your level and we'd love to have you come back in the future.



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00:09:36:01 - 00:10:49:19

VICE ADM LINDSEY

I'm happy to be here anytime you want me. I'm happy to come back and as you can tell, I like to talk. I'm excited about what we're doing, I'm not happy about it because I hate the fact that we are where we are. But I'm excited for the opportunity to help people. That's what we do in the shore enterprise, in installations. We take care of people, we execute missions, we support missions, it's what we do. So the opportunity to do this and to really help people get back to normal, to normal life normalcy is encouraging, and the hundreds of people that have come out here over the holidays to help with this feel the same way. And so we want nothing more than to get safe drinkable water back in our system and for our families to not have to worry about water anymore and to focus on their mission, on their lives. That's why we're here and again, we understand how tough this has been and how difficult and how difficult it continues to be. And you know, my goal and the goal of the other people that are out here helping us is to. We're out here working for you and that's why we're here and that's what we'll continue to do until the job is done.

00:10:51:02 - 00:10:52:15

CAPT GUENTHER

Well, thank you very much, really appreciate it.

00:10:52:23 - 00:10:54:14

VICE ADM LINDSEY

Appreciate it Capt. Guenther. Good to see you again.

00:10:54:15 - 00:13:14:21

CAPT GUENTHER

Good to see you again. Now I'd like to give our community sort of an update on one of the questions that we've seen on our boards quite a bit. A number of you are in hotels, whether it was self-procured or whether their government provided and some of you are utilizing a TLA benefit in your homes to remain at home. And there are a lot of questions that we've gotten on, when will that benefit or hotel provision end. And so I want to make sure that everybody understands that, that is not in a nutshell that is not tied to a particular date and is tied to the restoration of clean drinking water in your home. So I'm going to read, sort of the policy right here. It says "Service members and federal civilians on limited evacuation orders are authorized lodging benefits, or TLA, from the original date of notification beginning on 3 December, until two calendar days after the water has been flushed and the Department of Health has certified that drinking water is safe for human consumption in your neighborhood." For civilians residing in PPV government housing who are currently in those government contracted hotels. The same applies. They may also remain there until two days after the water is declared safe in your particular neighborhood. So this statement applies to self-procured lodging It applies to government contracted rooms that you and your families may be in, and it also applies to TLA



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for those families who've elected to remain in their residence, and that those benefits won't end until the water is safe and It is not tied to a particular date has been the question out there, it is tied to the restoration of your drinking water. OK, what I'd like to do now is go to our map updates and talk about the progress that we're making. This map is again posted on our water information page, Navy.Mil/JointBaseWater.

00:13:15:03 - 00:16:10:00

CAPT GUENTHER

I'm going to go neighborhood by neighborhood, first neighborhood, Pearl City Peninsula. We announced yesterday at 12:00 that we were proceeding forward with the home to home flushing and we were able to get through 210 of your homes in the Pearl City Peninsula neighborhood yesterday. So we have 425 homes to go to today. We started this morning and we anticipate being able to be finished with all of the home to home flushing in that Pearl City Peninsula neighborhood by the end of today. We're also doing the facilities within the Pearl City Peninsula neighborhood. At the same time, we're doing your homes, so the community center, as well as some of the Navy buildings that are on board there, they're all going to be flushed in the sand using the same methodology. If we don't, by chance, get to everything by the end of today, we'll finish up first thing tomorrow morning. So that's Pearl City Peninsula neighborhood. We also have a number of neighborhoods that have their drinking water system samples out for testing at the labs. Those neighborhoods, Red Hill Neighborhood Aliamanu neighborhood, Hale Moku and Hokulani. For a system flush in our Moanalua Terrace our NEX area. We're 50% complete there for Hale Na Koa, Onizuka Village, Officer Field portion of Hickam Air Field. We are 95% complete and we anticipate being 100% by the end of completion of today. At Ford Island, we are also 95% complete and the same. We expect to be at 100% and complete with the system flushing at Ford Island by the end of today. Now we have coming up tomorrow, two zones going into their system flush. So the first one is Earhart Field on the Hickam side, that is going to a system flush starting tomorrow. And our Kapilina Beach homes, what we sometimes call Iroquois Point, Kapilina Beach Homes, are going to start their system flush tomorrow, the 31st. And then when we get into the weekend and the holiday, a couple more neighborhoods will be coming up for system flush, I want to point out. Camp Smith will start on the first of January and then we'll also have our big neighborhoods over by the golf course, Moanalua Terrace Catlin Park, Halsey, Radford and Doris Miller They're going to start this system flush on the first of January.

00:16:10:20 - 00:17:00:22

CAPT GUENTHER

OK, that's your map update. That was your daily water update for today. Please come back tomorrow, same time. Don't forget to check out our water updates page at Navy.Mil/JointBaseWater. And also, don't forget the good stuff at GreatLifeHawaii.com/Wegotyou. We're monitoring your questions on Facebook and remember, you can also send us your questions at CNRHPAO@gmail.com. Remember, we're all in this



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together as one community and Ohana. Stay safe. Take care of yourself. Take care of each other, and we'll see you next time.