



JOINT BASE WATER DAILY UPDATE

Joint Information Center

(808) 471-5013

www.navy.mil/jointbasewater

[12/31/2021]

00:00:08:18 - 00:01:43:10

CAPT GUENTHER

Hello everyone, and welcome to the daily water update for December 31st. I'm Captain Darren Guenther, Chief of Staff for Navy Region, Hawaii. It's New Year's Eve, and as we bring 2021 to a close, please know how much we appreciate you, our community. We're optimistic about tomorrow and the coming weeks, but we know that some of you are still uprooted from your homes and routines. We see you and we're thinking of you. We are making progress in our flushing of your neighborhoods and you'll see updates on our map daily in colors and percentages, along with some of that progress. Our special thanks to all of our volunteers out there from near and afar who are working tirelessly for you and for our clean water. In a few moments, I'll bring on Miss Dayna Fujimoto, she is a professional engineer with our Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii. She is an important piece of restoring our clean water that we all depend on. But first, I'd like to show you the map and some of the updates we have there. This map you can bring up on our water updates page, that's Navy.mil/JointBaseWater.

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CAPT GUENTHER

Couple of notes I'd like to make before I get into the actual updates first, as you've seen, we've gotten some rain over the last 24 hours and the forecast is for some rain coming up this weekend as well. With that, we're going to be very closely watching the amount of water going into the storm drains. There is a possibility if we get a lot of rain that we may need to slow some of our flushing operations so that we don't overburden the drains. So we'll be watching out for that and you may see some changes or delays in the schedule next week if we get too much rain. The second thing I want to note is I want to talk about Kapilina Beach Homes. Yesterday, I had announced that we were going to start that flush today, we heard some concerns from our community there who were asking a lot of questions on exactly how that process was going to work and so what we'd like to do is we're going to take a pause and delay the flush there so that we can properly communicate to you, our community out there in the Kapilina Beach Homes area on exactly what we're going to do. So we're going to move that system flush to a start on Wednesday, that's 5 January. And in the meantime, we're going to push some information your way on exactly what we're going to do out there and we're also going to try and set up an open house at one of the big carbon filters that's already in that neighborhood so that we can answer some questions there with some of our professional engineers. OK, let's go to the map updates and where we're at Pearl City Peninsula. We've done two days of house to house flushing there and we have completed 575 of the 635 homes that are there. So we have a few more to go today, we're hoping to finish those today. In addition to the homes on Pearl City Peninsula, every time we go to a neighborhood, we're also flushing the other buildings associated with your neighborhood, so your community centers, for instance, as well as any Navy buildings that may also be there. We're flushing those as well, so we have flushed all 13 buildings that are on Pearl City Peninsula, in addition to the homes that we're working on.



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And that's going to go for any of the neighborhoods out there as we go through those neighborhoods in those zones. We're flushing all the facilities, not just the homes, because we want 100% flushed clean water coming in. OK, let's move over to the right side of our map. Red Hill neighborhood, Aliamanu, Hale Moku, Hokulani. All those neighborhoods are waiting for results, test results from the samples that were sent off to the labs, expect to get those maybe late next week, but they are all in that same position. Moanalua Terrace, that's our NEX area, we're 60% complete with a system flush and that's on schedule for Onizuka Village Hale Na Koa, Officer Field area of Hickam, we're complete and we're sampling the system water currently and sending samples off today. Ford Island, similar situation where 100% complete with that flush, and we're taking system samples sending those system samples off to the mainland labs. All right, so coming up today, we are looking to start this afternoon at Earhart field. So if the water hasn't started flowing, it's going to start flowing shortly this afternoon at Earhart Field. And then we have as well, starting tomorrow we have Camp Smith. We're going to start the system flush at Camp Smith tomorrow on 1 January. And then we've also got Catlin Park, Halsey, Radford Terrace, Doris Miller, neighborhoods that entire area over by the golf course is going to start there, flush tomorrow, 1 January.

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CAPT GUENTHER

That's our map update for today. Now I'd like to bring in Dayna Fujimoto, she is a licensed professional engineer with our Naval Facilities Engineering Command and she leads the Environmental Compliance Division and that really is in charge of a lot of our drinking water and she is a pivotal piece of our restoration of the drinking water to ensure that it's safe for our community. So Dayna, welcome and thank you for coming on.

00:06:31:16 - 00:07:15:19

MS FUJIMOTO

Thank you for having me. As you know, the Navy has always been committed to providing clean, safe and reliable drinking water to our supported commands, our service members, civilians and families. As a water supplier to Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, the Navy is regulated by the Hawaii Department of Health under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The Navy's Drinking Water Program requires prescriptive sampling by trained personnel and analysis by certified laboratories. And each year, the Navy provides an annual water quality report to its customers, summarizing the water quality from the previous year.



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CAPT GUENTHER

Really, really important role. And and so in that role, you all are doing a lot with the current sort of sampling and testing process. And, so there's a couple of questions that our community has asked, and I think you're the right person to answer them. The first question is this: What are they testing? What are they testing and sampling for in the water?

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MS FUJIMOTO

So our normal drinking water program requires bacteriological and chemical testing on a routine basis that's prescribed by the environmental regulations. Bacteriological testing is done monthly, whereas other chemicals are tested at a lesser frequency and if chemical constituents are found in concentrations of concern, the law requires the Navy to investigate and increase our sampling frequency.

00:08:09:16 - 00:08:21:18

CAPT GUENTHER

OK. What can you tell us about the process? This testing sampling process you talked about: What can you tell us about from getting samples to actually getting results? Can you tell us about that process?

00:08:22:15 - 00:10:08:15

MS FUJIMOTO

Thank you for asking that question. That's a really great question, because the process of taking samples to getting results is a complex task, and the reason being is because there is a desire for the results to not only be replicable and consistent, but also accurate, timely and reflective of what we're testing for. This is to ensure complete safety and confidence in our drinking water system. And because of what has happened recently, the Navy is testing our drinking water more frequently and with each step being done in an expedited manner. So first, clean bottles that are certified by the labs are prepared with the proper labeling and any preservatives that the test methods require. In the field, we have trained samplers that follow documented sampling procedures to ensure that there is no cross-contamination during the sample collection process. For the tests that we are running, we shipped the samples to the mainland labs overnight because there's just no labs certified in Hawaii for the test, we need to run and the labs running our tests are doing so in an expedited turnaround time, with some labs even working through the weekends and once testing is completed, the results are provided to the Inter-Agency Drinking Water Working Group that includes, the Hawaii Department of Health and Environmental Protection Agency. This group evaluates the data and makes timely decisions based on those results.



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CAPT GUENTHER

That's a really, really complex process, but I understand why it's so important to follow that process. You touched on quality and accuracy, what measures do we have in place to ensure the quality and accuracy of results?

00:10:25:14 - 00:11:14:05

MS FUJIMOTO

Yeah, thanks. There are actually a number of quality control measures that are implemented to ensure the quality and accuracy of our results. So as I mentioned, we have trained samplers that follow documented sampling procedures to ensure there is no cross-contamination during the sample collection process. We also use labs that are certified by the Hawaii Department of Health for the drinking water analysis, and the labs themselves have certified personnel specialized to run these tests. And all this is done with the increased regulatory oversight and in coordination with the Hawaii Department of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency in the Drinking Water Interagency Working Group.

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CAPT GUENTHER

So really, it sounds like a really complex process with a lot of safeguards and a lot of experts involved in that process to ensure that it's accurate and right. And so, you know, I want to thank you for your efforts in leading your team and and on behalf of our community for the safe drinking water, thank you for coming.

00:11:39:05 - 00:11:40:03

MS FUJIMOTO

Thank you for having me.

00:11:46:02 - 00:12:32:13

CAPT GUENTHER

That was your daily water update. We're going to take a break for the New Year's weekend, and so we'll see you back on Monday, the third. We're monitoring your comments on Facebook, and you can also email questions to CNRHPAO@Gmail.com. Don't forget our water info website at Navy.Mil/JointBaseWater, and make sure you check out the good stuff at GreatLifeHawaii.com/WeGotYou. Remember, we're all in this together as one community and hana. Stay safe, take care of yourself, take care of each other, and of course, hau oli makahiki hou. We'll see you next time.