



JOINT BASE WATER DAILY UPDATE

Joint Information Center

(808) 471-5013

www.navy.mil/jointbasewater

[1/7/2022]

00:00:05:19 - 00:01:39:15

CAPT GUENTHER

Hello, everyone, and welcome to the daily water update for January the seventh. I'm Captain Darren Guenther, chief of staff for Navy Region, Hawaii. As we move closer to getting clean water back into your homes, our focus is shifting to the home flushing portion of that plan. There's a home flushing checklist infographic that you can pick up on our social media pages, and that info will give you a better idea of what they'll be doing in your homes coming up. Yesterday, we fielded some questions from you on GAC's or our Granulated Activated Carbon treatment and while we have some community events coming up that can speak to exactly how those work and what we're doing, we thought we'd bring on the expert to talk about it herself. So later in the program, we'll bring on lieutenant commander, Marjorie Gruber. She's the commanding officer of the Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 303. She's our GAC expert, and she'll give us a general overview and be able to cover some of the questions that you've asked. But before we talk to Lieutenant Commander Gruber, let's take a look at our flushing map progress. The flashing map is posted on our water website, Navy.Mil/JointBaseWater.

00:01:39:15 - 00:05:14:09

CAPT GUENTHER

So I'm going to go neighborhood by neighborhood, Pearl City Peninsula. We're still waiting, the test results from the home samples that we took from the water in your homes and they are at the lab currently, no change there. So some zones in progress for flushing, the first Aliamanu has begun its re-flush sort of the western quarter of that zone is about 25%, so that's begun in earnest there. For Makalapa we're 75% complete for the Hickam Beach area, we're 60% complete. Again, these are system flushes for the distribution system and Kapalina Beach Homes is 20% complete. For our shipyard area, as well as Hale Alii Marine Barracks and Hospital Point just wrapped up, that's complete at 100%. And our McGrew Point Housing we're at 40% and Halawa Housing, little slice up, they're also at 40%. Now a couple of zones coming up on home flushing, the first let's talk about Hale Moku. So at noon just a few minutes ago, we should have gotten started on your home flushing. So the interagency water team was able to look at the results this morning and give us the go ahead to start that home flush. We should be able to get through the majority of homes there today with a small amount of those homes remaining. Hokulani right next door. Same boat, we're looking at tomorrow for your home flush and we think we can get through Hokulani in one day tomorrow. So that is the map update. Take a look, some updates on the right side and one update and one area I do want to highlight that we're looking to move left potentially, and we're going to give you more information by the end of day is our Hickam Field area of Hale Na Koa, Officer Field and Onizuka Housing. So they should be getting our test results from the system water tests that we sent to the lab on the mainland tomorrow morning. We expect to meet with that team to look at those results. If we're able to get them in time, we're looking to start your home flush on Sunday, the ninth. So that is a move up day. We are going to get you more communication by the end of today on exactly how we envision that happening and whether that's going to happen. Some of the other neighborhoods, Ford Island, Earhart portion of



JOINT BASE WATER DAILY UPDATE

Joint Information Center

(808) 471-5013

www.navy.mil/jointbasewater

[1/7/2022]

Hickam, NEX area, Catlin Park, Radford, Doris Miller awaiting our test results for the samples from the water distribution that were sent off to the mainland. So that's your update for the map today. OK, I'd like to highlight a couple of letters that went out two of them that went out yesterday that I'd ask you to refer to your emails on for Hale Moku and Hokulani, again for Hale Moku.

00:05:14:16 - 00:06:41:03

CAPT GUENTHER

We're getting started this afternoon on your home to home flush. The correspondence that went out and does have a breakout of the streets that we expect to get to, and then today, this afternoon, with the remaining streets that we're expecting for tomorrow morning. And then also letter to Hokulani, again starting tomorrow, January the eighth for your home to home flush, and our hope is to be able to do all of your homes in one day tomorrow. One other piece of correspondence I do want to make sure folks are looking for is later on today an understanding for those of you in that Onizuka Officer Field, Hale Na Koa area on Hickam Field, on when your home to home flushing will begin. We were looking to move that up to the ninth, which is Sunday, and you'll have more information by the close of business today on that. OK, now I'd like to bring in our guest. Yesterday, we tried to address some questions on these big carbon filters that are in, and we thought we'd bring in the expert. You're the commanding officer of CBMU 303 Lieutenant Commander Gruber and you're a GAC expert. So thank you for being here.

00:06:41:05 - 00:06:42:10

LCDR GRUBER

Yes, sir. Thank you for having me.

00:06:43:12 - 00:06:54:01

CAPT GUENTHER

I'm going to ask you the questions that were posed to me yesterday and I thought we'd just go through those. First of all, what is the science behind the use of the GAC's?

00:06:54:06 - 00:07:33:18

LCDR GRUBER

Yes sir, so put in the simplest form, the GAC's themselves are the gold standard of a filtration system and so I know we've heard a couple of people ask about, well, what about the Brita filters, can't I just use that? Again, with it being the gold standard, we're looking for very specific contaminants that were agreed upon with the Interagency Working Group, so including Department of Health and EPA, what types of contaminants we're looking for, and so these GACs are very specifically filtering out these contaminants that other filter systems, such as the Brita would not.



JOINT BASE WATER DAILY UPDATE

Joint Information Center

(808) 471-5013

www.navy.mil/jointbasewater

[1/7/2022]

00:07:34:04 - 00:07:42:15

CAPT GUENTHER

OK. Why did we choose, similar question maybe, why did we choose these GAC's for this operation in particular?

00:07:43:00 - 00:08:23:20

LCDR GRUBER

Yes, sir. So with any acquisition or contracting, we would look at what types of technologies are available that are going to answer or provide a solution and so, right off the bat, the GAC's and air strippers were the two technologies that were available. The GAC's themselves were readily available. They're portable, we're able to move them around the different neighborhoods that they're going to and then most importantly, is that again, they filter out all of the contaminants. They provide the full spectrum of filtration, which the air strippers did not.

00:08:24:02 - 00:08:30:08

CAPT GUENTHER

OK and tell us how we're using these particular ones for our systems.

00:08:30:13 - 00:09:29:21

LCDR GRUBER

Yes, sir. So we're really using the GAC's for the effluent while we are doing the system flushing. And so with the Waiawa shaft, which is clean water, is pushing out any residual water that might have been provided by Red Hill, the Redhill shaft. But as that water goes through and flushes out the system, we also want to be good stewards of the environment and not put anything into the sanitation sewers, any of that and so, that is also part of our testing. So as it comes through the system, it will go through the GAC and after it goes through the GAC and is filtered, there's a test that happens to make sure that the water coming out of the GAC is indistinguishable from the source, which is the Waiawa shaft before it goes back into I'm sorry, not back, but into sewer systems or into drains.

00:09:30:17 - 00:09:38:15

CAPT GUENTHER

OK, so essentially the water, we're cleaning any contaminants out of the water before that water gets disposed of.

00:09:38:20 - 00:09:46:14

LCDR GRUBER

Yes, sir, and I think it's important to say disposed of because it in fact does not go back into any homes or anything like that.



JOINT BASE WATER DAILY UPDATE

Joint Information Center

(808) 471-5013

www.navy.mil/jointbasewater

[1/7/2022]

00:09:47:16 - 00:09:51:03

CAPT GUENTHER

And have these GAC's been used for this sort of purpose?

00:09:51:12 - 00:10:30:00

LCDR GRUBER

Yes sir. So also a part of the research when we chose the GAC's, is looking at where they've been used before and so they've very specifically have been used to pull out POL's, petroleum oil, lubricants, pesticides, many other things, and so even talking to some of the contractors that are here now with the GAC's, they're a pretty common application to be used I had not seen it prior to this, but then looking at the list of different times that they've been used, it's pretty common, yes, sir.

00:10:30:08 - 00:10:39:20

CAPT GUENTHER

I guess I have one follow up question. I'd like to ask: Did the Environmental Protection Agency and the Hawaii Department of Health approve of this plan?

00:10:40:04 - 00:11:06:02

LCDR GRUBER

Yes sir. So it's very specifically called out in the flushing plan that we were already receiving the GAC's and that they had been approved. So the EPA, Department of Health have all been a part of this as part of the Interagency Working Group to help us with the solution. This has not been the Navy by themselves. It's been a collective group of all the people working together.

00:11:06:14 - 00:11:09:13

CAPT GUENTHER

OK. Alright. Wonderful. Thank you for coming.

00:11:09:15 - 00:11:10:05

LCDR GRUBER

Yes sir.

00:11:16:17 - 00:12:35:19

CAPT GUENTHER

That was your daily water update for today. Please come back on Monday, same time. We're monitoring your questions on Facebook, and you can also email those questions to CNRHPAO@gmail.com. We're tracking still some questions that we're working on civilian benefits as well as plastics, and we're working hard to get some answers to you on those. Don't forget to check out our water info Website Navy.Mil/JointBaseWater, and don't forget to check out the good stuff at GreatLifeHawaii.com/Wegotyou. Finally, a quick word before we close I've



JOINT BASE WATER DAILY UPDATE

Joint Information Center

(808) 471-5013

www.navy.mil/jointbasewater

[1/7/2022]

had the opportunity for the last three weeks to speak to you daily on the situation that we're in and each day I've closed with the same statements and I wanted to say that I don't say that because someone wrote it for me, I wrote it myself because I believe that. So please remember we're all in this together as one community and one ohana. I also wrote this because I mean it. Stay safe, take care of yourself, take care of each other and we'll see you next time.