



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM
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Team,

One year ago, residents and users of the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) water system were contending with the Red Hill water crisis. By the time I took command of the Joint Base in June, the water system had been restored to its normal, healthy state, and was being tested in accordance with Hawaii Department of Health (HIDOH) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards. After six months in command, I want to take this opportunity to update everyone who uses the Joint Base water system.

To recap for those who are new to the island: fuel spills at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility (RHBFSF) on May 6, 2021 and Nov. 20, 2021 led to the contamination of the Red Hill water shaft and Navy water system serving JBPHH and several other communities. As a result of the incident, the use of the Red Hill water shaft was discontinued, and the installation implemented plans to exclusively pull all drinking water from a shaft in Waiawa, 6-miles away from Red Hill. Following a plan approved by the EPA and HIDOH, the Navy spent several months flushing and sampling the system, individual homes, and buildings on the JBPHH water system. On March 18, 2022, HIDOH amended the health advisory for the final zones on the Navy water system, declaring water across the entire system safe to drink.

In March 2022, the Navy, in close coordination with HIDOH and the EPA, began a two-year long-term monitoring program, which will collect 7,800 samples from homes, schools, child development centers, other buildings, and hydrants throughout the distribution system. Long-term monitoring is planned over seven periods, and a data summary report with an overview of what was found is posted at the end of each period. Additionally, specific results from each location in this zone are posted monthly. The Waiawa shaft remains the sole source of drinking water, and to date, the Navy has collected 3,800 samples with no detections of fuel.

In May 2022, HIDOH issued a Notice of Violation to the Navy for failing to provide a Tier 1 public notification, with all required specific components, to JBPHH water users for the November 2021 fuel release. Per Hawaii Administrative Rules, a public water system must provide Tier 1 public notice within 24-hours for all national primary drinking water regulation violations and other situations as determined by the State. This notification can be found at <https://JBPHH-SAFEWATERS.ORG>.

Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin directed the defueling and permanent closure of the Red Hill facility on March 7, 2022, after close consultation with senior civilian and military leaders. The expeditious and safe defueling of the facility is a top priority for the Secretary and the Department of Defense, and a Joint Task Force (JTF) was established this fall to lead that effort. JTF-Red Hill will oversee the defueling efforts and work closely with regulators, elected officials, and other stakeholders throughout the process.

As the purveyor of the precious water you and your family members use, my Public Works Department works every day to ensure our water's quality. However, if you have concerns about the quality of the water, on-call Rapid Response Teams can gather drinking water samples to test for the presence of fuel. Those with concerns can call the JBPHH Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at (808) 449-1979 or (808) 448-3262.

Additional information:

- Water status updates and resources - <https://www.cpf.navy.mil/JBPHH-Water-Updates/>
- Long-term monitoring and testing - <https://JBPHH-SAFEWATERS.ORG>
- Navy Red Hill - <https://cnrh.cnrc.navy.mil/Operations-and-Management/Red-Hill/>
- Joint Task Force Red Hill - <https://www.pacom.mil/JTF-Red-Hill/Joint-Task-Force-Red-Hill/>
- HIDOH Red Hill - <https://health.hawaii.gov/about/red-hill-water-information/>
- EPA Red Hill - <https://www.epa.gov/red-hill>

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