

Red Hill e-Updates Archive

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e-Update 1 (sent July 26, 2023)

This email is to inform potentially exposed individuals about health updates and resources related to the Red Hill fuel release in Hawaii.

TO: Subscribers of Red Hill Public Health Updates (38025 recipients)

I am contacting you on behalf of Defense Health Agency (DHA) Public Health. You and your family may have been exposed to the November 2021 JP-5 (aviation fuel) release that entered the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam water system. We know the events surrounding the Red Hill fuel release may have been a stressful, disruptive experience, and you and/or your family's health may still be affected. DHA Public Health is committed to fully understanding any potential health effects of the Red Hill fuel release and will keep you informed through regular health e-updates, a website, public engagements, and other resources.

If you prefer not to receive these e-updates and want to unsubscribe, or if you or someone in your family would like to subscribe using a different email address, please manage your subscription using this link: https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USMHS/subscriber/new?topic_id=USMHS_161

DHA Public Health strives to earn your trust and confidence through honesty, transparency, and mutual respect. We look forward to partnering with you to obtain answers to important questions and keep you and your family informed.

Cordially,
Col John Oh
Defense Health Agency Public Health

e-Update 2 (sent August 22, 2023)

This email provides contact information, an update on a future health registry, and an upcoming public webpage about the Red Hill fuel release.

TO: Subscribers of Red Hill Public Health Updates (38038 recipients)

In this e-update, we share with you—

- How to contact us,
- The status of an Independent Red Hill Registry, and the
- Public webpage coming soon.

How to Contact Us:

Email a public health team member at dha.redhill@health.mil

We are committed to helping you with any of your health questions, concerns, or feedback.

This is not a secure mailbox. Do not add protected health information (PHI) or personally identifiable information (PII) in your message to us. This includes information such as—

- Social security numbers,
- Dates of birth,
- Health conditions, or
- Treatments.

If you have a question about an individual health concern, contact your healthcare provider.

Status of an Independent Red Hill Registry:

We are in the early stages of setting up a separate *Independent* Red Hill Registry to be operated by a third party.

The purpose of this registry is to—

- Track your health over time,
- To investigate any health effects, and
- To provide information and support to those who may have potentially been exposed during the Red Hill fuel release.

A separate registry allows for all individuals potentially exposed to be included: affected local populations as well as those associated with the DOD. When the registry is ready, you will receive information on the advantages of enrolling and how to enroll. Sign up is voluntary. Since this registry will continue for years and decades, we want to ensure it functions optimally, so we appreciate your patience as we work through the details.

Public Webpage Coming Soon:

We know you and your family want to stay informed on health-related information, so stay tuned for a Defense Health Agency Red Hill Public Health webpage. The focus will be on health information and upcoming events. We will also link to other sites that post water testing results as well as updates on the defueling and closure of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility.

Cordially,
Col John Oh
Defense Health Agency - Public Health

e-Update 3 (sent November 15, 2023)

This email provides information on the DoD incident report, a health webinar, and a new public health webpage about the Red Hill fuel release.

TO: Subscribers of Red Hill Public Health Updates (38514 recipients)

In this e-update, we share information with you about—

- The Red Hill Defense Occupational and Environmental Health Readiness System (DOEHRS) Incident Report,
- A Red Hill Health Webinar on January 9, 2024, and
- The new Red Hill Public Health Information webpage.

Red Hill Defense Occupational and Environmental Health Readiness System (DOEHRS) Incident Report:

The Red Hill DOEHRs Incident Report has also been referred to as the DoD Red Hill Incident Report Registry.

What is the Red Hill DOEHRs Incident Report?

This report is a list of names of DoD workers and residents of military family housing areas served by the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam water system.

What is the difference between the Red Hill DOEHRs Incident Report and the independent Red Hill registry mentioned in the last e-Update?

The Red Hill DOEHRs Incident Report serves as a formal record of potential exposure to the November 2021 fuel release at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. You can think of this report as a limited “Registry 1.0” without the functionality to send, receive, and store individual health questionnaires. In addition, the Red Hill DOEHRs Incident Report does not include potentially exposed people who are not DoD-affiliated. The independent Red Hill registry will have the ability to send, receive, and store individual health questionnaires and can include individuals who are not DoD-affiliated. The Defense Health Agency (DHA) is committed to supporting both the Red Hill DOEHRs Incident Report and an independent Red Hill registry.

How do I know if I am listed in the Red Hill DOEHRs Incident Report?

In early 2022, sponsors of families in military family housing areas served by the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam water system received a letter notifying them that they were listed in the Red Hill DOEHRs Incident Report. If you would like to confirm that you and your family are listed, please send an email to dha.redhill@health.mil and include your full name and phone number. Do not include protected information such as dates of birth or ID numbers.

Save the Date – January 9, 2024 – Red Hill Health Webinar:

Join us on January 9, 2024, at 1400 ET for a webinar about how the DHA is addressing health concerns related to the Red Hill fuel release. This webinar will focus on health topics exclusively. We won’t discuss the current water testing protocols or defueling operations at Red Hill, as they are outside our area of responsibility; you can find more information on those topics on The Red Hill Bulk Storage Facility webpage. We look forward to this first session in a series of live public events on Red Hill health topics. Mark your calendars, and stay tuned for more information coming soon.

Red Hill Public Health Information Webpage:

We are excited to announce our new webpage! Our goal is to provide essential health information and resources for those impacted by the fuel release. Visit us to learn more.

How to Contact Us:

Email: dha.redhill@health.mil

This is not a secure mailbox. Do not include protected health information or personally identifiable information in your message to us. Examples include—

- Social security numbers,
- Dates of birth,
- Health conditions, and
- Treatments.

If you have a personal health question, contact your doctor.

We welcome your feedback and are committed to helping you with your health questions or concerns.

Cordially,
Col John Oh
Defense Health Agency – Public Health

e-Update 4 (sent December 14, 2023)

This email is a webinar (1) invitation, to update participants on DHA's efforts regarding the Red Hill fuel release and to answer questions.

TO: Subscribers of Red Hill Public Health Updates (38586 recipients)

Defense Health Agency (DHA) Public Health cordially invites you to a webinar to update you on what DHA is doing to address health concerns related to the November 2021 Red Hill JP-5 fuel release and to answer your questions.

Who: Hosted by Col (Dr.) John Oh, Chief, Occupational and Environmental Health Division, DHA Public Health.

What: Red Hill Health Webinar

When: January 9, 2024, at 1400 EST/0900 HST (NOTE: Webinar will also be recorded for on-demand viewing.)

Where: Microsoft TEAMS Live

Why: In this hour-long webinar, DHA Public Health staff will provide information on what DHA is doing to address health concerns among those exposed to the Red Hill fuel release and will answer your questions.

How to attend:

Access Microsoft TEAMS Live, on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 1400 EST/0900 HST.

You may also join via phone: +1 571-616-7941

Conference ID: 398 517 626#

Submitting a Question for the Webinar:

During the webinar, we will spend most of the time answering your health questions. Individuals exposed to the Red Hill JP-5 fuel release may submit a question in advance by emailing us at dha.redhill@health.mil. Please note this is not a secure mailbox. Please do not include personal health information such as your health conditions or treatments. We will answer as many questions as we can during the webinar and will follow up with you if we can't address your question during the live broadcast.

We look forward to providing an update and addressing your questions on January 9, 2024.

Sincerely,

Col John Oh

Defense Health Agency – Public Health

e-Update 5 (sent March 6, 2024)

This email provides a summary of the January webinar, a new healthcare provider fact sheet, and information on future webinars about the Red Hill fuel release.

TO: Subscribers of Red Hill Public Health Updates (39016 recipients)

In this e-update, we share the following information with you:

- On-demand viewing of the January 9, 2024, Red Hill Health Webinar
- Fact Sheet: Healthcare Provider Recommendations to Support Patients Exposed to the November 2021 Fuel Release at Red Hill (*NEW*)
- Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Red Hill website
- Future Red Hill Health Webinars: Call for Topics
- Next webinar on April 9, 2024, at 1500 ET

January 9, 2024, Red Hill Health Webinar:

Defense Health Agency (DHA) Public Health recently hosted an hour-long webinar on what we are doing to address health concerns related to the Red Hill fuel release. In case you missed it, you can view the webinar on-demand at our website. Our webinar answered participant questions and provided updates on the future independent Red Hill registry and last year's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention medical record review.

Fact Sheet: Healthcare Provider Recommendations to Support Patients Exposed to the November 2021 Fuel Release at Red Hill (*NEW*)

DHA Public Health posted a new fact sheet for healthcare providers. In this one-page fact sheet, we summarize the Red Hill fuel release and health problems reported. We provide specific recommendations for healthcare providers to support patients with ongoing symptoms that patients attribute to the fuel release.

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Red Hill Website (*NEW*)

ATSDR has published a new webpage summarizing the Red Hill fuel release and related ATSDR activities. We encourage you to review and bookmark the site.

Future Red Hill Health Webinars: Call for Topics

We want to hear from you! If you have suggestions for topics for future Red Hill Health webinars, please send them to us at dha.redhill@health.mil.

Save the Date – April 9, 2024 – The Next Red Hill Health Webinar:

Join us on April 9, 2024, at 1500 ET for a webinar about how the DHA continues to address health concerns related to the Red Hill fuel release. **This webinar will focus on health topics exclusively.** We won't discuss the current water testing protocols or defueling operations at Red Hill, as they are outside our area of responsibility; you can find more information on those topics on The Red Hill Bulk Storage Facility webpage. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information coming soon.

Sincerely,
Col John Oh
Defense Health Agency – Public Health

e-Update 6 (sent March 28, 2024)

This email is a webinar (2) invitation, to update participants on DHA's efforts regarding the Red Hill fuel release and to answer questions.

TO: Subscribers of Red Hill Public Health Updates (39185 recipients)

Defense Health Agency – Public Health (DHA PH) cordially invites you to our next webinar to update you on what DHA is doing to address health concerns related to the November 2021 Red Hill JP-5 fuel release and to answer your questions.

Who: Hosted by Col (Dr.) John Oh, Chief, Occupational and Environmental Health Division, DHA Public Health.

What: Red Hill Health Webinar

When: Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 1500 ET/0900 HST

(NOTE: Webinar will also be recorded for on-demand viewing.)

Where: Microsoft Teams Live Event

Why: In this hour-long webinar, DHA PH staff will provide information on what DHA is doing to address health concerns among those exposed to the Red Hill fuel release and will answer your questions.

How to attend:

Access the Microsoft Teams Live Event on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 1500 ET/0900 HST.

You may also join via phone: +1 410-874-6747

Conference ID: 847 841 812#

We look forward to providing an update and addressing your questions on April 9, 2024.

Sincerely,

Col John Oh

Defense Health Agency – Public Health

e-Update 7 (sent April 30, 2024)

This email asks for participants for a virtual listening session about experiences related to the Red Hill fuel release.

TO: Subscribers of Red Hill Public Health Updates (39327 recipients)

As mentioned in the April 9, 2024 Red Hill Health webinar*, Defense Health Agency Public Health is actively seeking individuals who were exposed to the November 2021 Red Hill fuel release to participate in a small group listening session.

Your voice matters! We are interested in hearing about your experiences of receiving health care and obtaining information related to the Red Hill fuel release, and how the Defense Health Agency can better support you and your family.

The session will be held virtually in a small group setting (4–8 participants) and will take about an hour of your time. Your participation is completely anonymous; all feedback will be collected on a non-attributational basis.

Interested in participating? Please send an email to us at dha.redhill@health.mil, and our Red Hill Health outreach coordinator will follow up with you.

Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,
Col John Oh
Defense Health Agency – Public Health

e-Update 8 (sent June 20, 2024)

This email is a webinar (3) invitation, to update participants on DHA's efforts regarding the Red Hill fuel release and to answer questions.

TO: Subscribers of Red Hill Public Health Updates (39549 recipients)

Defense Health Agency (DHA) Public Health cordially invites you to our next webinar to update you on what DHA is doing to address health concerns related to the November 2021 Red Hill JP-5 fuel release and to answer your questions.

Who: Hosted by Col (Dr.) John Oh, Chief, Occupational and Environmental Health Division, DHA Public Health.

What: Red Hill Health Webinar

When: Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at 3:00-4:15pm (Eastern) / 9:00-10:15am (Hawaii) (NOTE: Webinar will also be recorded for on-demand viewing.)

Where: [Microsoft Teams Live Event](#)

Why: In this 75-minute webinar, DHA Public Health staff will provide information on what DHA is doing to address health concerns among those exposed to the Red Hill fuel release and will answer your questions.

How to attend:

Join the [Microsoft Teams Live Event](#), on Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at 3:00pm (Eastern) / 9:00am (Hawaii)

You may also join via phone: 1-410-874-6747

Conference ID: 725 487 549#

We look forward to providing an update and addressing your questions on July 16, 2024.

Sincerely,

Col John Oh

Defense Health Agency – Public Health

e-Update 9 (sent June 27, 2024)

This email amplifies the University of Hawaii and the Uniformed Services University announcements regarding funding for an Independent Red Hill Registry.

TO: Subscribers of Red Hill Public Health Updates (39556 recipients)

We are pleased to share that the University of Hawaii (UH) has been selected to plan and operate the Independent Red Hill Registry.

Details can be found here:

[University of Hawaii News](#)

[Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences News](#)

What are the benefits of an Independent Registry?

As we discussed at our January webinar, an Independent Red Hill Registry for those exposed to the November 2021 Red Hill fuel release is the best means to study the long-term health impacts from the fuel release, and we strongly encourage you to sign up when the registry is ready for enrollment.

The UH has full independence to plan and execute the registry to support those exposed to the fuel release, as well as the greater public. DoD will not approve the registry design, questionnaires, or findings and conclusions, and DoD will not receive individuals' data.

When can I enroll?

The Independent Red Hill Registry will take time to develop to ensure it tracks long-term health impacts effectively. No pre-enrollment is available. The UH will determine when open enrollment begins, and we'll notify you through multiple ways, including DHA e-Updates. Remember, enrollment in the Independent Red Hill Registry will be voluntary. For now, individuals who are interested in receiving updates on the registry's development and community engagement efforts are encouraged to [sign up at this UH website](#).

What is the status of the original DoD registry?

Defense Health Agency Public Health will continue to operate the Red Hill Defense Occupational and Environmental Health Readiness System (DOEHRS) Registry for DoD-affiliated individuals only. The Red Hill DOEHRS Registry, which currently includes 55,768 individuals, is a list of names of DoD workers and residents of military family housing served by the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam water system. Additional information on the Red Hill DOEHRS Registry is on our [Red Hill Public Health website](#).

How to contact us:

Email: dha.redhill@health.mil

This is not a secure mailbox. Do not include protected health information or personally identifiable information in your message to us. Examples include—

- Social security numbers,
- Dates of birth,
- Health conditions, and
- Treatments.

If you have a personal health question, contact your doctor.

We welcome your feedback and are committed to helping you with your health questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Col John Oh

Defense Health Agency – Public Health

e-Update 10 (sent August 8, 2024)

This email amplifies the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (“National Academies”) announcement that they will conduct an independent study on the potential health implications of the Red Hill fuel release and provides a link to the webinar #3 recording.

TO: Subscribers of Red Hill Public Health Updates (39804 recipients)

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Defense Health Agency (DHA) are excited to announce that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (“National Academies”) will conduct an independent study on the potential health implications of the Red Hill fuel release. National Academies will form an expert panel to write a report that includes recommendations for healthcare providers treating patients exposed to the Red Hill fuel release.

Details can be found here: [Clinical Follow-Up and Care for Those Impacted by the JP-5 Releases at Red Hill](#)

Why a National Academies report?

Many people exposed to the Red Hill fuel release, and their doctors, have questions about the long-term health risks of fuel exposure and what should be done to monitor their health. The National Academies are known for their unbiased, scientific advice on complex issues that inform public policy decisions.

How can I get involved?

The Red Hill study will include community engagement, and representatives will be given the opportunity to share their experiences with the Committee. Previous studies led by the National Academies, such as the [2022 Guidance on PFAS Exposure, Testing, and Clinical Follow-Up](#), have involved similar engagement activities. If you are interested in participating, please respond to the call for community members. The National Academies will reach out to hear about your concerns and experiences.

When will this report be available?

The final report should be published in about two years. While this may seem like a long wait, gathering information, analyzing data, and writing a report with expert review takes time. The final product will be a valuable resource for affected individuals, healthcare providers, and policymakers.

Red Hill Health Webinar #3:

On July 16th, the Defense Health Agency (DHA) Public Health held a webinar about the ongoing health response to the Red Hill fuel release. We discussed the National Academies report and what continues to be done to address health concerns. **Missed the webinar?** You can watch it on demand on our [website](#). We answered participant questions and provided updates on the future of the public health response.

How to contact us:

Email: dha.redhill@health.mil

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- Treatments.

If you have a personal health question, contact your doctor.

We welcome your feedback and are committed to helping you with your health questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Col John Oh

Defense Health Agency – Public Health

e-Update 11 (sent August 27, 2024)

This email is COL Oh's farewell message as he retires from the Air Force.

TO: Subscribers of Red Hill Public Health Updates (39975 recipients)

As I mentioned at the July 16, 2024 webinar, I will be retiring soon from the Air Force. Defense Health Agency (DHA) Public Health will continue to actively lead the Department of Defense's public health response to the Red Hill fuel release, partnering with the National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

We are at a turning point in the overall Red Hill public health response. We must bring in outside experts to address important remaining questions. The University of Hawai'i (UH) is planning the Red Hill Independent Health Registry, which will enable long-term study of the health effects of the Red Hill fuel release. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine are beginning the process toward eventual publication of a consensus study report on Red Hill health. Both UH and the National Academies will be engaging directly with those exposed to the fuel release.

For those impacted by the fuel release, Defense Health Agency Public Health will continue striving to partner with you. We will remain committed to honesty, transparency, and mutual respect. I wish all of you healing, recovery, wellness, and thriving.

Sincerely,
Col John Oh
Defense Health Agency – Public Health

e-Update 12 (sent November 19, 2024)

This email informs subscribers that the University of Hawai'i is seeking community input for their Red Hill Registry.

TO: Subscribers of Red Hill Public Health Updates (40,809 recipients)

We are reaching out to share with you that the University of Hawai'i is seeking community input for their Red Hill Registry. The registry aims to connect people impacted by the Red Hill fuel release to resources and to track health effects over time. We believe your insights are essential in shaping this initiative.

Virtual focus groups will be held from November 21-26 for impacted community members, concerned residents, and professionals who responded to the crisis or provided support to those affected.

To register for one of the three focus groups and for more information, please [view the "Community input sought for Red Hill Registry" news story on the UH website.](#)

Sincerely,
Defense Health Agency – Public Health

e-Update 13 (sent December 12, 2024)

This email provides an overview of the key developments in 2024 related to the Red Hill fuel release.

TO: Subscribers of Red Hill Public Health Updates (40,998 recipients)

This e-Update provides an overview of the key developments in 2024 related to the Red Hill fuel release.

Below, you'll find highlights on the latest efforts and resources, including the—

- Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry Red Hill response support and web page.
- University of Hawai'i Red Hill health registry and website.
- National Academies Red Hill study and website.
- DHA Public Health updates.

Some of these efforts actively seek community input through their official agency websites. While we strive to amplify those communications, we encourage you to visit the online resources listed below and subscribe to their updates.

We hope this summary keeps you informed and connected to ongoing health-related efforts surrounding Red Hill.

Red Hill Response Web Page – U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

[ATSDR has established a web page](#) that briefly explains the Red Hill fuel release and provides a detailed summary of the CDC/ATSDR's Red Hill response activities. The main activities include conducting three Assessment of Chemical Exposure (ACE) investigations, to date, that examine the acute health effects from the release; undertaking a public health assessment to evaluate potential health risks for communities near the facility; and lending technical expertise to the University of Hawai'i (UH), which is developing an independent Red Hill health registry to examine any long-term health effects from the Red Hill fuel release (see below).

[The ATSDR Red Hill Response web page](#) also includes links to the CDC/ATSDR [Red Hill ACE investigations](#) and ATSDR's [Red Hill public health assessment activities](#).

Independent Red Hill Health Registry – University of Hawai'i

UH is creating an independent Red Hill health registry to provide support and resources for anyone directly impacted by the Red Hill water crisis. The Red Hill Independent Health Registry ("Red Hill Registry") is a UH Office of Strategic Health Initiatives project funded by a 5-year, \$27.2-million federal cooperative agreement.

This opt-in, third-party registry is being co-developed with the community to provide connections to services and educational programs while tracking participants' long-term health status and gathering information on how fuel exposures may impact health. UH recently completed one of the first tasks as part of the project and delivered a Congressionally-mandated report on the feasibility and necessity of conducting an epidemiological health outcomes study. The report concluded that an epidemiological health outcomes study is both feasible and necessary to advance understanding of the long-term health effects related to the Red Hill fuel release. The feasibility assessment report was delivered to the

National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health and was included in the Department of Defense's annual report to Congress on the Red Hill fuel release.

To develop the registry, the UH registry team is [currently seeking community input](#) through focus groups and online surveys. The team is also establishing a community oversight working group to ensure community voices are included at each step of the health registry development process. To support these efforts, the team will also seek to hire local community members, including individuals directly affected by the crisis, to support outreach, enrollment, and referral services. A formal online registration portal for the registry is anticipated to launch in the summer of 2025. Enrollment in the UH Independent Red Hill Registry will be strictly voluntary; no one will be automatically enrolled, and you must sign up if you are interested in participating. UH has already established a [website for its Red Hill health registry](#) where you can sign up to receive updates and [view news](#) on registry development, community engagement efforts, and employment opportunities.

Consensus study report on the potential health implications of the Red Hill fuel leak - The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine ("National Academies") is assembling a committee of experts to author a report which will review the health risks associated with JP-5 exposure. The report will include recommendations regarding clinical follow-up for those exposed, as well as guidance on clinical actions that can be taken to monitor the health of community members exposed. The report will be released to the public in the spring of 2026.

To understand the needs and priorities of the affected community, the authoring committee will need to hear the varying perspectives and experiences of those exposed to the contaminated drinking water. To accomplish this, the National Academies will establish a volunteer panel of community liaisons to meet with study staff approximately once a month for about a year while the committee is conducting its work. If you have a suggestion for someone who might serve as a liaison, please submit it [here](#), as soon as possible. The National Academies has established a [website for their Red Hill study](#) that contains a wealth of information and frequently asked questions. If you have questions about the study, please email redhill@nas.edu.

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine are private, nonprofit institutions that provide independent, objective analysis and advice to the nation to solve complex problems and inform public policy decisions related to science, engineering, and medicine. They operate under an 1863 congressional charter to the National Academy of Sciences, signed by President Lincoln.

DHA Public Health Red Hill Updates

DHA Public Health remains committed to proactively sharing updates on the UH Red Hill Health Registry and the National Academies Red Hill study. [Through our website](#) and future e-Updates, we will provide timely information, including the latest developments, research findings, and resources to keep you informed and engaged.

We wish you and your loved ones a safe and joyful holiday season.

Sincerely,
Mr. Christopher Brown
Defense Health Agency – Public Health