



Red Hill Health Response

Colonel John Oh

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Agenda

- Red Hill Independent Health Registry (University of Hawai'i)
- National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
Red Hill Consensus Study Report
- Recent and Ongoing Analyses
- Summary of Small Group Listening Sessions
- Way Ahead for Red Hill Health Response
- Questions and Answers



Red Hill Independent Health Registry (Red Hill Registry)

- What is an *exposure registry*?
 - A system of ongoing follow-up of people who have had documented environmental exposures
- University of Hawai'i (UH) received award from National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health (NCDMPH)
- UH has full independence to plan/execute registry
- Best means to study long-term health impacts from fuel release
- Must enroll voluntarily to be included – will take time before registry is open for enrollment
- DHA Public Health will continue to operate the Red Hill Defense Occupational and Environmental Readiness System (DOEHRS) Registry.

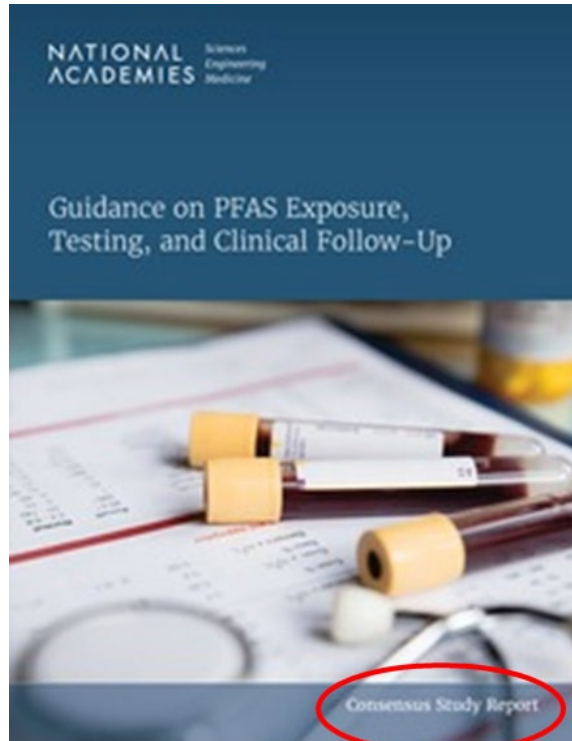


National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) Consensus Study Report

- VA and DoD have asked NASEM to complete a Red Hill Health Consensus Study Report; 2-year process (2024–2026).
- NASEM provides independent, objective, nonpartisan advice to—
 - Inform policy with evidence.
 - Spark progress and innovation.
 - Confront challenging issues for the benefit of society.
- The report will recommend guidance on clinical actions that can be taken to monitor the health of community exposed during November 2021 fuel release.
- Steps: Committee Formation, Data Gathering, Report Development
- Community engagement is a critical component of the report process.



Example of NASEM Consensus Study Report



<https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/guidance-on-pfas-testing-and-health-outcomes>



Improving Health and Building Readiness. Anytime, Anywhere — Always



EpiData Center (EDC) Health Analyses

- The EDC is aligned under Defense Centers for Public Health–Portsmouth (formerly the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center).
- EDC analyzed healthcare encounter data among DoD beneficiaries exposed to the November 2021 Red Hill fuel release and included in the Red Hill DOEHRS Registry.
 - Did not include manual reviews of individual health records
- Healthcare encounter data were available through both military medical treatment facilities and TRICARE network care.
- Limitation: Inaccurate and/or incomplete clinical coding of healthcare visits can lead to misclassification.

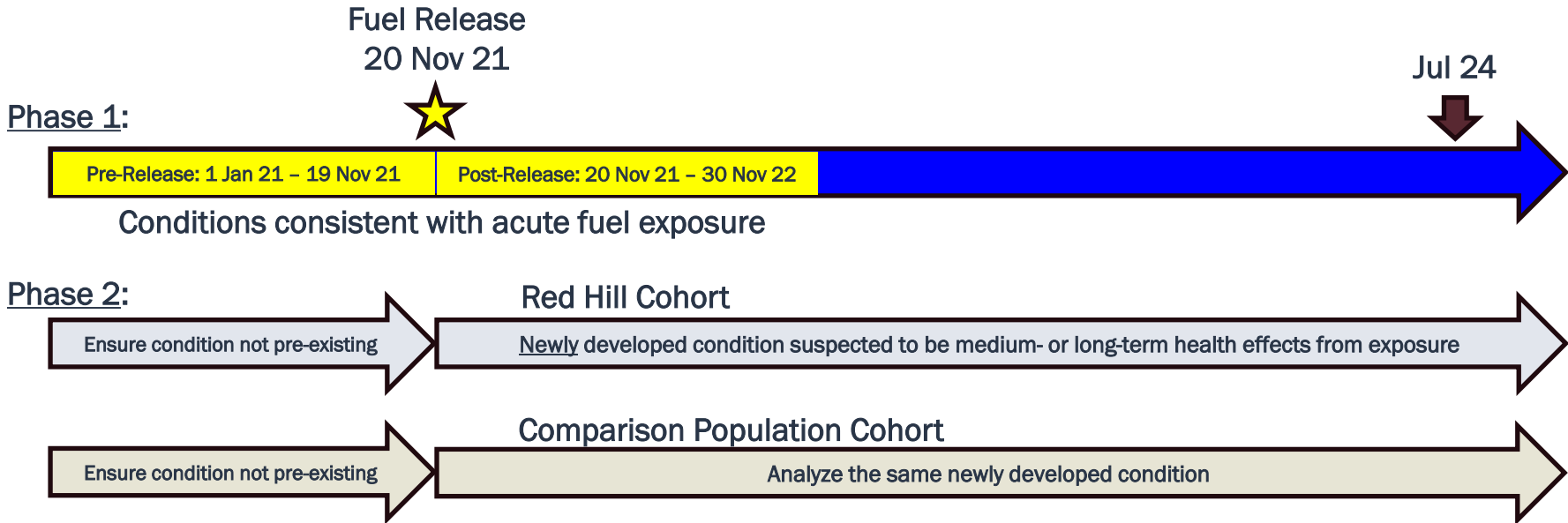


Previous EDC Health Analyses

- Health conditions/symptoms consistent with acute fuel exposure:
 - Central nervous system (headaches, dizziness)
 - Respiratory system (cough, shortness of breath)
 - Gastrointestinal system (nausea, diarrhea, abdominal pain)
 - Dermatological (dermatitis)
 - Mucous membranes (throat pain, chest pain, conjunctivitis)
 - Behavioral health conditions
- Compared healthcare encounters before and after the November 2021 fuel release
- <https://cnrh.cnrc.navy.mil/Operations-and-Management/Red-Hill/>



Comparison of Analytic Approaches



Challenging to associate fuel exposure with development of health conditions through health encounter data analysis alone (“misclassification bias”)



Red Hill Health Small Group Listening Sessions

- Held on 20 June 2024 and 25 June 2024; 7 participants
- Facilitated by DHA Red Hill Outreach Coordinator
- Themes that emerged from participants:
 - Distrust of water safety: pre-November 2021 and now
 - Frustration with gaps in knowledge of health effects
 - Desire for actions that individuals and healthcare providers can take
 - Perceived poor healthcare access in Hawai'i compounded the problem
 - Community of exposed individuals has helped each other
 - Variability in healthcare experiences
 - Calls for more research and applying lessons learned



Way Ahead for Red Hill Health Response

- Col Oh retiring
- DHA Public Health Director will remain executive champion for DoD Red Hill Health response
- NCDMPH will coordinate DoD Red Hill Health response
Examples: Annual Report to Congress on Red Hill health effects; public health communications; work with UH and NASEM
- UH and NASEM will engage with community of individuals exposed to fuel release



How to Stay Informed

- Website:
<https://ph.health.mil/topics/campaigns/red-hill-public-health/>
- E-Updates:
https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USMHS/subscriber/new?topic_id=USMHS_161
- Send questions to Red Hill Health org box:
dha.redhill@health.mil
- Red Hill Independent Health Registry Updates:
<https://redhillregistry.org/>



Question/Answer Session



Closing Comments

Closing Comments from Colonel Oh



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