WATER SAMPLING PROCEDURE

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What Happens After Samples Have Been Collected

Collecting, Managing, and Using Data

January 2022

Drinking water samples are being collected from workplaces, schools, and residences within the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) drinking water system that may have been affected by fuel contamination. Samples are being collected to determine if water is safe for occupants/residents to drink. Each set of samples is evaluated through a series of steps to make sure the data is good quality and is representative of current water conditions. The steps used to evaluate the data are in accordance with the Department of Defense (DoD), Navy, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) data quality requirements. Data quality evaluations are performed after the samples have been collected from your workplace, school and/or residence.

DOCUMENTATION

In addition to collecting, preparing, and shipping the samples to approved laboratories for evaluation, the field crew documents conditions specifically related to the sampling event. Information such as flushing zone and sampling locations, weather conditions, and field observations are documented in field notes and/or maps. The field notes and maps help to determine if the water is safe for that flushing zone.

LABORATORY ANALYSIS

Samples are sent to laboratories, certified by Hawaii DOH, for chemical analyses. These labs test for chemicals that are typically associated with hydrocarbon releases such as total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Laboratory technicians document the receipt and condition of the samples submitted for analyses. After analyses are complete, the technicians perform quality assurance/quality control procedures and document the information in a detailed report which is sent to a data validator and the Interagency Drinking Water System Team (IDWST). All results are considered preliminary results until the data validation step is complete.

DATA VALIDATION

The third-party data validator reviews the laboratory report(s). This review helps to ensure the correct sample testing and reporting procedures were followed. The validator documents the final results in a report, which is submitted to the IDWST.

Sampling results will be posted on the **www.cpf.navy.mil/JBPHH-Water-Updates/#fact-sheets**

Sampling results will be available after data validation is complete and the IDWST has reviewed the data.

U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Stephanie Butler

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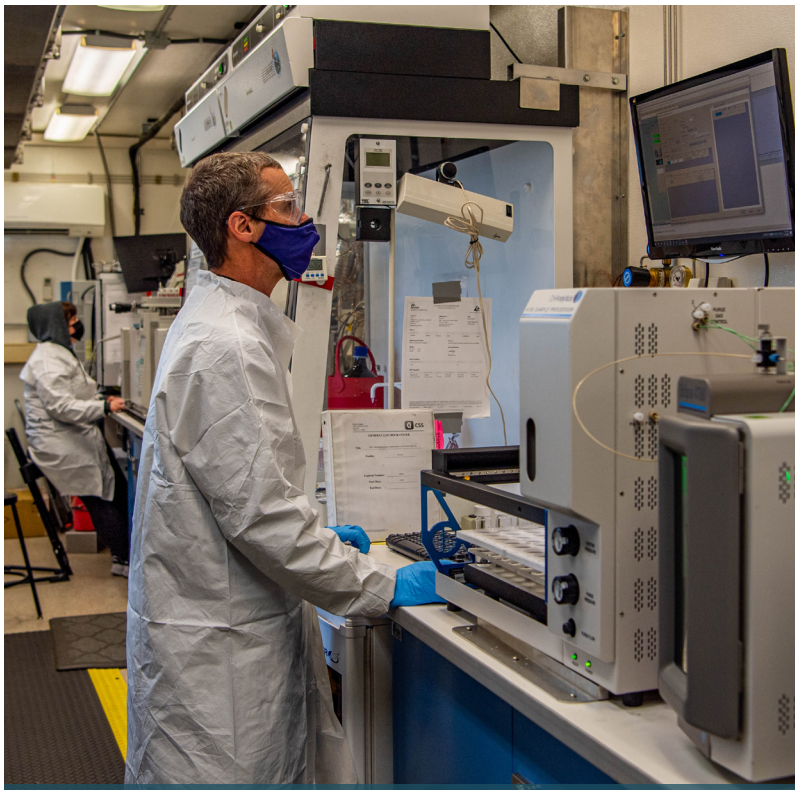

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DATA EVALUATION

The IDWST will evaluate the validated data results to determine appropriate next steps. The data evaluation process includes the following:

- Reviewing the field notes/maps, laboratory data, and validated data
- Contacting the field sampling team (if needed) to gather more information about how samples were collected and analyzed
- Loading the validated data into a database
- Comparing the validated data (analyzed for over 100 chemicals) to EPA and Hawaii DOH drinking water standards
- Determining which chemicals (if any) are responsible for potential risk to human health
- Comparing and evaluating data for multiple workplaces, schools and residences to identify trends or patterns
- Developing a report for each flushing zone to document the results of the data validation

If Results Exceed EPA and/or Hawaii DOH Drinking Water Standards

The sampling effort is being performed in accordance with the IDWST Sampling Plan. If results are above the EPA and/or Hawaii DOH drinking water standards, the IDWST may recommend flushing and other investigation activities in the workplace, school, and/or residence where the exceedance was reported. Once flushing activities are completed, another sample may be collected and tested at that location.

Additional information regarding the IDWST Sampling Plan can be found on the JBPHH Water Update Page: https://www.cpf.navy.mil/JBPHH-Water-Updates/#sampling-plan

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QUESTIONS?

If you have questions about sampling, please contact the JBPHH Emergency Operations Center at:

(808) 449-1979