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News Release

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Navy Releases Reports on Red Hill-Related Medical Findings at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii – The Navy released reports to the public April 26, 2024, that detail medical encounters and environmental assessments at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam following the November 2021 Red Hill fuel spill.

The reports, produced by Navy and Marine Corps Force Health Protection Command, provide insights into community health and environmental concerns, and examined data from both before and after the November spill.

The reports found an increase in visits for symptoms associated with jet fuel exposure in the weeks following the fuel release, but the number of visits returned to previous levels by the end of the 23-month observation period. Visits for behavioral syndromes associated with physical factors (e.g., eating disorders, sleep disorders) increased in the short term but declined across the observation period. Visits for other types of behavioral health disorders did not increase.

- **Medical Encounters and JP-5 Release (Jan. 1, 2021 – Nov. 30, 2022):**

This report examines the medical visits of DoD-affiliated housing residents before, during, and after the Nov. 20, 2021, JP-5 fuel release and evaluated the visits that could be related to JP-5 fuel exposure. The number of patient visits increased in the weeks following the fuel release, however the number of patient visits for conditions of interest generally returned to pre-release levels by the end of December 2021 and the report observed no upward trends in visits in the 12 months after the fuel release when compared to the 11 months prior.

- **Behavioral and Neurodevelopmental Health Medical Encounters (Nov. 20, 2020 – Nov. 30, 2022):**

This report examines the behavioral and neurodevelopmental health visits of DoD-affiliated housing residents before, during and after the Nov. 20, 2021, JP-5 fuel release. The report found that the most common medical visits with diagnoses related to behavioral and neurodevelopmental health after the JP-5 fuel release were related to anxiety and stress and mood disorders. There was no overall increase in visits with behavioral and neurodevelopmental health disorder diagnoses in the 12 months after the fuel release when compared to the 12 months prior to the release.

Ongoing Analyses: Analyses of the possible health impact of the Red Hill JP-5 jet fuel release is ongoing. An updated Defense Occupational and Environmental Health



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Readiness System (DOEHRS) roster of those living and working at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) has been used to identify additional individuals added to the roster since the last report. Analysis of medical visits for a comparison group of unexposed individuals is currently underway. This will provide context to the trends in medical visits and diagnoses observed in prior reports. Data is also being updated to examine health trends through November 2023. Additionally, based upon expressed community concerns, additional health conditions are being examined.

- **Technical Memorandum on Drinking Water Data Evaluation (Revised: June 2023):** The purpose of this report is to determine if the drinking water sampling data obtained by the Navy and the Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) before the Interagency Drinking Water System Team (IDWST) began flushing the JBPHH water distribution system could be used to evaluate potential exposure to the JP-5 fuel release on Nov. 20, 2021. This report used a lines-of-evidence approach (e.g., timeline of events, spatial distribution of samples, laboratory analytical data) to determine if the sampling data was of sufficient quality in evaluating human exposure in drinking water.

The reports are available at the Navy Region Hawaii Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility website, <https://cnrh.cnic.navy.mil/Operations-and-Management/Red-Hill/>.

For questions related to this press release and the published reports, please contact usn.ncr.bumedfchva.mbx.bumed-general-inquiries@health.mil.

For questions related to the decommissioning and long-term environmental remediation of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, please contact nctf-rh_communications@us.navy.mil.

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