

WHAT HAPPENED AT RED HILL?



RedHillRegistry.org

EXPOSED:
9,600 HOMES
93,000 PEOPLE

The Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility is a massive underground complex of 20 steel-lined tanks drilled into the side of a mountain ridge, resting 100 feet above O'ahu's sole-source aquifer. Constructed during World War II to store up to 250 million gallons of fuel, the facility supplied the U.S. Navy's Pacific Fleet across the region.

Since its construction, multiple spills have been documented, raising concerns about aging infrastructure and risks to human health and the surrounding environment. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), an unknown amount of fuel has been released into the environment over the lifetime of the facility. These releases have caused alarm from residents, health officials, and community leaders.

In November 2021, a JP-5 fuel spill contaminated the Navy water system. Affected families reported health impacts affecting nearly every bodily system, prompting widespread calls for the permanent closure and remediation of the site and the development of an independent health registry.

JP-5 is a kerosene-based jet fuel composed of hundreds of hydrocarbons as well as several additives. In drinking water it is measured as total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH).

From Construction To Closure...

1947
The first recorded spill by Navy records, just 4 years after construction was completed.

January 13, 2014
First major public incident: ~27,000 gallons of fuel spilled, resulting in the Honolulu Board of Water Supply first being notified of the facility's existence.

March 17 & June 2, 2020
The Navy notifies HDOH of fuel release into surface water of Hotel Pier.

November 20, 2021*
Red Hill water crisis begins.

August 2, 2025*
Red Hill Registry hosts community fair and announces opening for full enrollment!

1995

The facility was declassified & recognized as an engineering marvel of its time along with the Hoover Dam & the Statue of Liberty.

May 2015

Hawaii State Department of Health (HDOH), EPA, Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), and the Navy enter an Administrative Order on Consent requiring tank upgrade evaluations, lead detection improvements, and groundwater protection measures at the Red Hill facility.

May 6, 2021*

Major fuel spill: Severity of the spill was hidden from the public.

March 7, 2022*

The facility is ordered to be defueled and permanently closed.

2027

Closure of the Red Hill facility is scheduled for completion.



* More details on back

Water Crisis Impacts & Responses

JULY 8-SEPTEMBER 29, 2021
Navy water sampling shows petroleum contamination of the Red Hill well.

NOVEMBER 20, 2021

A maintenance cart collided with and ruptured the overhead PVC pipe, spraying the stored fuel mixture into an access tunnel where it was lost under the floor before the flow could be stopped. The fuel mixture migrated downward to the water table and was drawn into the Red Hill water supply well (Brewer, 2023).

NOVEMBER 29, 2021

HDOH issued a do not use tap water advisory for the Navy water system due to health issues such as skin rashes, nausea, and fatigue. (Brewer, 2023).

MARCH 7, 2022

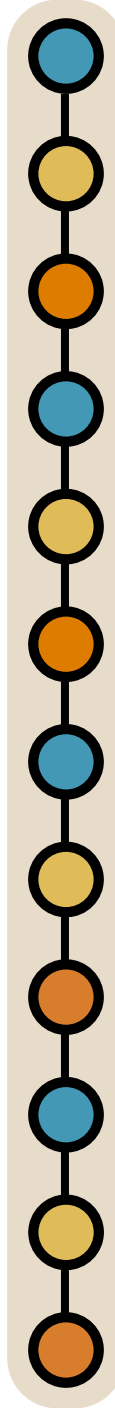
U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III ordered the defueling and permanent closure of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, the care of health impacts, and addressing issues caused by displacement and property damage as a result of the incident. HDOH declares water to be safe for consumption.

JUNE 20, 2024

As a result of ongoing health concerns experienced by the Red Hill community, the University of Hawai'i receives funding to develop a Red Hill Independent Health Registry.

August 2, 2025

Red Hill Registry hosts Launch and Community Fair and announces the opening of full enrollment!



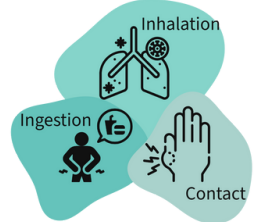
MAY 6, 2021

A pipe ruptured during a routine fuel transfer between two tanks at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. The fuel flowed on the floor into a sump and was pumped into an overhead PVC pipe intended to carry aqueous firefighting foam (AFFF), along with wastewater and fuel to a storage tank. The mixture remained, unknown to anyone, in this pipe for several months (Brewer, 2023; US EPA, 2025).

NOVEMBER 23, 2021

Odors in the neighborhood prompt calls to 911 from residents surrounding Pearl Harbor.

Routes of Exposure



DECEMBER 2, 2021

The Navy acknowledged the water contamination and began evacuating affected residents from their homes. HDOH issued an Emergency Order to the Navy to defuel the facility and halt operations. The Navy began filtering and flushing its water system.

SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

The Joint Task Force-Red Hill was created to oversee the defueling of the facility. 103 million gallons of fuel were removed by November 19, 2023.

DECEMBER 30, 2024

Red Hill Registry launches Pre-enrollment Opportunity!

March 2026

National Academies Report on Clinical Follow-Up and Care for Those Impacted by the JP-5 Releases at Red Hill expected.

Legal Action & Accountability

Thousands of individuals filed lawsuits against the U.S. government under the Federal Tort Claims Act. Residents filed a class action water contamination lawsuit against various housing management offices. Honolulu Board of Water Supply sued the U.S. Government to recuperate costs incurred as a result of the water crisis. At the federal level, congressional efforts have supported the Red Hill community and the cleanup, defueling, closure, and remediation of the facility. The Department of Justice is conducting a criminal investigation and began filing charges in the summer of 2025.

Join the Registry!

Individuals who experienced the Red Hill water crisis can join the registry at RedHillRegistry.org.

Contact Information

Email: info@redhillregistry.org
Phone: (808) 427-8260
Website: RedHillRegistry.org
Social Media: @RedHillRegistry



Click or scan to view references and source documents.