



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P. O. BOX 3378  
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

December 8, 2021

Directive One (Effective Immediately) – Flushing Requirements  
Navy Water System Incident, Case No.: 20211128-1848

The Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) provided flushing guidelines to the U.S. Department of the Navy (Navy) by email on Friday, December 3, 2021. Because the Navy did not adhere to those requirements during its flushing activities, on Saturday, December 4, 2021, DOH instructed the Navy by email to cease unauthorized flushing activity. On Tuesday, December 7, 2021, the Navy informed DOH that it continues to flush, despite never having requested or obtaining authorization to resume the flushing activity.

**The Navy is required by DOH to comply with the following orders with respect to flushing activities. These orders are issued pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 342D-10. All discharges that do not EXPLICITLY comply with these orders will be considered violations of Hawaii State law:**

- Submit a written Plan to DOH by Close of Business December 9, 2021, prior to initiating actions.
- Discharges to State waters are NOT authorized.
- Treatment, such as using diffusers & granulated activated carbon, shall be conducted prior to discharge.
- Discharges into any storm drain system is not authorized without the written consent of the owner of the storm drain, whether it is the Hawaii Department of Transportation, City and County of Honolulu, or Navy. The Navy is required to identify where the storm drain leads to State waters.
- Discharges may only be made onto soil – not to asphalt, concrete, or roadways (i.e., impervious surfaces that will result in immediate runoff). No discharges may leave the soil and enter any storm drains.
- Prior to the flushing activity, initial discharges must be arranged with a Wastewater Treatment Plant that will accept as much of the flushed water as the Navy expects to discharge.
- The Navy must maintain personnel at each flushing location to ensure the discharge does not contact persons, pets, wildlife, etc.
- The Navy personnel at each flushing location must also ensure that no discharge enters the storm drain or State waters (e.g., stream, ocean, etc.).
- The Navy must immediately stop the flushing activity at the flushing location if the discharge results in adverse effects at the discharge point (impacts include, but

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are not limited to, fuel smells, flooding, injury to wildlife, presence of endangered species in area, erosion, etc.).

- The Navy must provide a written notification plan to DOH which includes delivering handouts door-to-door to affected populations, press releases, etc. that explain to the public why the flushing is being conducted, when it will occur, duration of flushing activities, and under what limiting or protective conditions.
- The Navy must provide a written schedule and a verbal notification to the DOH 24 hours in advance when EACH hydrant or tank is opened is needed. The notification shall be sent as follows, and must include:
  - DOH Incident Command and DOH Clean Water Branch by email ([cleanwaterbranch@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:cleanwaterbranch@doh.hawaii.gov));
  - Specific address and location of hydrant and identification of water line being flushed;
  - Duration of the flushing with planned or anticipated total quantity of discharge;
  - Specific Point-of-Contact in case of incident; and,
  - Identification of the nearest storm drains to ensure that no discharge enters the storm drain.
- The Navy must collect for analysis water samples of the discharge, and report (or make provision for reporting directly from the laboratory) the analytical results to DOH promptly upon receipt from the lab.
- The Navy must collect multi-incremental soil samples before discharging onto ground to provide for baseline data. The Navy must also collect soil samples after discharge is completed. The Navy must report (or make provision for reporting directly from the laboratory) analytical results to DOH promptly upon receipt from the lab.
- The Navy must post signs and surround the affected area with yellow tape or other comparable warning device/method.
- The Navy must not flush during inclement weather or in the event of rain (to avoid erosion and potential runoff).

*Kathleen Ho*

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Kathleen S. Ho  
Deputy Director for Environmental Health

Dec 8, 2021

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Date

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