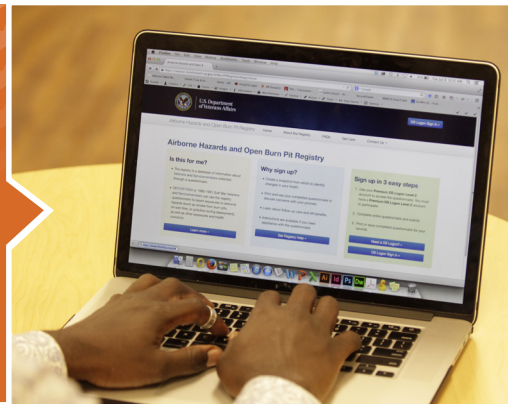


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

AIRBORNE HAZARDS & OPEN BURN PIT REGISTRY



WHAT'S NEXT?

Thank you for taking the time to join VA's Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry! Now that you are a participant, what should you expect to happen next?



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MEDICAL EVALUATIONS

Your registry eligibility means that you can receive an in-person evaluation at no cost. This evaluation is optional and is not required to participate in the registry. The process for receiving an evaluation will vary depending on whether you are a Veteran, Active Duty, or Reserve Component member.

Veteran/Reserve Component Members:

If you are a Veteran or inactive/separated National Guard or Reservist and you are enrolled in the VA health care system, please contact your primary care physician or Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) to schedule an appointment for an evaluation.

If you are a Veteran or inactive/separated National Guard or Reservist and you are not enrolled in the VA health care system, please contact your local VA medical center's Environmental Health Coordinator (EHC). A list of EHCs can be found at: www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/coordinators.asp.

Note: For the purposes of the in-person evaluation, non-activated Reserve Component members are eligible for VA evaluations in the same manner as separated Veterans.

Active Duty Servicemembers:

If you are an Active Duty Servicemember (including activated National Guard and Reserve personnel) and you have any health or exposure concerns, you should contact your local military hospital or clinic to schedule an appointment for a voluntary medical evaluation. You should inform the clinic that you are seeking an appointment to discuss "health concerns related to the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry."



RESEARCH

While there is not enough medical or scientific information to conclude that long-term health effects have occurred due to burn pit smoke, VA continues to study the health of deployed Veterans. Veterans and Servicemembers who were closer to burn pit smoke or exposed for longer periods may be at greater risk for health problems. Individual health effects will vary and may depend on a number of other factors, such as the type of waste being burned and wind direction. According to a 2011 Institute of Medicine report, the high level of fine dust and pollution common in Iraq and Afghanistan may pose a greater danger for respiratory illnesses than exposure to burn pits. To read the report, visit: www.iom.edu/Reports/2011/Long-Term-Health-Consequences-of-Exposure-to-Burn-Pits-in-Iraq-and-Afghanistan.aspx.

VA has completed a series of reports that showcase participant characteristics, common health concerns, and other information that may be valuable for registry participants. These reports can be found at: www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/registry.asp. A copy of the most recent registry participant fact sheet is also included in this mailing for your review.

DISABILITY COMPENSATION

It is important to note that participation in the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry will not affect VA's decision on any claims for disability benefits. Veterans interested in applying for disability compensation or other benefits must apply directly through the Veterans Benefits Administration. More information is available at: www.benefits.va.gov/compensation.

RESOURCES



Airborne Hazards & Open Burn Pit Registry

<https://veteran.mobilehealth.va.gov/AHBurnPitRegistry>

Army Public Health Command

<http://phc.amedd.army.mil>

Information on PTSD

www.ptsd.va.gov

Office of Public Health

www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits

Veterans Crisis Line

1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, or Text 838255

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