**Exposure to Hazardous Chemicals and Materials**

**Veterans Affairs Website**

<https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/>

**Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry**

<https://veteran.mobilehealth.va.gov/AHBurnPitRegistry/#page/home>

Burn pits were a common way to get rid of waste at military sites in Iraq and Afghanistan. Currently the VA says that research doesn't show these burn pits caused any long-term health problems, but much like the veterans affected by [Gulf War Syndrome](https://www.military.com/benefits/veterans-health-care/gulf-war-syndrome.html), they are continuing to study it and have created a [Burn Pit Registry](https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/registry.asp) to keep track of veterans exposed to the smoke from those burn pits.

Burn pits burned many things including: chemicals, paint, medical and human waste, metal cans, unexploded ordnance, petroleum products, plastics, rubber, wood, and garbage.

## **Registry for Veterans and Service Members**

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/registry.asp>

VA's Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry allows eligible Veterans and service members to document their exposures and report health concerns through an online questionnaire.

Eligible Veterans and service members include those who served in:

* Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn
* Djibouti, Africa on or after September 11, 2001
* Operations Desert Shield or Desert Storm
* Southwest Asia theater of operations on or after August 2, 1990

**\*\*\*\* Total Participants \*\*\*\***

In total, 200,104 Veterans and service members completed and submitted the registry questionnaire between April 25, 2014 and February 5, 2020.

**TEN THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT BURN PITS**

[https://www.publichealth.va.gov/docs/exposures/ten-things-to-know-fact-sheet.pdf#](https://www.publichealth.va.gov/docs/exposures/ten-things-to-know-fact-sheet.pdf)

### **What you Need to Know**

* There's no cost to participate
* You should [schedule a free health exam](https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/coordinators.asp) with a VA provider after completing the questionnaire
* Participation is not required for other VA benefits such as disability compensation
* Enrollment in VA health care is not required
* Answers should be based on your recollection of service, not on your military records
* Family members are not eligible to participate
* Your participation contributes to research on airborne hazards and health, which helps improve the quality of care for Veterans

#### **[Specific environmental hazards](https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/specific-environmental-hazards/)**

[If you served in Iraq, Afghanistan, Djibouti, or near Atsugi, Japan, you may have had contact with toxic chemicals in the air, water, or soil.](https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/specific-environmental-hazards/)

<https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/specific-environmental-hazards/>

#### [Gulf War Illness](https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/gulf-war-illness-southwest-asia/)

[If you served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations, you may be at risk of certain illnesses or other conditions linked to this region.](https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/gulf-war-illness-southwest-asia/)

<https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/gulf-war-illness-southwest-asia/>

#### [Gulf War Illness in Afghanistan](https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/gulf-war-illness-afghanistan/)

[If you served in Afghanistan, you may be at risk of certain illnesses or other conditions linked to this region.](https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/gulf-war-illness-afghanistan/)

<https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/gulf-war-illness-afghanistan/>

# [Agent Orange exposure](https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/agent-orange/)

[The U.S. military used Agent Orange to clear plants and trees during the Vietnam War. If you served in Vietnam or in or near the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) during the Vietnam Era—or in certain related jobs—you may have had contact with this herbicide.](https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/agent-orange/)

 <https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/agent-orange/>

***Agent Orange exposure on Navy or Coast Guard ships***

Aboard a vessel on the inland waterways or within the 12-mile territorial seas. Did you serve on a Blue Water Navy vessel offshore of the Republic of Vietnam, or on another U.S. Navy or Coast Guard ship operating in the coastal waterways of Vietnam, between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975?

<https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/agent-orange/navy-coast-guard-ships-vietnam/>

**Agent Orange exposure on Thailand military bases**

U.S. military base in Thailand or Royal Thai Air Force Bases between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975

<https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/agent-orange/thailand-military-bases/>

**Agent Orange exposure from C-123 aircraft**

<https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/agent-orange/c-123-aircraft/>

Check our list of military units and Air Force specialty codes to see if your unit had contact with affected C-123 aircraft. List of Codes <https://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/docs/AO_C123_AFSpecialityCodesUnits.pdf>

#### [Asbestos](https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/asbestos/)

[If you worked in certain military jobs, you may have had contact with asbestos (toxic fibers once used in many buildings and products).](https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/asbestos/)

#### [Birth defects like spina bifida](https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/special-claims/birth-defects/)

[If you served in the Republic of Vietnam, in Thailand, or in or near the Korean Demilitarized Zone during the Vietnam Era—and your child has spina bifida or certain other birth defects—your child may be eligible for disability benefits.](https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/special-claims/birth-defects/)

#### [Contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune](https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/camp-lejeune-water-contamination/)

[If you served at Camp Lejeune or MCAS New River between August 1953 and December 1987, you may be at risk for certain illnesses believed to be caused by contaminants found in the drinking water during that time.](https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/camp-lejeune-water-contamination/)

<https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/camp-lejeune-water-contamination/>