



TOXIC EXPOSURE SCREENING INFORMATION

VA is committed to providing screening, health care, and resources to Veterans with toxic exposure concerns from military service.

TOXIC EXPOSURES

While toxic exposure is defined by law, generally there are several types of possible exposures or hazards Veterans may have experienced during their military service. Some common examples include:

- » **Open Burn Pits/Airborne Hazards:** Contaminants or substances in the air including smoke and fumes from open burn pits and fine particulate matter.
- » **Gulf War related exposures:** Veterans may have been exposed to a variety of environmental hazards including pesticides and oil well fires.
- » **Agent Orange:** An herbicide used to thin-out thick foliage commonly found in jungles and fields.
- » **Radiation:** Exposure from sources such as nuclear weapons.
- » **Camp Lejeune contaminated water exposure:** Between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987, Veterans and their families may have been exposed to contaminated drinking water.
- » **Other exposures:** There are other potential toxic exposures that may occur during military service.

MANAGE YOUR HEALTH

Proactively developing a long-term health care plan with your care team can help detect conditions early and treat or lessen the effect of complications resulting from exposure(s).

TALK WITH A VA PROVIDER:

- » Call **1-800-MyVA411** then press **8**.
- » **Send a secure message** to your clinical care team through your patient portal:
My HealtheVet at: www.myhealth.va.gov or My VA Health at: patientportal.myhealth.va.gov
- » Discuss exposure concerns at your next VA appointment

ENROLL IN VA CARE:

- » Visit www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction
- » Call 877-222-VETS (8387)
- » Visit your nearest VA medical center and enroll in person: www.va.gov/find-locations



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REGISTRY PROGRAM

- » VA has six exposure registries: Agent Orange, Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pits, Gulf War, Ionizing Radiation, Depleted Uranium Follow-Up Program, and Toxic Embedded Fragments.
- » Registries are for research purposes and help VA understand the impact of military environmental exposures service on health and respond to these health problems more effectively.
- » The Agent Orange and Gulf War Registries include a voluntary registry exam for research purposes. *Registry evaluations are not disability exams and are not required for VA benefits.*

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COORDINATOR TO LEARN MORE

- » Online www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/coordinators.asp
- » Call 1-800-MyVA411, then press 8
- » Visit your local VA Medical Center

VA PRESUMPTIVE CONDITIONS

Veterans may be eligible for disability benefits and/or compensation if they have a health condition that results in disability and was connected to their military service. For many health conditions, you need to prove that your service caused your condition. For some conditions, we automatically assume (or “presume”) that your service caused your condition. We call these “presumptive conditions.” We consider a condition presumptive when it’s established by law or regulation. If you have a presumptive condition, you do not need to prove that your service caused the condition. You only need to meet the service requirements for the presumption.

BENEFITS

- » Veterans with presumptive diseases may be eligible for benefits such as disability compensation
- » Surviving spouses, dependent children and/or parents of deceased Veterans may be eligible for benefits such as dependency and indemnity compensation and accrued benefits
- » Veterans who had claims that were previously denied can file supplemental claims
- » **To File a Claim for Benefits**
 - Submit online: www.va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim
 - Access VA benefits: www.ebenefits.va.gov
 - Call VA Benefits hotline: 800-827-1000 for help filing a claim
 - Locate a local Veteran Service Officer www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- » Visit www.va.gov/PACT or call 1-800-MyVA411, then press 8
- » Information on military environmental exposures: www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/index.asp
- » Exposure benefits information: www.va.gov/disability/eligibility
- » Download the free VA Exposure Ed mobile app: mobile.va.gov/app/exposure-ed



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