



Navy Abandons Victims of Red Hill Fuel Leak

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Textbox:

The Navy has acknowledged the Red Hill fuel leak poisoned water for over 90,000 people in Hawaii. The Navy claims only military housing is contaminated, and has relocated many of their residents. But the Navy's list of contaminated areas does not include civilian neighbourhoods reporting exposure. One is Kapalena Beach Homes in Iroquois Point, owned by multi-billion-dollar real estate firm Greystar.

Father King (FK): My son got ready to go to work, he took a shower, he brushed his teeth. All the way to work, which is not too far from here, he started feeling itchy and his eyes were itching. His body was itching, starting to break down to a rash. And then start turning into a fiery feeling, like his skin was on fire and then his eyes started to burn. Then within seconds, they started to swell. They were swelling so bad that he had barely a slit that you could see his eyeball. Then they took him to his manager because he got concerned. His throat started to close up. He was having a hard time breathing. He called me scared and I could hear it. So when I drove back to pull up to the ambulance and I see him in the stretcher, his face is completely swollen. He's got tears coming out of his eyes, almost like they were being squeezed out. He was swollen. His whole body was full of a rash that looked like he was just sunburned. It was all red. And to look at the paramedics face and see them worry my heart just sunk, because I knew that this was that bad. It's still, I mean, it makes me emotional just remembering that again. I was terrified and I had to keep it cool.

Mike Prysner (MP): And that was from taking a shower?!

FK: From taking a shower and brushing his teeth.

Female Family Member King (FK): My reaction was with very similar symptoms too. Where I had a rash and I had a really bad burning sensation. It literally felt like my skin was on fire. And nauseated, vomiting, headache, fatigue.

MP: So you had symptoms enough to go to the E.R., though?

FMK: Oh yeah, I did. And within hours from Aedyn's experience with the water. And that was the common denominator, it was that me and Aedyn within those couple of hours used the water to shower.

FK: I'm going to rule it out if it's an allergy or not. So we did end up going to the allergist. And the allergist said that was not an allergic reaction. That was a toxic one.

Aedyn-Rhys King (ARK): There is a resident, she's a single mother, her daughter, she's healthy. She's a teenager, she's an athlete. No health problems. She can barely walk. She is in so much pain. And when they went to the emergency room, the doctor there actually told them, You have been poisoned by petroleum products.

Textbox: The Hawaii Department of Health released a map showing number of calls by residents about contaminated water..

ARK: One of the residents had posted the Navy EOC hotline number. I called it, he actually flat out said, we are not on the Navy water line system.

MP: Really?

ARK: Yeah. He also said nobody else has called in from our area to make any reports. Which I know not to be true because Xavier called in. And I told him that. It's also been confirmed we are on your water line system. He had the audacity to direct me to the Joint Base Hawaii Hickam Facebook page with my concerns.

MP: So everyone who calls gets told you are the only one who's called. So there can't be a problem. If you're the only one, it must be something else.

ARK: Yes. It's an allergic reaction...

FK: It's you. You're imagining things.

ARK: You're crazy.

FK: You're seeing other people in the joint bases where they're actually affected and thinking, you're affected.

MP: So you're not in, none of you are in the military. None of you are in military families. You know, the army put out the map to its soldiers and said, If you live in Iroquois Point, if you live in this neighbourhood, contact us because you are entitled to getting housing assistance, we are going to move you into the resort at Waikiki, we're going to give you all this water and all of these things. And so since you live in literally the same neighbourhood,

I'm sure that they have offered that same thing to you right?!

Family together: No, no, no.

FK: So what have you been offered by the Army? By the Navy? Anyone in DOD? What have you been offered?

ARK: Nothing. Absolutely nothing.

MP: And so despite you being a veteran, too?

MP: Yeah, and that's literally what they told me. They said, Well, you're only a veteran. We are only helping active duty military personnel.

FMK: Let's emphasise only a veteran.

ARK: Only a veteran. And that's what I said, I'm only a veteran?! I only joined at 17 to serve my country, and I'm getting no help out here.

FK: That's a slap in the face.

MP: But how difficult does that make your life here right now?

ARK: Oh my gosh...

FMK: Extremely difficult!

ARK: For instance, I'm having to take my fiance and my son up to a family member's home in Mililani, just so that we can bathe, brush our teeth, and wash our clothes. And we were doing it every other day. I would like to do it every day, but it's a lot of gas back and forth.

MP: How far is that?

ARK: It's about a 30 minute drive.

MP: Just so your two year old and yourself can take a bath?

ARK: Yes.

MP: And so brushing your teeth, you have to use bottled water...

ARK: Yeah.

MP: Washing your hands, you have to use bottled water. Why don't you just go get a hotel?

ARK: Can't afford it.

MP: Well, of course, the management company, knowing that you have unsafe water, of course, they're giving you a break on your way.

FK: They are not admitting that.

ARK: No.

FK: They are not admitting that. They will not take responsibility for that.

MP: But the doctor told your friend, your neighbour, that her daughter was suffering poisoning. And your son was told that he didn't have an allergic reaction. He had a toxic reaction, which is the symptom of petrochemicals.

FK: Absolutely.

MP: The army has said, our soldiers live in this neighbourhood, you got to get out. So clearly it is contaminated. But they're still able to just say that they're not and not do anything to help you guys.

ARK: And then they've also said if your water doesn't have fuel like odour, then it's safe to shower.

MP: The management company told you that?!

ARK: Per their trusted sources from the Navy.

MP: What would you like to see happen?

FK: Everything to get fixed. Fixed, compensated. Because this has put a strain on all of us, all the community has been strained for, you know, driving further out to take showers, going out to buy water jugs, to do all that stuff...

ARK: Pay for their own hotel rooms...

FK: Pay for that. Also, the E.R. visits, that's money right there. Some people don't even have insurance.

FMK: I just racked up some medical bills because I went twice.

MP: And you have no idea how long this is going to last.

Family together: No.

FK: They haven't told us anything.

MP: How do you plan for something like that?

ARK: You really can't. I mean, how do you plan for that?

FK: Nobody expects to be contaminated.

ARK: Especially when you don't, financially, you can't afford to stay in a hotel for that long. You can't afford to stay in an Airbnb for a month. I mean, what are we supposed to do? How are we supposed to protect our family when we're getting no help? We're basically forced to stay in our home that is no longer safe for our family.

FK: And everybody should speak up. And everybody should demand that more investigation goes into this. And that the Navy fixes this and shuts down Red Hill. That thing is 80 years old, and they want to keep using it. They want to fight closing the other well. Like why? Why? You're poisoning us!

END