

Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry Fact Sheet for Service Members

Service members and veterans who may have been exposed to airborne hazards, such as open burn pit smoke, while deployed could be at risk for short- and long-term health issues. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) developed the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry to better understand the potential health effects of exposure to airborne hazards during military service, support ongoing research, and inform future decisions around airborne hazards to keep service members and veterans healthy and safe.



Photo courtesy of the Department of Defense
U.S. Army Reserve photo by Master Sgt. Michel Sauret

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

Do I need to enroll myself in the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry?

The VA recently redesigned the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry based on both service members' and veterans' feedback, as well as reports from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) and the VA Inspector General's Office. The redesign **automatically enrolls eligible service members and veterans in the registry.**

Visit www.publichealth.VA.gov/airbornehazards to learn more about airborne hazards and the registry.

What deployments are covered by the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry?

Service members and veterans - both living and deceased - who deployed to the Southwest Asia theaters of operations or Egypt and Somalia from August 2, 1990, to August 31, 2021, or Afghanistan, Djibouti, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Uzbekistan, and Yemen from September 11, 2001 to August 31, 2021, are automatically included in this registry. Also included are those deployed to the following bodies of water: Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman, and waters of the Persian Gulf, Arabian Sea, and Red Sea. The airspace above these geographic locations and bodies of water are also included.

What if I don't want to be included in the registry?

Inclusion of your data supports VA research efforts, and in turn, enables informed care and benefits for your fellow soldiers, airmen, sailors and Marines. However, service members and veterans may opt out of the registry by going to <https://vethome.va.gov/BurnPitRegistryOptOut> and submitting an opt out inquiry.

How does the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry Help Service Members and Veterans?

- Supports ongoing research that helps to inform future decisions, and enhance future treatments and potential benefits options for service members and veterans that may have been affected by environmental exposures during their service
- Improves the delivery for customer service to each service member and veteran through the elimination of historic points of frustration (e.g. logon and questionnaire)
- Ensures each eligible service member and veteran will be part of the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry's medical surveillance regardless of geography, gender, race, and religion.
- Increases service members' and veterans' trust by providing an optimal platform that will deliver the intended results of the registry.

How can I confirm my enrollment status in the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry?

Eligible service members and veterans are now automatically included and data from military databases are automatically integrated into the registry. VA will send an email confirming your auto-enrollment in the registry. If you do not receive a notification email you may still have been automatically enrolled. To check, please go to the VET-HOME site at <https://vethome.va.gov/inquiry> and select "Registry Eligibility" from the "Topic" dropdown menu. Then select "Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit" from the "Registries" dropdown menu.

How can I have my exposure concerns evaluated?

Service members with health concerns related to military environmental exposures should contact your local military hospital or clinic to schedule an appointment.

Go to <https://health.mil/AHBurnPitRegistry> to learn more about the Airborne Hazard and Open Burn Pit Registry. If you have questions about the PACT Act, call 1-800-MYVA411, option 8. For additional information about airborne hazards and burn pits, visit the Airborne Hazards and Burn Pits Center of Excellence at <https://www.warrelatedillness.va.gov/WARRELATEDILLNESS/AHBPCE/index.asp>.



This registry is open to both service members and veterans who have served in eligible theaters of operation. Please note the registry is not related to the VA disability compensation claims process.

