Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry

Communications Toolkit

Photos courtesy of the Department of Defense
Photos by Master Sgt. Michel Sauret

The Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry
COMMUNICATIONS TOOLKIT

Background and Purpose

The Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry allows eligible veterans and service members to document airborne hazard exposures, such as smoke from burn pits, oil-well fires, or pollution during deployment, as well as record health concerns, through an online questionnaire and optional medical exam.

The purpose of this toolkit is to enable communicators at military hospitals and clinics, as well as other organizations, to:

- Share consistent Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry messaging and informational resources with service members and health care providers
- Educate service members about the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry eligibility criteria
- Encourage eligible service members to participate in the registry
- Incorporate the enclosed messaging and outreach products into newsletters, social media campaigns, events, and more

Available Tools Include:

Key Messages

Background Language

Websites

Digital Media

Outreach Materials

Social Media Messaging

Social Media Graphics

QUICK TIP: Click on product images throughout to download them directly to your computer.

Key Messages for Communicators

Incorporate the following messages into talking points and outreach materials:

- Use the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry to document your exposure to burn pits and receive important information about airborne hazards and potential health concerns.
- Service members who served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations on or after August 2, 1990, or in Afghanistan or Djibouti on or after September 11, 2001, are eligible to sign up.
- Service member participation in the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry provides critical data for research into the effects of burn pit smoke and other airborne hazards.
- Service members can schedule a free visit with a Department of Defense (DoD) health care provider to discuss exposures, health concerns, and their registry questionnaire responses.
- If service members elect to receive the free optional medical exam, they must reach out to their military hospital or clinic to schedule it. Service members will not be contacted to set up an appointment.
- Health care providers play an integral role in communicating with service members regarding potential health concerns as well as capturing accurate and comprehensive data related to their exposures.
- Go to Health.mil/AHBurnPitRegistry to learn more about the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry.

Standard Background Language

Use the following language to introduce stakeholders to the registry in briefings, outreach materials, or other content.

Registry Overview

In June 2014, VA launched the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry in response to concerns that veterans were experiencing a range of respiratory illnesses possibly associated with exposure to burn pits while serving overseas. The registry allows eligible service members and veterans to document airborne hazard exposures, such as smoke from burn pits, oil-well fires, or pollution during deployment, as well as record health concerns through an online questionnaire and optional medical exam. Service members who deployed in the Southwest Asia theater of operations on or after August 2, 1990, or in Afghanistan or Djibouti on or after September 11, 2001, are eligible to sign up. These regions include: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Djibouti, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates; and waters of the Arabian Sea, Persian Gulf, and Red Sea.

Participation Details

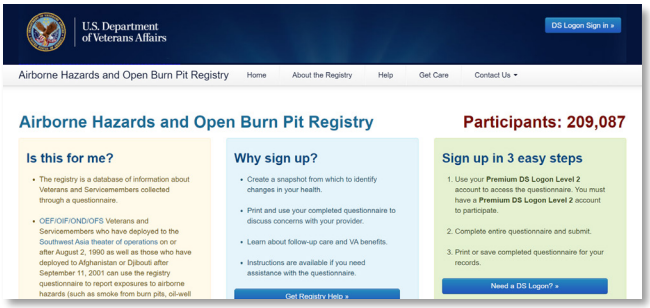
1. Obtain a Premium DS Logon Level 2 account. To acquire or upgrade your DS Logon account, visit the DMDC Identity Management website. If you're having trouble with the DS Logon process, visit the DS Logon Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page.
2. Go to the registry website and use your DS Logon to access the registry. Once logged in, verify and/or edit eligible deployment history. If you are determined to be ineligible, but think you do qualify for the registry, you may request to submit deployment history information for review. It may take up to 90 days to verify deployment history once submitted.
3. Complete and submit the online questionnaire, then save and print your completed questionnaire to discuss with a provider at your registry exam or your next routine health assessment. You can complete the questionnaire all at once or save and return later.
4. Upon completing the questionnaire, review the post-registration letter and fact sheet sent to you via email to learn more about the registry and scheduling the optional medical exam.
5. Service members should contact their local military hospital or clinic for a free medical exam to discuss exposures and health concerns with a doctor. ***Completing the online questionnaire does not cue DoD or VA to call you to schedule an exam***. Reservists and veterans should contact a VA Environmental Health Coordinator.

Benefits of Participation

- Document your possible exposure to airborne hazards and learn more about potential health concerns.
- Participate in an optional medical exam to discuss exposures, health concerns, and your questionnaire.
- Receive important airborne hazards and open burn pit information and notifications.
- Support ongoing VA research and inform future decisions around airborne hazards to keep service members healthy and safe.

Websites

The Health.mil webpage should be used to promote the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry across all materials. Direct service members who are ready to register to the VA webpage. Click items to view.



Health.mil Webpage: Health.mil/AHBurnPitRegistry
The Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry page on Health.mil provides service member-focused registry information and all DHA-developed outreach and education materials, including provider materials.

VA Registry: veteran.mobilehealth.va.gov/AHBurnPitRegistry
The Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry website is where participants access the registry application and register. Along with general registry information, this website provides detailed veteran-focused registry materials.

Digital Media

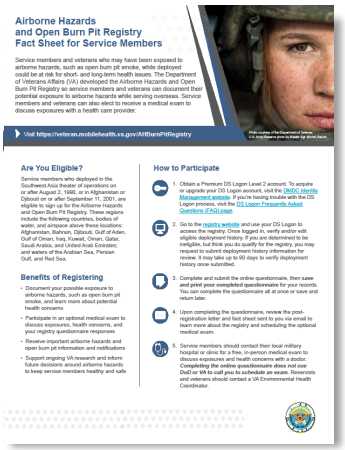
The following digital media should be used to promote the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry across all relevant electronic distribution channels and platforms. Click items to view.

Digital Poster/Screensaver
This graphic to may be posted to TV monitors or staff computer screens at military hospitals and clinics.

Informational Video
This brief video provides high-level registry information for service members and may be shared via websites, social media, or presentations.

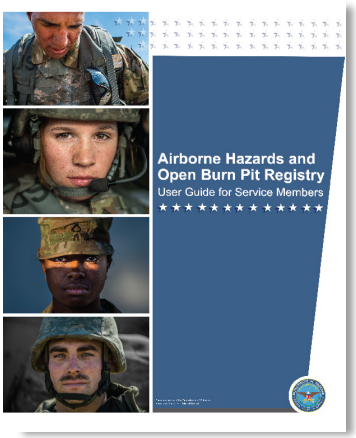
Outreach Materials

The following materials are housed on the Health.mil/AHBurnPitRegistry page and can be downloaded and distributed digitally or in print. Click items to begin direct download.



Service Member Fact Sheet

This two-page quick reference includes high-level registry information, steps for participating, and key FAQs.

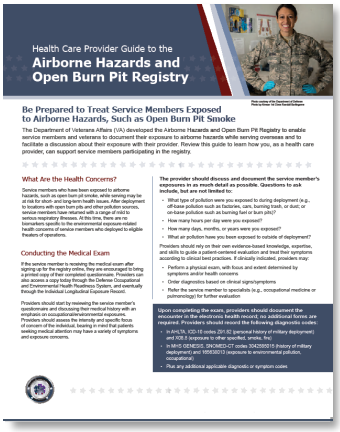


Service Member User Guide

This detailed, step-by-step guide features screenshots to walk service members through the registry process.

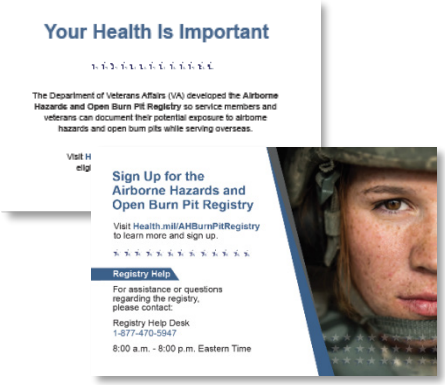
Service Member FAQs

This list of frequently asked questions helps service members and stakeholders understand the registry's purpose and how to participate.



Health Care Provider Guide

This two-page quick reference sheet raises provider awareness of the registry and the process for registry-related exams.



Wallet Card

This two-sided wallet card contains basic registry information and can be printed for distribution at military hospitals and clinics or for outreach events.

Social Media Messaging

Share the following messages on social media platforms to increase awareness of and participation in the registry.

Facebook

- The Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry allows eligible service members and veterans to document their potential exposures to airborne hazards, such as open burn pits, while serving overseas. If eligible, your participation can help DoD and VA improve programs and health care for service members and veterans. Visit Health.mil/AHBurnPitRegistry to learn more.
- Did you serve in the Southwest Asia theater of operations on or after August 2, 1990, or in Afghanistan or Djibouti on or after September 11, 2001? Join hundreds of thousands of service members and veterans who are participating in the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry. Registering will provide you with the opportunity to report exposures while serving overseas, discuss exposures and health concerns with a doctor, and support ongoing research to inform future decisions that will help keep service members and veterans healthy and safe. Visit Health.mil/AHBurnPitRegistry to learn more.
- Were you exposed to airborne hazards such as open burn pit smoke, oil well fires, or pollution while serving in the Southwest Asia theater of operations, Afghanistan, or Djibouti? You may be eligible to sign up for the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry. Get started today by visiting Health.mil/AHBurnPitRegistry to learn more.

Twitter

- Did you serve in the Southwest Asia theater of operations, Afghanistan, or Djibouti? You may be eligible for the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry. Visit Health.mil/AHBurnPitRegistry today to learn more.
- Join the hundreds of thousands of #veterans and #servicemembers who have reported their airborne hazards exposures and health concerns in the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry. Learn more at Health.mil/AHBurnPitRegistry.
- VA's #BurnPitRegistry informs research on the effects of airborne hazards and open burn pit exposure. Your participation helps improve programs and health care for the military community. Learn more at Health.mil/AHBurnPitRegistry.

Instagram Caption

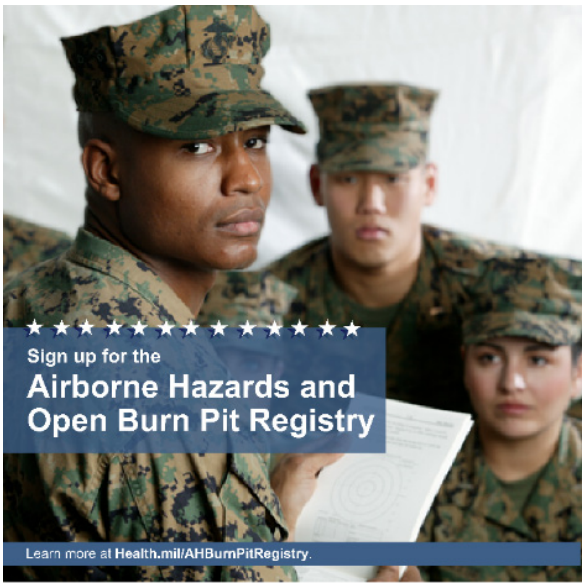
- Were you exposed to airborne hazards such as open burn pit smoke, oil well fires, or pollution while serving overseas? You may be eligible for the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry. Sign up to document your airborne hazards exposures and discuss any health concerns with a doctor. Visit Health.mil/AHBurnPitRegistry to learn more.

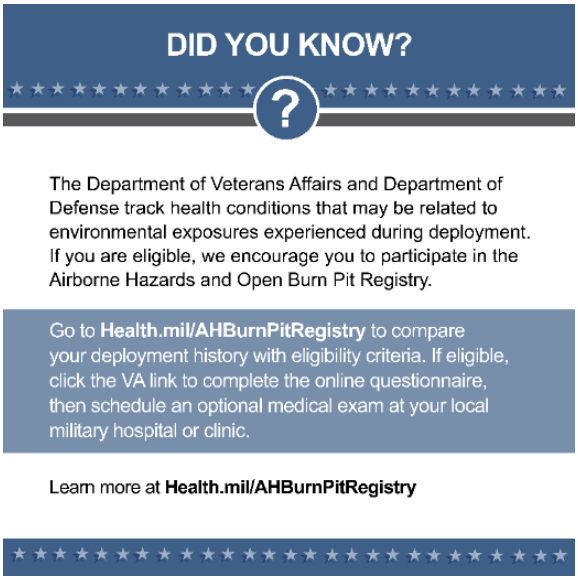
Hashtags: #burnpits #BurnPitRegistry #militaryhealth

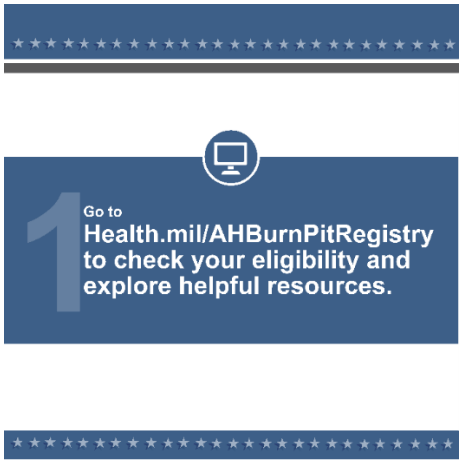
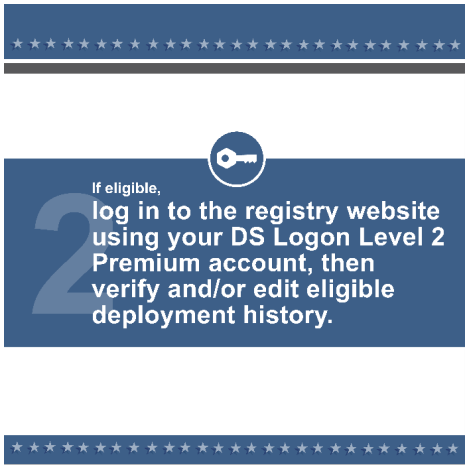
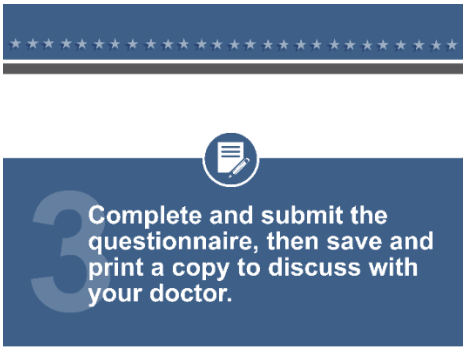
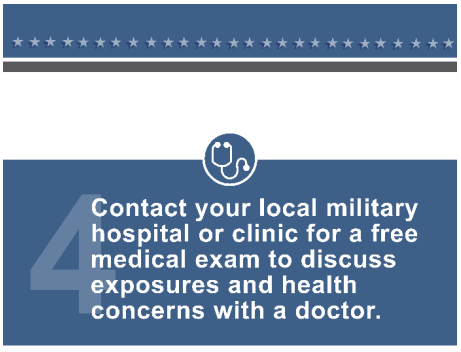
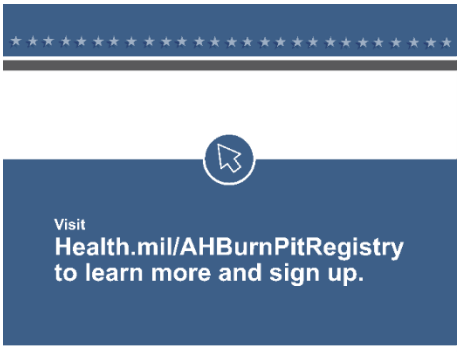
Social Media Graphics

The following graphics are designed to align to social media messaging from the previous page. Click graphics to open them in your browser and download.

General Graphics





Participation Steps Instagram Graphics

The following graphics should be used on Instagram in a sequence, applying the swipe feature. Click graphics to open them in your browser and download.