

Former Naval Station Treasure Island

Frequently Asked Questions | December 2018



Treasure Island is safe to live on, work on, and visit.

- All accessible areas of Treasure Island are safe to the public and confirmed to have no radiation above naturally occurring background levels.
- Environmental investigation and clean-up activities are ongoing and planned for the Westside Drive Solid Waste Disposal Areas. These areas are subject to access restrictions, and are not open to the general public.

San Francisco Department of Public Health and the Cancer Prevention Institute of California have performed independent evaluations of Treasure Island. Their results confirm that it is safe to live and work on Treasure Island.

What is the process for cleaning up radiological contamination?

The Navy follows an established procedure for cleaning-up radiological contamination required by the U.S. Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation & Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) as amended by Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA), as implemented by regulations contained in the National Contingency Plan. The primary steps include reviewing records; determining the extent of the contamination by collecting environmental samples; conducting clean-up operations; and testing the areas to confirm clean-up is complete.

Is Treasure Island a Superfund Site

No. Treasure Island is not listed on the National Priorities List, which is a list of hazardous waste sites eligible for long-term remedial action financed under the federal Superfund program. The Navy follows the same investigation and clean-up process regardless of Superfund status. Treasure Island has a Superfund Site ID because it went through the Site Assessment process, however, National Priorities Listing was not pursued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency because clean-up was already being conducted by the Navy, with the State of California providing regulatory oversight. The clean-up work at Treasure Island involves investigations and clean-up actions to address risks to human health and the environment associated with releases of hazardous substances. This work is conducted in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process.

Who sets radiation protection standards?

Radiation protection standards are established by many federal and state agencies, including the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the California Department of Public Health. The Navy works with all of these agencies and others to ensure compliance with all radiation protection requirements.

Is it safe to live near excavation areas?

The residents, workers and the public at Treasure Island are protected by stringent health and safety standards.

- Fences are set up around work areas to ensure public safety from construction hazards and to allow workers sufficient space to complete their work safely.
- Residents may be concerned about dust in and around clean-up areas, but the Navy contractors performing the clean-up are required to submit work plans for approval that include measures to prevent dust and water runoff.
- The air and dust monitoring data is evaluated to ensure state air pollutant requirements are met. That data is also shared with the Department of Toxic Substances Control for their review.

How is the public protected from dust caused by earth moving operations?

Navy contractors use dust suppression measures when moving earth for a clean-up project. They are specified in the work plans for each project and must be approved by regulatory agencies. These measures include regular watering of surface soil to reduce dust, tire washing as needed, covering trucks that transport soil to landfills, and regular monitoring of air quality and dust, both upwind and downwind from any earth moving operations.

What does the Navy do with soil and materials excavated during the clean-up process?

As part of a deliberate process, samples are collected from the excavated soil and materials and analyzed for chemical contaminants. After testing, soil that meets health and safety standards may be re-used on the base. Any soil that is radiologically-impacted is scanned prior to disposal; then disposed of in specially permitted landfills, outside of California.

Is the softball field located on Department of Labor property safe for use?

The softball area was scanned and is safe. When the area was redeveloped into a softball field, a decomposed granite-based mix that reacts better to rain and gameplay, was used for the infield. Because granite generally contains more naturally occurring radioactive material than soil, when the area was scanned, it created higher than normal radiological readings; however, they are not the result of past Navy operations, nor do they exceed regulatory thresholds. The California Department of Public Health has also evaluated the softball field and determined that the radiological readings identified are associated with the decomposed granite brought on-site and do not pose a threat to human health.

How long are radiological soil samples required to be maintained?

There is no requirement to keep radiological soil samples for a prescribed period. Radiological samples from Treasure Island were analyzed, reviewed through a quality control process, and properly disposed.

Is the Navy confident in the radiological work performed by Tetra Tech EC and other contractors at Treasure Island?

The Navy is confident that findings are based on radiological data for work performed by numerous contractors at Treasure Island are consistent and accurate. Navy radiological experts review radiological program data; these experts found the initial problem at Hunters Point and have not identified similar problems at Treasure Island. The California Department of Public Health will continue to conduct confirmation scanning and sampling at remaining Treasure Island sites.

Have there been any studies related to cancer rates at Treasure Island?

The Cancer Prevention Institute of California investigated cancer rates on Treasure Island as published in a memorandum dated June 9, 2014 and concluded that there is no evidence of significantly elevated incidence rates of all cancers among the residents of Treasure Island.



For More Information

- Visit the Navy's website at <https://www.bracpmo.navy.mil/NSTI>
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