



FORMER NAVAL STATION TREASURE ISLAND INTERIOR SURVEYS WITHIN SITE 12



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Health, Safety, and Mental Health Questions (General)

1. Am I at risk from radiation exposure?
 - a. Everyone is exposed to radiation in everyday living regardless of location or lifestyle. The radiation exposures that the Navy is investigating are less than or comparable to the amount of radiation received in everyday living; however, the Navy will identify and remove radiation hazards that may be providing additional exposure above the radiation that is normally received.
2. Are you going to test people for exposure to radiation?
 - a. The low amount of radiation to which people may have been exposed would not present any detectable symptoms or effects.
3. Can people obtain devices for testing radiation exposure?
 - a. Yes you can from specialized private companies and is not readily available. The low amounts of radiation that may be present require specialized equipment to detect. The Navy will perform surveys using such specialized equipment, with oversight by the State of California.
4. Will people on the island be provided with devices for testing radiation exposure?
 - a. No, the Navy will perform surveys using specialized equipment with oversight by the State of California. The specialized equipment to detect the low levels of radiation is not readily available for the public. Additionally, training is necessary for proper operation of the equipment. Survey findings will be provided to Treasure Island residents.
5. What's being done right now to protect my own health and that of my family?
 - a. The Navy is conducting surveys to assess whether there are radiation hazards to you and your family from sources other than what you would normally experience in everyday living. In the event the surveys reveal a radiation health hazard other than would be experienced in everyday living the Navy will take immediate action to eliminate the hazard.

General Radiation/Radiological Questions

6. What do you mean that there is radiation in everyday living?
 - a. Humans are exposed to radiation every day from natural sources (such as the sun, some foods and some natural materials used in construction). There are also routine exposures from medical examinations (such as dental x-rays).
7. How do the suspected radiation levels on the island compare to everyday radiation exposure?
 - a. Some examples of everyday radiation exposure are watching television (1 mrem per year), flying in an airplane (1 mrem for every 2 hours in the air), getting a dental x-ray (1 mrem per bitewing X-ray), exposure to the sun (45 mrem per year) or smoking 1.5 packs of cigarettes per day for a year (1,300 mrem per year). The amount of exposure from non-natural radiation sources that may be found on the island is anticipated to be less than the amount of radiation you receive in everyday living. The Navy considers radiation exposure to you from sources other than everyday living, in any level, as totally unacceptable; hence, the Navy is performing the surveys to identify whether non-everyday sources exist with the commitment to eliminate any such radiation hazards that may be found.
8. What is the unit "mrem" that is used when talking about radiation exposure?
 - a. Rem is a unit of radiation exposure. It is a measure of the effect radiation has on people. A millirem (mrem) is 1/1,000th of a rem: 1,000 mrem equals 1 rem. These units are often used in reference to time, such as mrem per hour. The sensitive equipment being used for

the surveys on the island are actually measuring microrem per hour. A microrem is 1/1000 of a millirem, a very small number in regards to radiation exposures.

9. Who sets radiation protection standards?
 - a. For the all work at Treasure Island the State of California sets the radiation protection standards.
10. Who is in charge of the surveys?
 - a. The Navy is responsible for conducting the surveys; however, all work is being coordinated and oversight with the State of California and City of San Francisco.
11. Who is doing the surveys?
 - a. Trained personnel with specialized equipment, licensed by the State of California, will perform the surveys.

Cleanup/Investigation/Data Questions

12. Did the Navy dump radiological and chemical waste in the housing area?
 - a. Any disposals occurred prior to the construction of the housing when the north end of the island was a former bunker area. At that time, the rules and regulations governing waste disposal today did not exist. The purpose of the Navy's environmental program is to investigate and remediate past activities.
13. What kind of objects did the Navy find in the soil in the housing area?
 - a. Since late 2006, the Navy has found nearly 600 rad objects, nearly all were found in the former Solid Waste Disposal Areas (SWDAs) that operated in that area from 1942-1960. Most of the objects recovered are old rusted dials and gauges that were painted with glow in the dark paint containing radium-226.
14. What are the other objects?
 - a. Additional objects, referred to as "foils" are small 6- and 8-sided disk sources. The Navy has not previously found these types of sources buried at any of our other Navy installation. While our research is ongoing, the origin of these sources has not yet been identified.
15. Is radiologically impacted the same as contaminated?
 - a. A radiologically impacted site is one that has, or at one time had, the potential for radioactive contamination, based on historical information, in excess of natural background levels. In many instances, designation as radiologically impacted does not confirm that radioactive contamination is present; only that the possibility exists and must be investigated. A non-impacted site is one, based on historical documentation or results of previous radiological survey information, where there is no reasonable possibility for residual radioactive contamination. If new historical information becomes available or contamination is found at a non-impacted sited, the site would be re-designated as radiologically impacted.
16. How will you decide where to scan and where not to scan?
 - a. The details of the survey plans are being worked with the State of California. The Navy will host a public workshop for the Treasure Island residents to discuss the details of the plan, receive input from the community, and to hear and address community concerns.
17. Who determines what levels of radiation are considered "safe"?
 - a. The State of California Department of Public Health.
18. Can I see the results of all your testing?
 - a. Yes. The Navy will provide all test results.
19. Do I have to give you access to scan my home?
 - a. Yes.
20. What if I refuse you access to my home?
 - a. The Lease Agreement between the Navy and the City includes provisions allowing access to perform this work.
21. Do I need to be home and take time off work while you're sampling my property?
 - a. No. Your presence during survey is not required. Access to your home will be coordinated with your housing provider.
22. How can we be sure the survey data is accurate?
 - a. The data collected by the Navy will be reviewed and approved by the State of California.

23. How can we be sure that future surveys won't find things that you didn't find now?
 - a. We're going to use state of the art equipment and test to the level that technology allows now.
24. Can you guarantee the accuracy of the results?
 - a. We're going to use state-of-the-art equipment and test to the level that technology allows now. The data collected by the Navy will be reviewed and approved by the State of California.
25. How long will the surveying take?
 - a. The details of the survey plans are being worked with the State of California. The Navy will host a public workshop for the Treasure Island residents to discuss the details of the plan, receive input from the community, and to hear and address community concerns.
26. Will I need to move anything in my home for you to do the surveys? My garage? Access to closets?
 - a. Discussions with the State of California will determine how much access will be required. Details of the plans will be provided at the public workshop.
27. When are you going to start the surveys?
 - a. The details of the survey plans, such as timing, are being worked with the State of California. The Navy will host a public workshop for the Treasure Island residents to discuss the details of the plan, receive input from the community, and to hear and address community concerns.
28. Will people be allowed to return to their homes after testing?
 - a. Yes, however, in the event a radiological survey reveals a health hazard, the Navy will take necessary actions which may prevent you from immediately returning to your home.

Communications Questions

29. Why is the Navy planning to do additional radiation investigations at Treasure Island?
 - a. Since 2006, the sampling and cleanup conducted on Treasure Island has been based on what we knew about the historical uses of radiation and chemicals used on the base. However, based on fieldwork data, supplementary research and review of the historical reference material, and a much more conservative evaluation process, we have expanded the investigation to include additional areas.
30. How can I trust what you're telling me about my safety?
 - a. We're going to use state-of-the-art equipment and test to the level that technology allows now. The data collected by the Navy will be reviewed and approved by the State of California.
31. Who should people talk to if they have questions or concerns? How will you address public comments?
 - a. Questions can be directed to Keith Forman, Navy BRAC Environmental Coordinator for Treasure Island. Information will also be provided through the BRAC PMO website located at http://www.bracpmo.navy.mil/brac_bases/california/former_ns_treasure_island.html, public meetings, newsletters, etc.

Economic Questions

32. If my house is contaminated, will I receive financial assistance or compensation?
 - a. Questions regarding financial assistance or compensation should be directed to your housing provider.
33. I was told residents might have to relocate during the surveys or cleanup. Who will pay for my moving costs?
 - a. Questions regarding relocation or moving costs should be directed to your housing provider.