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Exposure to Contaminated Drinking Water at Camp Lejeune

In the early 1980s at the Marine Corps Base in Lejeune, NC, it was discovered that two on-base water-supply systems were contaminated with the volatile organic compounds trichloroethylene (TCE), a metal degreaser, and perchloroethylene (PCE), a dry cleaning agent. Benzene, vinyl chloride, and other compounds were also found to be contaminating the water-supply systems. The water systems were contaminated from at least 1957 to February 1985.

There is limited and suggestive evidence of an association between certain diseases and the chemical compounds found at Camp Lejeune during the period of contamination. VA will consider disability compensation claims based on exposure to the contaminated water at Camp Lejeune on a case-by-case basis.

Health Risks

The [National Academy of Science's National Research Council](#) identified diseases potentially associated with exposure to the contaminants present in the Camp Lejeune water supply between 1957 and 1987. These diseases include:

- Esophageal cancer
- Lung cancer
- Breast cancer
- Bladder cancer
- Kidney cancer
- Adult leukemia
- Multiple myeloma
- Myelodysplastic syndromes
- Renal toxicity
- Hepatic steatosis
- Female infertility
- Miscarriage, with exposure during pregnancy
- Scleroderma
- Neurobehavioral effects

The list of diseases above is not exclusive. Veterans may submit a claim for disability compensation benefits with medical evidence that indicates the disease or disability may be related to the known water contaminants.

Eligibility Requirements

- You must be a Veteran who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.
- You must have served at Camp Lejeune during the period of contamination (1957-1985)
- You must have a current disease and a medical opinion that states the disease is a result of exposure to the contaminated water at Camp Lejeune

Normally, VA will initiate a VA medical examination and request an opinion regarding the relationship of the disease to Camp Lejeune service.

Evidence Requirements

- The evidence must show you served at Camp Lejeune during the period of

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contamination (1957-1985)

- The evidence must show you have a current disease and include a medical opinion indicating the disease is a result of exposure to the contaminated water at Camp Lejeune.

How To Apply

- Apply online using [eBenefits](#) OR
- Work with an [accredited representative](#) or [agent](#) OR
- Go to a VA regional office and have a VA employee assist you. You can find your regional office on our [Facility Locator](#) page.

For more information on how to apply and for tips on making sure your claim is ready to be processed by VA, visit our [How to Apply](#) page.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs - 810 Vermont Avenue, NW - Washington, DC 20420

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