



Airborne Hazards & Open Burn Pit Exposures

During active duty, you may have been exposed to various airborne hazards, such as:

- Smoke and fumes from open burn pits
- Sand, dust, and particle pollution
- General air pollution from specific countries
- Fuel, aircraft exhaust, and other mechanical fumes
- Smoke from oil well fires

“**Airborne hazard**” refers to any contaminant or potentially toxic substance that individuals may be exposed to through the air they breathe. This term encompasses various airborne pollutants and substances that can pose health risks when inhaled.



Honorably Serving Those Who Served Us

For more information on registry evaluations or health concerns related to military exposures, scan the QR code below:



Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Exposure



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
EXECUTIVE OFFICE of
VETERANS SERVICES

What are Open Burn Pits?

The Department of Defense defines an open burn pit as an area of land used for the open-air combustion of trash and other solid waste products. In this process, waste is burned without a controlled enclosure, potentially releasing smoke, fumes, and particulate matter into the air.

Short-term health conditions related to exposure are common. Long-term issues may result from a combination of exposures, injuries, or illnesses during service.

Commonly Disposed Products

- Chemicals
- Paint
- Medical and human waste
- Metal/aluminum cans
- Munitions
- Unexploded ordnance
- Petroleum/lubricant products
- Plastics
- Rubber
- Wood
- Food waste

Healthcare

The VA assesses health conditions through a claims process. Factors considered include:

- Deployment history
- Duration
- Proximity of exposure
- Other environmental hazards.

For details on filing a claim, visit: www.VA.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim.

Extended Eligibility

If you served in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Afghanistan, Operations Iraqi Freedom (OIF), or New Dawn (OND) in Iraq, you can receive free VA healthcare for up to 5 years after separation.

This extended eligibility can bolster your future VA claims for compensation, benefits, healthcare, and more.

Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry

Established in 2014, the VA's registry empowers veterans to contribute vital data for ongoing research on health effects from airborne hazards during military service. Joining supports research and enhances VA care.

Eligibility and Participation

If deployed to Southwest Asia after August 2, 1990, or Afghanistan/Djibouti after September 11, 2001, you qualify.

Active duty, reservists, or those back in service can participate, even without filing a VA claim.

Scan to Register

