

PACT ACT

Airborne Hazards and Burn Pit Exposures

“Airborne hazard” refers to any sort of contaminant or possibly toxic substance we are exposed to through the air we breathe. While on active duty, military service members may have been exposed to a variety of airborne hazards including:

- The smoke and fumes from open burn pits
- Sand, dust, and particulate matter
- General air pollution common in certain countries
- Fuel, aircraft exhaust, and other mechanical fumes
- Smoke from oil well fires

VA knows that many Veterans worry about exposure to the smoke and fumes from open burn pits. Open-air combustion of trash and other waste in burn pits was common in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other areas of the Southwest Asia theater of military operations.



Short or long-term health effects may be related to greater or lesser exposure to certain risk factors:

- Types of waste burned
- Proximity, amount of time, and frequency of exposure
- Wind direction and other weather-related factors
- Presence of other airborne or environmental hazards in the area

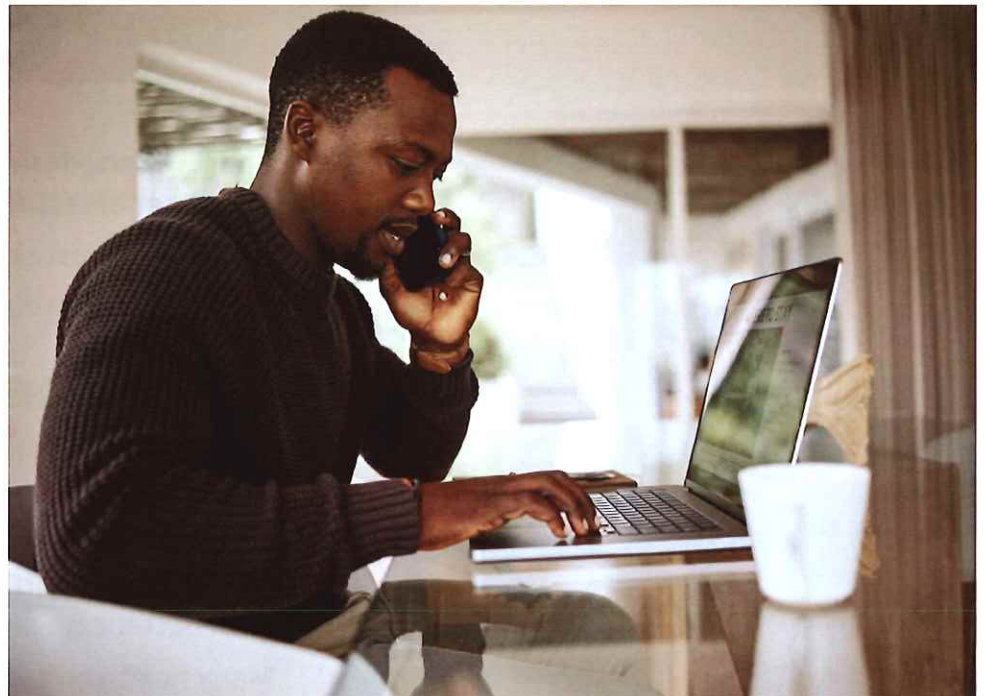
Ongoing research will help us better understand potential long-term health effects and provide you with better care and services.

Many health conditions related to these hazards are temporary and should disappear after the exposure ends. Other longer-term health issues may be caused by a combination of hazardous exposures, injuries, or illnesses you may have experienced during your military service including blast or noise injuries.

Presumptive Conditions for Airborne Hazards and Burn Pit Exposures

The following are presumptive conditions:

- Brain cancer
- Gastrointestinal cancer of any type
- Glioblastoma
- Head cancer of any type
- Kidney cancer
- Lymphatic cancer of any type
- Lymphoma of any type
- Melanoma
- Neck cancer
- Pancreatic cancer
- Reproductive cancer of any type
- Squamous cell carcinoma of the larynx
- Squamous cell carcinoma of the trachea
- Adenocarcinoma of the trachea
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the trachea
- Adenosquamous carcinoma of the lung
- Large cell carcinoma of the lung
- Salivary gland-type tumors of the lung
- Sarcomatoid carcinoma of the lung
- Typical and atypical carcinoid of the lung
- Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type
- Asthma that was diagnosed after service
- Chronic bronchitis
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Chronic rhinitis
- Chronic sinusitis
- Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis
- Emphysema
- Granulomatous disease
- Interstitial lung disease (ILD)
- Pleuritis
- Pulmonary fibrosis
- Sarcoidosis



Read about topics:

- burn pit and other toxic exposures that are now presumptions related to the PACT Act.
- eligibility for free VA health care as a post-9/11 combat Veteran.

Go to <https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/>
Or scan the QR code with your cell phone camera to go to the website above.

