



PACT ACT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



..... VIETNAM GULF WAR POST-9/11

The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.

The Act **(1)** expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era, and **(2)** expands eligibility for benefits for Veterans exposed to toxic substances.

What new or expanded presumptions will the Act create and when will they be in effect?

VETERANS AND SURVIVORS CAN FILE CLAIMS FOR ALL CONDITIONS OUTLINED IN THE PACT ACT IMMEDIATELY.

For Gulf War and post 9-11 Veterans, that includes:

Brain cancer, Glioblastoma, Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type, Gastrointestinal cancer of any type, Head cancer of any type, Lymphoma of any type, Lymphatic cancer of any type, Neck cancer, Pancreatic cancer, Reproductive cancer of any type, Kidney cancer, Melanoma, Asthma (diagnosed after service), Chronic rhinitis, Chronic sinusitis, Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis,

Emphysema, Granulomatous disease, Interstitial lung disease (ILD), Pleuritis, Pulmonary fibrosis, Sarcoidosis, Chronic bronchitis, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

For Vietnam Veterans and other Veterans exposed to tactical herbicides, that includes two Agent Orange presumptive conditions:

Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS), High blood pressure (hypertension).

How can Veterans apply for VA health care?

Apply **online** at [VA.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction](https://va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction).

Call our toll-free hotline at 877-222-8387, M-F, 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET.

Mail a completed, signed Application for Health Benefits (VA Form 10-10EZ).

Bring a completed, signed VA Form 10-10EZ with you to your nearest medical center or clinic or get help through your state's Department of Veterans Affairs Service Officer.

Get help filing your claim by working with an [accredited representative](#).

What are the PACT Act key components?



The Act **expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic-exposures** and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era.



VA **will improve the decision-making process** for determining what medical conditions will be considered for presumptive status.



Every enrolled Veteran will **receive an initial toxic exposure screening** and a follow-up screening every five years. Veterans who are not enrolled, but who are eligible to enroll, will have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening.



VA health care staff and claims processors will receive **toxic exposure-related education and training**.



The Act requires **research studies** on mortality of Veterans who served in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War, Post-9/11 Veteran health trends, and Veteran cancer rates.



The Act will help VA **build a stronger, more skilled workforce** to meet the growing demand for benefits and services.



The Act authorizes **31 new medical facilities** across the country, providing greater access to VA health care.

How can a Veteran file a claim?



Veterans who would like to file a claim must complete [VA Form 21-526EZ](#) to apply for benefits and submit any supportive evidence.



To learn about standard VA disability claims, supplemental claims, secondary claims, and more visit: [VA.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/when-to-file](https://va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/when-to-file).

If a Veteran was previously denied a claim, what can they do?

VA will contact Veterans when a presumption of service connection is established or changed. However, **Veterans previously denied a toxic-exposure related claim** are encouraged to file a supplemental claim. Once a supplemental claim is received, VA will review the claim under the new law.

VA



U.S. Department
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Learn more and sign up at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT)
Download the VA Health and Benefits App
Call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)
Find a VA at [VA.gov/find-locations/](https://va.gov/find-locations/)



Presumptive Disability Benefits

What is “Presumptive” Service Connection?

VA automatically presumes that certain disabilities were caused by military service. This is because of the unique circumstances of a specific Veteran’s military service. If a presumed condition is diagnosed in a Veteran within a certain group, they can be awarded disability compensation.

What are “Presumptive Conditions”?

If you are diagnosed with a chronic disease within one year of active-duty release, you should apply for disability compensation. Examples of chronic disease include: arthritis, diabetes or hypertension.

Or, if you served continuously for at least 90 days and are diagnosed with **amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)** after discharge, you can establish service connection for the disease.

If you have a presumptive condition, you do not need to prove that your service caused the condition. You only need to meet the service requirements for the presumptive.

Veterans in the following groups may qualify for “presumptive” disability benefits:

- **Former prisoners of war**
 - If you are a former prisoner of that has a condition that is at least 10% disabling, you may have a presumptive condition.
 - Whether or not a specific condition is presumed depends on the length of imprisonment.
 - **If you were imprisoned for any length of time, specific presumed conditions include:**
 - Psychosis

- Any of the anxiety states
 - Dysthymic disorder (or depressive neurosis)
 - Organic residuals of frostbite
 - Post-traumatic osteoarthritis
 - Heart disease or hypertensive vascular disease
 - Stroke and the residual effects
 - Osteoporosis, when the Veteran has posttraumatic stress disorder
- **If you were imprisoned for at least 30 days, presumed conditions include:**
 - Beriberi (including beriberi heart disease)
 - Chronic dysentery
 - Helminthiasis
 - Malnutrition (including optic atrophy)
 - Pellagra
 - Other nutritional deficiencies
 - Irritable bowel syndrome
 - Peptic ulcer disease
 - Peripheral neuropathy
 - Cirrhosis of the liver
 - Avitaminosis
 - Osteoporosis
- **Vietnam Veterans**
 - **If you were exposed to Agent Orange or served in the following locations, you may have a presumptive condition.**
 - Republic of Vietnam or on a vessel operating not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia between Jan. 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975
 - Any U.S. or Royal Thai military base in Thailand from Jan. 9, 1962 through June 30, 1976
 - Laos from Dec. 1, 1965 through September 30, 1969
 - Cambodia at Mimot or Krek, Kampong Cham Province from April 16, 1969 through April 30, 1969
 - Guam or American Samoa or in the territorial waters off Guam or American Samoa from Jan. 9, 1962 through July 31, 1980

- Johnston Atoll or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll from Jan. 1, 1972 through Sept. 30, 1977
- **Specific presumed conditions include:**
 - AL amyloidosis
 - B-cell leukemia
 - Chronic lymphocytic leukemia
 - Multiple myeloma
 - Type 2 diabetes
 - Hodgkin's disease
 - Ischemic heart disease (including but not limited to, coronary artery disease and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease)
 - Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
 - Parkinson's disease
 - Parkinsonism
 - Prostate cancer
 - Respiratory cancers
 - Soft-tissue sarcoma (not including osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma or mesothelioma)
 - Bladder cancer
 - Hypothyroidism
 - Hypertension
 - Monoclonal gammopathy of underdetermined significance (MGUS)
- **The following conditions are presumed, if they become greater than 10% debilitating within a year of exposure to an herbicide agent:**
 - Acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy
 - Chloracne or other similar acneform disease
 - Porphyria cutanea tarda
- **Atomic Veterans exposed to ionizing radiation**
 - **If you experienced one of the following**, you may have a presumptive condition:
 - Participated in atmospheric nuclear testing

- Occupied or were prisoners of war in Hiroshima or Nagasaki
 - Served before Feb. 1, 1992, at a diffusion plant in Paducah, Kentucky, Portsmouth, Ohio or Oak Ridge, Tennessee
 - Served before Jan. 1, 1974, at Amchitka Island, Alaska
 - Served in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll from Jan. 1, 1977 through Dec. 31, 1980
 - Served in the cleanup of the Air Force B-52 bomber carrying nuclear weapons off the coast of Palomares, Spain from Jan. 17, 1966 through March 31, 1967
 - Served in the response to the fire onboard an Air Force B-52 bomber carrying nuclear weapons near Thule Air Force Base in Greenland from Jan. 21, 1968 through Sept. 25, 1985
- **Specific presumed conditions include:**
 - All forms of leukemia, except chronic lymphocytic leukemia
 - Cancer of the thyroid, breast, pharynx, esophagus, stomach, small intestine, pancreas, bile ducts, gall bladder, salivary gland, urinary tract, brain, bone, lung, colon or ovary
 - Bronchioloalveolar carcinoma
 - Multiple myeloma
 - Lymphomas, other than Hodgkin's disease
 - Primary liver cancer, except if there are indications of cirrhosis or hepatitis B
- **Gulf War and Post 9/11 Veterans**
 - Presumptive conditions for Gulf War and Post-9/11 Veterans depends on where and when you served.
 - If you **served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations, Afghanistan, Israel, Egypt, Turkey, Syria, or Jordan, during the Persian Gulf War** and have:
 - A medically unexplained chronic multi-symptom illnesses that exist for six months or more, such as:
 - Chronic fatigue syndrome
 - Fibromyalgia

- Irritable bowel syndrome
- Any diagnosed or undiagnosed illness that warrants a presumption of service connection, as determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
- Signs or symptoms of an undiagnosed illness, including:
 - Fatigue
 - Skin symptoms
 - Headaches
 - Muscle pain
 - Joint pain
 - Neurological or neuropsychological symptoms
 - Symptoms involving the upper or lower respiratory system
 - Sleep disturbance
 - Gastrointestinal symptoms
 - Cardiovascular symptoms
 - Weight loss
 - Menstrual disorders
- If you **served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations or in Afghanistan on or after September 19, 2001** and:
 - Manifest one of the following infectious diseases to a degree of 10 percent or more within 1 year of separation, specific conditions include:
 - Brucellosis
 - Campylobacter jejuni
 - Coxiella burnetii (Q fever)
 - Nontyphoid Salmonella
 - Shigella
 - West Nile virus
 - Malaria (or when accepted treatises indicate the incubation period began during a qualifying period of service)
 - Manifest to a degree of 10% or more at any time after separation, specific conditions include:
 - Mycobacterium tuberculosis
 - Visceral leishmaniasis

- If you served **any amount of time in Afghanistan, Djibouti, Syria, or Uzbekistan during the Persian Gulf War, from Sept. 19, 2001 to the present** or the **Southwest Asia theater of operations from Aug. 2, 1990 to the present**, specific conditions include:
 - 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
- If you served **on or after Sept. 11, 2001 in Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Uzbekistan, or Yemen** or if you **served in the *Southwest Asia theater of operations, or Somalia, on or after Aug. 2, 1990**, specific conditions include:
 - 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 of any type
 - Pancreatic cancer
 - Reproductive cancer of any type
 - Respiratory 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
- The *Southwest Asia theater of operations* refers to Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea, and the airspace above these locations.



2022 PACT ACT: UNDERSTANDING HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFITS



PACT ACT OVERVIEW

What is the PACT Act? Why is it important?

The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. **This law helps us provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.**

The Act (1) expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era, and (2) expands eligibility for benefits for Veterans exposed to toxic substances.

What does the acronym, PACT, stand for?

Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our **Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics** (PACT) Act of 2022.

When does the law go into effect?

While some provisions take effect at different times, VA considers the presumptive conditions established in the PACT Act to be applicable on the date the PACT is signed into law. **All Veterans and survivors who believe they may be entitled to benefits are encouraged to apply today.**

What are the PACT act key components?

- » The Act **expands and extends eligibility for VA health care** for Veterans with toxic-exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era.
- » VA **will improve the decision-making process** for determining what medical conditions will be considered for presumptive status.
- » Every enrolled Veteran will receive an initial **toxic exposure screening** and a follow-up screening every five years. Veterans who are not enrolled, but who are eligible to enroll, will have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening.
- » VA health care staff and claims processors will receive **toxic exposure-related education and training**.
- » The Act requires **research studies** on mortality of Veterans who served in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War, Post-9/11 Veteran health trends, and Veteran cancer rates.
- » The Act will help VA **build a stronger, more skilled workforce** to meet the growing demand for benefits and services.
- » The Act authorizes **31 new medical facilities** across the country, providing greater access to VA health care.

PACT ACT KEY DATES



VHA



VBA



AUGUST 10, 2022:

PACT Act signed into law.



EFFECTIVE ON ENACTMENT:

Adds 20+ new presumptive conditions for burn pits and other toxic exposures and more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation.



OCTOBER 1, 2022:

Presumptions of service connection take effect for Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, certain provinces in Cambodia, Guam, or American Samoa (or their territorial waters), or the Johnston Atoll (or a ship that called there) during specific time periods. Applies for health care eligibility.

Note: This will go into effect immediately for eligible Veterans who are terminally ill, homeless, under extreme financial hardship, are over 85 years old, or otherwise can demonstrate sufficient cause.



OCTOBER 1, 2022 - OCTOBER 1, 2023:

1-year period for care and enrollment for Veterans who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War or in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after 11/11/98, and who were discharged or released between 9/11/01–10/1/13.



NOVEMBER 8, 2022:

Begin incorporating toxic exposure screening for enrolled Veterans.



OCTOBER 1, 2024:

Phase in enrollment for health care for Veterans identified in Categories 1 and 2 who were discharged or released August 2, 1990 - September 11, 2001.



OCTOBER 1, 2026:

Phase in enrollment for health care for Veterans identified in Categories 1 and 2 who were discharged or released September 12, 2001 - December 31, 2006.



OCTOBER 1, 2028:

Phase in enrollment for health care for Veterans identified in Categories 1 and 2 who were discharged or released January 1, 2007 - December 31, 2012.



OCTOBER 1, 2030:

Phase in enrollment for health care for Veterans identified in Categories 1 and 2 who were discharged or released January 1, 2013 - December 31, 2018.



OCTOBER 1, 2032:

Phase in enrollment for health care for Veterans identified in Category 3.



2022 PACT ACT: UNDERSTANDING HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFITS



PACT ACT OVERVIEW

What does toxic exposure mean?

As a general matter, there are several types of possible exposures or hazards Veterans may have experienced during their military service, including:

- » **AIR POLLUTANTS:** Burn pits, oil well fires, sulfur fire, sand, dust, and particulates
- » **CHEMICALS:** Agent Orange or other herbicides, burn pits, Camp Lejeune water supplies, pesticides, depleted uranium, chromium, or industrial solvents
- » **RADIATION:** Nuclear weapons testing, x-rays, or depleted uranium
- » **WARFARE AGENTS:** Chemical warfare agents, nerve agents, mustard gas, herbicide tests, and storage
- » **OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS:** Asbestos, lead, fuels, industrial solvents, radiation, vibration, noise, special paint on military vehicles, and some coolants or insulating fluids



HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY

What are the new health care eligibility criteria?

The PACT Act helps advance a top VA priority: getting more Veterans into VA care by expanding eligibility for, and the availability of, health care services for Veterans. The law **expands health care eligibility** to several groups of Veterans who may not have been eligible before and requires VA to **phase in hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care for any illness to three new categories** of Veterans.

- » **CATEGORY 1:** Veterans who participated in a toxic exposure risk activity (as defined by law) while serving on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training.
- » **CATEGORY 2:** Veterans who were assigned to a duty station in (including airspace above) certain locations during specific periods of time:
 - On or after August 2, 1990, in: Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, or the United Arab Emirates
 - On or after September 11, 2001, in: Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Uzbekistan, or any other country determined relevant by VA.
- » **CATEGORY 3:** Veterans who deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Freedom's Sentinel, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, Operation Inherent Resolve, or Resolute Support Mission.
- » **ON OCTOBER 1, 2022:**

Presumptions of service connection take effect for Veterans who served in the **Republic of Vietnam** (from 1/9/62–5/7/75), **Thailand** at any US or Royal Thai base (from 1/9/62–6/30/76), **Laos** (from 12/1/65–9/30/69), certain provinces in **Cambodia** (from 4/16/69–4/30/69), **Guam**, or **American Samoa** or their territorial waters (from 1/9/62–7/31/80), or the **Johnston Atoll** or a ship that called there (from 1/1/72–9/30/77). **This applies for health care eligibility and will go into effect immediately for eligible Veterans who are terminally ill, homeless, under extreme financial hardship, are over 85 years old, or otherwise can demonstrate sufficient cause.**
- » **BETWEEN OCTOBER 1, 2022, AND OCTOBER 1, 2023:**

Veterans who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations during a period of war **after the Persian Gulf War** or in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after November 11, 1998, and who were discharged between September 11, 2001, and October 1, 2013, may receive care and apply for enrollment for VA health care. Enrollment is free, there are no annual costs, and care may be free as well.



2022 PACT ACT: UNDERSTANDING HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFITS



HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY

What is a toxic exposure screening? How will it help Veterans?

Veterans will be **asked questions about potential exposure** to an open burn pit or other hazards and symptoms commonly associated with military environmental exposure. These questions will help VA health care providers individualize health care services **to improve health outcomes and patient experience**. This will also help VA identify other potential risks for Veterans and inform future policy decisions.

How will a Gulf War or Post-9/11 Combat Veteran's eligibility be impacted?

The PACT Act extends and expands VA health care eligibility. **All Veterans are encouraged to apply for VA healthcare, regardless of separation date.** VA health care eligibility depends on service history and other factors.

Veterans who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War or in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after November 11, 1998, and who were discharged or released:

- » Between September 11, 2001, and October 1, 2013, will have a special enrollment period between October 1, 2022, and October 1, 2023 (if not previously enrolled in VA health care). During this one-year period, Veterans will have another opportunity to receive care and apply for enrollment. We strongly encourage them to do so to ensure health care is available now or in the future. Enrollment is free, there are no annual costs, and care may be free as well.
- » After October 1, 2013, are eligible for free VA health care for any condition related to service, and to enroll in VA health care, for up to 10 years from the most recent discharge or separation date.

What is the Burn Pit Registry? How can a Veteran register?

The [VA Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry](#) aims to help VA **better understand potential health effects of exposures** and proactively identify health concerns Veterans can discuss with their health care providers for follow-up care.

Veterans deployed to **Southwest Asia or Egypt** after August 2, 1990, or **Afghanistan, Djibouti, Syria, or Uzbekistan** on or after September 11, 2001, are eligible to [participate in the registry](#).

Participation is voluntary and **cannot negatively impact VA health care access or compensation and benefits claims**. Exposure to specific airborne hazards or having related health concerns is not required to participate in the registry.



BENEFITS

What is a presumption of service connection?

VA assumes certain diseases or illnesses can be related to a Veteran's military service. **Veterans and their survivors may be eligible for benefits and health care services** for these conditions.

What new or expanded presumptions will the Act create and when will they be in effect?

Veterans and survivors can file claims for all conditions outlined in the PACT Act immediately.

For Gulf War and post 9-11 Veterans, that includes:

Brain cancer, Glioblastoma, Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type, Gastrointestinal cancer of any type, Head cancer of any type, Lymphoma of any type, Lymphatic cancer of any type, Neck cancer, Pancreatic cancer, Reproductive cancer of any type, Kidney cancer, Melanoma, Asthma that was diagnosed after service, Chronic rhinitis, Chronic sinusitis, Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis, Emphysema, Granulomatous disease, Interstitial lung disease (ILD), Pleuritis, Pulmonary fibrosis, Sarcoidosis, Chronic bronchitis, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

For Vietnam Veterans and other Veterans exposed to tactical herbicides, that includes two Agent Orange presumptive conditions:

Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS), High blood pressure (also called hypertension).

Can Veterans apply now?

VA is considering the presumptive conditions established in the PACT Act to be applicable on the date the bill becomes law. **We encourage all Veterans who believe they may be entitled to benefits to apply now.**

What evidence must Veterans submit when filing a claim?

Veterans should submit any supportive evidence along with their claims. The PACT Act states that in processing claims for compensation related to toxic exposure, VA may **consider any Veteran record in an exposure tracking record system**. If no record exists, VA may consider the totality of circumstances. Claims processors can also assist Veterans filing a claim by gathering any identified medical evidence and requesting an examination or medical opinion to substantiate the claim.

Veterans now eligible for benefits based on a presumption of service connection are encouraged to file a claim using [VA Form 21-526EZ](#), Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits, or a supplemental claim using [VA Form 20-0995](#), Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim.



2022 PACT ACT: UNDERSTANDING HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFITS



BENEFITS

If a Veteran was previously denied a claim for any of these conditions, what can they do?

VA will contact Veterans when a presumption of service connection is established or changed. However, Veterans previously denied a toxic-exposure related claim are encouraged to file a supplemental claim. **Once a supplemental claim is received, VA will review the claim under the new law.**

What actions should Veterans take who have never filed a claim for one of these conditions?

Veterans who are diagnosed with one of the new presumptive conditions and meet eligibility requirements should **submit a new claim** for consideration using [VA Form 21-526EZ](#), Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits.

Will family members or dependents—those who lost a loved one during the re-adjudication process or those who lost a loved one who was previously denied a claim—receive any benefits because of the PACT Act?

Family members or dependents of a deceased Veteran **may qualify for various VA benefits** due to the additional disabilities defined in the PACT Act if they meet eligibility requirements. Benefits available include Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), Accrued, and Burial benefits.

- » **DIC** is a monthly payment for the eligible surviving spouse, dependent child(ren) or parent(s) of a deceased Veteran who died in the line of duty or from a service-connected disability or disabilities. Evidence must show the Veteran's death was caused by, or related to, the Veteran's time in service.
- » **Accrued benefits** are one-time payments to an eligible surviving spouse, dependent child(ren) or dependent parent(s) of a deceased Veteran based on the relationship when the evidence of record shows benefits, such as disability compensation or Veterans pension, were due but unpaid prior to the Veteran's passing. A family member of the deceased Veteran may also qualify by providing evidence of payment for the Veteran's final expenses or burial.

» **Burial benefits** are a flat-rate payment to assist in covering eligible Veteran burial in a national cemetery and funeral costs. VA may provide burial benefits to a family member or dependent of a deceased Veteran who met the qualifications at the time of their passing. VA pays service-connected burial, non-service-connected burial, plot or interment allowance, and transportation reimbursement.

- » **Health care through the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA)** may also be available for survivors and dependents of Veterans who are now, or who would have been, eligible for a service-connected disability.

How can a Veteran apply for VA health care?



Apply online at [VA.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction](https://va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction)



Call the toll-free hotline at 877-222-8387
Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. ET



Mail a completed, signed Application for Health Benefits [VA Form 10-10EZ](#)



Bring a completed, signed [VA Form 10-10EZ](#) to the nearest VA Medical Center or clinic.

How can a Veteran file a disability claim?

Veterans who wish to file a claim must complete [VA Form 21-526EZ](#) to apply for benefits and submit any supportive evidence.

Veterans can learn about standard VA disability, supplemental, and secondary claims by visiting:

[VA.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/when-to-file](https://va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/when-to-file)

Note: VA will contact Veterans when a presumption of service connection is established or changed. Most claims previously denied will not automatically be reviewed under the PACT Act, and Veterans who were previously denied a toxic-exposure related claim are encouraged to file a supplemental claim. Once a supplemental claim is received, VA will review the claim under the new policies.

VA



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Learn more and sign up at [VA.gov](https://va.gov)
Download the [VA Health and Benefits App](#)
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Find a VA at [VA.gov/find-locations/](https://va.gov/find-locations/)



VA SURVIVOR BENEFITS & THE PACT ACT

You may be eligible for VA benefits and services after your loved one has passed.



The PACT Act makes it easier for many survivors to receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC).

VA will be contacting survivors who were previously denied DIC benefits and may be newly eligible under the PACT Act. You do not need to wait for VA to contact you to submit a claim.

How to Apply for DIC and/or Accrued Benefits

Surviving family members may apply for these benefits using the appropriate VA form on va.gov/family-member-benefits.



Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

Monthly payment for the eligible surviving spouse, dependent children or parent(s) of the Veteran or service member IF Veteran or service member died in the line of duty or due to a service-related injury or illness.



Accrued Benefits

A one-time payment to a surviving spouse, dependent child(ren) or dependent parent(s) of a deceased Veteran based on relationship when the record shows additional benefits (such as VA compensation or pension) due to the Veteran prior to passing.

Additional Survivor Benefits Available:



Burials and Burial Allowance

Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any of our National cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a government headstone, marker, or medallion, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost. Some survivors may also be eligible for a plot allowance, transportation allowance, and burial allowances based on the service connected disability status of the deceased Veteran.



Education and Training

Chapter 35 benefits and Fry Scholarship are the two main GI Bill programs offering educational assistance to survivors and dependents of Veterans who died in the line of duty or as a result of service-related disabilities.



Final Monthly Payment

If a Veteran who is receiving VA compensation or pension benefits passes away, their last month of benefits can be paid to their surviving spouse.



Home Loan Guaranty

Certificate of Eligibility is available for surviving spouses receiving DIC.



Health Care

Survivors and dependents of Veterans may qualify for health care benefits, such as CHAMPVA.



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Find a VA at [VA.gov/find-locations/](https://va.gov/find-locations/)

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

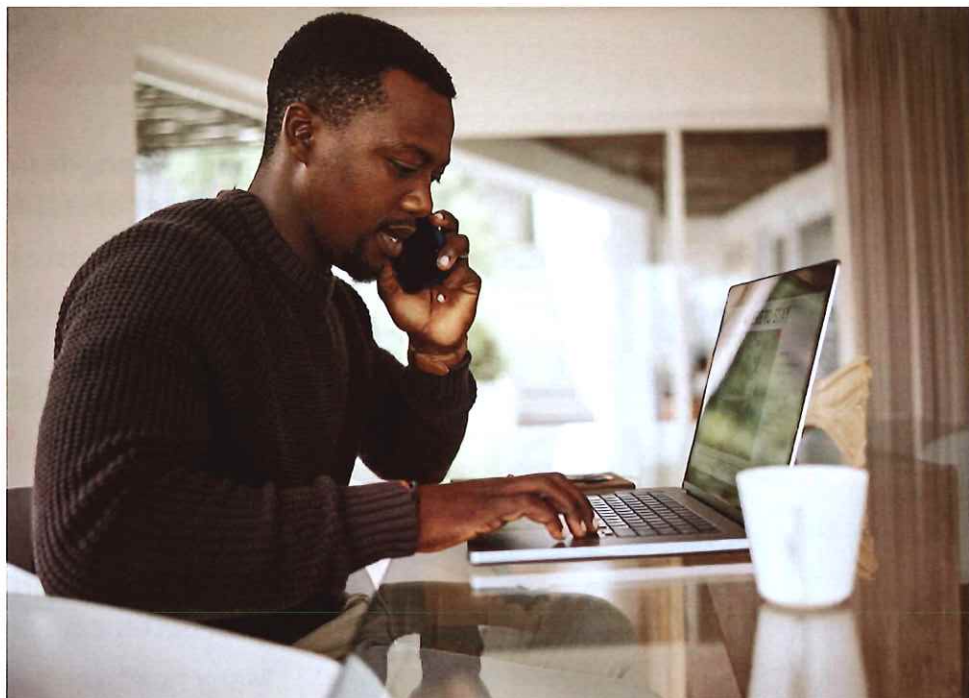
Ongoing research will help us better understand potential long-term health effects and provide you with better care and services.

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.

