

Iraq War Exposures

Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn (March 19, 2003–Dec. 15, 2011)

Iraq War Veterans may have been exposed to a range of environmental and chemical hazards that carried potential health risks. Join the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry and the Gulf War Registry to document your exposures and health concerns. For more information about these exposures or the registry, visit <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/index.asp>



Sand, Dust and Particulates

Tiny airborne matter that can cause respiratory and other health problems



Burn Pits

Open-air pit waste disposal at military sites



Infectious Diseases

Nine infectious diseases associated with Southwest Asia and Afghanistan military service



Depleted Uranium

Uranium used in military tank armor and some bullets



Toxic Embedded Fragments

Shrapnel and other metals that remain in the body after injury



Noise

Harmful sounds from guns, equipment, and machinery that is often experienced during service



Traumatic Brain Injury

Concussions and brain injury often caused by explosions



Rabies

Disease transmitted by bite or saliva from an infected warm-blooded animal



Mefloquine - Lariam®

Round, white pill taken to prevent and treat malaria



Heat Injuries

Health problems that could be caused by extremely hot temperatures



Sulfur Fire (Al Mishraq, Iraq)

Sulfur plant burned almost a month in June 2003; large amounts of sulfur dioxide released into the air



Chemical Warfare Agents (OIF)

Exposure to mustard or nerve agents from demolishing or handling explosive ordinance in Iraq



Occupational Hazards

Exposures from working with chemicals, paints, and machinery during service



Chromium (Qarmat Ali)

Hexavalent chromium in contaminated sodium dichromate dust; water treatment plant in 2003