

THE HISTORY OF RED HILL

RED HILL UNDERGROUND FUEL STORAGE FACILITY, LOCATED NEAR HALAWA IN OAHU, HAWAII, IS A STORAGE FOR OIL THAT RECENTLY CONTAMINATED THE LOCAL WATER SUPPLY. HERE IS IT'S HISTORY:

DEC 26, 1940

The beginning of Red Hill's construction. Started by the Roosevelt foundation due to the vulnerability of above ground fuel storages in WWII.

DEC 7, 1941

Pearl harbor was bombed by Japanese forces. Due to the majority of the construction being underground, work was unaffected and even hastened due to demand from the war.

SEPT 1942

Construction of 1st tank completed, being able to store about 12.5 million gallons and about 250 feet tall and 100 feet in diameter, like all other tanks to come.

SEPT 1943

All 20 tanks were finished with work, finishing about 9 months before schedule. Able to store about 250 million gallons of fuel in total.

1991

Used in Operation Desert Storm, also known as the Gulf War, as a midway transfer point of fuel between the US mainland and the Persian Gulf

1995

Was deemed a civil engineering landmark by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

2006

Department of Defense starts modernization of fuel storage, amounting to a total of \$200 million so far.

JAN 2014

The 5th tank leaked 27000 gallons of fuel, contaminating local water supplies.

JULY 2021

Hawaii Department of Health Environmental Health Administration states that the navy is not operating Red Hill safely and urges repair or shutdown.

NOV 2021

Another major leak was noticed, leading to a water-fuel mixture amounting to 14000 gallons.

Sources:

American Society of Civil Engineers. "Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage Facility." ASCE, 2022, www.asce.org/about-civil-engineering/history-and-heritage/historic-landmarks/red-hill-underground-fuel-storage-facility.

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii. "About Red Hill." Commander, Navy Installations Command, www.cnrc.navy.mil/regions/cnrh/om/red-hill-tank/about-red-hill.html. Accessed 29 Apr. 2022.

Sierra Club of Hawai'i. "Protect O'ahu's Drinking Water." Sierra Club of Hawai'i, sierraclubhawaii.org/redhill. Accessed 29 Apr. 2022.