



Q: [Is the water supply on the former George Air Force Base property potable to drink and where does it come from?](#)

A: The drinking water supply at George is potable and is supplied from the City of Victorville. They are the drinking water supplier and obtain water upstream from George. No water from under the former base is used as drinking water on-base or off-base.

Q: [How can you be sure the water is drinkable?](#)

A: The City of Victorville is the drinking water supplier for George. As required by law, they regularly test their wells and provide annual water quality reports to customers. The City operates wells upstream from the former base and does not obtain drinking water from wells at George. The water under the former base is not used for drinking water and is not located in areas where drinking water is obtained. The Air Force samples groundwater at George from a network of 120 monitoring wells every six months to track the movement and concentrations of chemicals in groundwater. Again, this is not drinking water and the testing is related to the last remaining cleanup actions underway. This process is overseen by regional, state and federal regulators. Further, it is prohibited to install drinking water wells in areas on the former base undergoing the final cleanup work for solvents and fuels.

Q: [What about the soil? Is it hazardous?](#)

A: Since the cleanup began in the 1980s, the Air Force has gathered extensive information about locations where hazardous waste was dumped, leaked or spilled. Many sites were cleaned up by excavation and off-site disposal at regulated facilities. The Air Force is using nine Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) systems at five sites to remove solvents and jet fuels. SVE operates at the former base fuel storage and distribution facility along the flight line and fire training areas to address fuel contamination, and near maintenance hangars for solvent contamination.

Six landfills were used for waste disposal at the former base. The Air Force capped these landfills to prevent rainwater percolating through them into the groundwater. Monitoring wells in the vicinity ensure contaminants from the landfills do not migrate to adjacent property or leach into groundwater under the former base. Long-term monitoring and maintenance are being conducted to ensure sites are properly maintained and soil and groundwater sampling is performed at regular intervals.

Q: [Are there any health impacts from the soil or water at George?](#)

A: Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), a federal public agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, performed a Public Health Assessment (PHA) in 1998 and in 2013. The ATSDR concluded soil and on-site and off-site ground water at George AFB does not represent a past, present or future public health hazard. Extensive cleanup operations, sampling and monitoring, and regulatory oversight have been in place for decades to ensure protection of human health and the environment.

Q: [When I drive around George, I see signs for cleanup systems and I see piping and equipment. What is coming out of these and is it dangerous to breathe?](#)

A: The soil vapor extraction (SVE) systems located throughout the former base discharges treated air extracted from subsurface soil. The treated air is monitored and tested monthly to ensure that it complies with regulatory and Air Quality Management District air emission permit requirements. The low concentrations emitted in the treated air do not pose a significant health threat and are also released from exhaust stacks that carry the treated air away from ground level. The cleanup efforts at the former George AFB do not make the air at George dangerous or unhealthy in any way. These SVE systems are working to reduce and eliminate residual soil and groundwater contaminants to ensure the air remains healthy for future generations.



Q: [The cleanup at George seems to be going on for a very long time. Why?](#)

A: Even using the best available cleanup technologies, the removal of contaminants in the soil and groundwater is a time-consuming process. The cleanup process is carefully managed to methodically achieve cleanup while avoiding unneeded expense to taxpayers. Numerous regulatory agencies closely oversee this cleanup process to ensure protection of human health and the environment. This process can take months to years to obtain regulator approvals to implement Air Force remedial actions. Additionally, there's an EPA requirement for review every five years to make sure the remedies remain protective.

Q: [Is my workplace affected by the ongoing cleanup operation?](#)

A: There is no exposure or increased health risk from cleanup operations at any workplace on the former George AFB. Some businesses are located close to cleanup equipment such as monitoring wells, SVE wells or piping, and must take care not to damage or disturb these to avoid reducing the effectiveness of the remedial systems.

Q: [Where can I get more information about the cleanup?](#)

A: You can look on our website: <https://www.afcec.af.mil/Home/BRAC/George> or you may contact the AFCEC Western Region Office at (916) 643-1250 x257 for more information or to be added to our mailing list.