

# VETERANS VOICE

## BURN PIT REGISTRY

Proper disposal of waste during deployment is essential to prevent health problems and protect service members. In certain situations when sanitary and waste management facilities are unavailable, this waste may be burned in an open pit. Pits used for this purpose are referred to as "burn pits."

Since any particular trash burn is made up of several materials, it can result in different mixtures of chemicals released in the smoke. Because of this, it is difficult to quantify the levels of exposure to harmful chemicals that an individual service member may have had. A person's exposure is also dependent on how close they were to the burn pit, in which direction the smoke was blowing, and the length and frequency of their exposure. There is little actual testing data that measured levels of possible toxins in individual service members' breathing environments when burn pits were in use.

Short-term health effects can include nausea, headaches, and irritation of the eyes, respiratory tract, nose and throat. For the majority of healthy service members, these symptoms tend to go away or resolve soon after the exposure ends. Long-term health effects can include skin conditions, and problems with the respiratory system, eyes, liver, kidneys, central nervous system, cardiovascular system, reproductive system, peripheral nervous system and gastrointestinal tract.

Currently, the VA has not approved any presumptive conditions relating to burn pits due to limited scientific studies; however, you can still file a service-connected disability claim if you feel you have a condition or conditions caused by exposure to burn pits. Your claim will almost definitely be denied, but at least you have it on record if the condition(s) claimed is approved as a presumptive condition in the future.

Whether or not you have any health problems at this point, it's strongly recommended all Iraq and Afghanistan veterans register using the VA's burn pit registry. To do this, go to [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov). At the top under the "Health" link, go to "Public Health." From there, go to the bottom of the page and click on the block that reads "Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry."

## VA AND EMERGENCY CARE - AM I COVERED?

At some point in your life, you may need emergency care. This article may help you understand some of the things the VA may be able to do for you.

When you require emergency assistance, and it is not possible to get to a VA Medical Center, you should go to your nearest hospital. The VA basically considers a medical emergency as an injury or illness that is so severe, that without immediate treatment may threaten your life or health. If you believe your life is in danger, then your situation may be an emergency, in which case you should call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room. You do not need to call the VA first.

Eventually the VA must be informed. You, a friend or a family member should call the Fee Basis (or Non-VA Care) department at the nearest VA Medical Center within 72 hours of the emergency. Provide the VA with information regarding your emergency and the services you are receiving.

Some emergency services may or may not be covered. This is especially true if the doctor wants to admit you to the hospital. If it is an emergency, you do not need advance approval from the VA, but still must inform them promptly. If the admission is not an emergency, then you need advance approval. Once you stabilize and can be safely transported, you must move to a VA medical center if a bed is available if you want the VA to continue paying for your care.

If you are admitted to the hospital, the VA may pay some or all of your charges depending on your eligibility. The guidelines are too numerous to list here, but for service connected conditions, the bare-bones rules are: care must be provided as a medical emergency, the VA or other government medical facilities were not feasibly available, and the VA was notified within 72 hours of admission. For non-service connected conditions, the veteran must be enrolled in the VA Health Care system, received services from the VA within the previous 24 months, and have no other health insurance coverage.

The VA will pay for emergency care outside the United States but only for service connected conditions. This is called the Foreign Medical Program. Your VA health care provider or your local County Veterans Service Officer can help you contact them.

Remember, the above article is only meant to provide introductory information. As always, contact your County Veterans Service Office for more complete guidelines at [www.wicvso.org/your\\_cvso.htm](http://www.wicvso.org/your_cvso.htm)

## VA SIMPLIFIES ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND BENEFITS FOR VETERANS WITH PTSD

The Veterans Administration has simplified the process for a Veteran to claim service connection for PTSD. VA has reduced the evidence needed if the trauma claimed by a Veteran is related to fear of hostile military or terrorist activity and is consistent with the places, types, and circumstances of the Veteran's service.

This science-based regulation relies on evidence that concluded that a Veteran's deployment to a war zone is linked to an increased risk of PTSD. Under the new rules, VA would not require corroboration of a stressor related to fear of hostile military or terrorist activity if a VA doctor confirms that the stressful experience recalled by a Veteran adequately supports a diagnosis of PTSD and the Veteran's symptoms are related to the claimed stressor.

Previously, claims adjudicators were required to corroborate that a non-combat Veteran actually experienced a stressor related to hostile military activity. This final rule simplifies the development that is required for these cases. VA expects this rulemaking to decrease the time it takes VA to decide access to care and claims falling under the revised criteria. More than 400,000 Veterans currently receiving compensation benefits are service connected for PTSD. Combined with VA's shorter claims form, VA's new streamlined, science-based regulation allows for faster and more accurate decisions that also expedite access to medical care and other benefits for Veterans.

PTSD is a medically recognized anxiety disorder that can develop from seeing or experiencing an event that involves actual or threatened death or serious injury to which a person responds with intense fear, helplessness or horror, and is not uncommon among war Veterans. Disability compensation is a tax-free benefit paid to a Veteran for disabilities that are a result of -- or made worse by -- injuries or diseases associated with active service.

To get benefits under the new policy, a veteran with post-traumatic stress disorder must do four things to get benefits:

1. Be diagnosed by the Veterans Affairs Department. The PTSD diagnosis must come from a psychiatrist or psychologist either on VA's staff or under contract with VA. Diagnosis by a private doctor or by a military doctor is not enough.
2. Indicate on their disability benefits claim that their PTSD is related to a fear of hostile military or terrorist activity because they experienced, witnessed or were confronted with an event, injury or threat from an actual or potential incident that involved being under attack.
3. Indicate that their response to the real or threatened event was a state of "fear, helplessness or horror."
4. Ensure the claimed event or threat is consistent with places and circumstances of military service.

## AMVETS POST 42

### 29TH ANNUAL FUND RAISING DANCE

The annual AMVETS Post 42 fundraiser will take place at the Rendezvous Restaurant, E896 County Rd N, Luxemburg, WI 54217, on Sunday, October 26, 2014. Mark Jirkovec will provide music and dancing from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Advance tickets are \$5.00 each and \$7.00 at the door. With the purchase of a ticket, you are then eligible for a cash raffle prize; 1st place - \$300, 2nd place - \$250, 3rd place - \$200, 4th place - \$150, and 5th place \$100. You do not need to be present to win. There is also a \$1.00 coupon on the back of each ticket that can be used at Subway Restaurants in Algoma, Kewaunee, and Luxemburg. Come out for a great afternoon of fun and dancing. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Marvin Dequaine, AMVETS Post 42 Commander, at 920-487-2248

## AMVETS OF WISCONSIN ANNUAL CAMPOUT

AMVETS of WI will be holding their annual campout from September 19 - 21, 2014 at Quietwoods Campground in Brussels, WI. The event will feature a Fish Boil on Friday,

September 19, 2014. Saturday, September 20, 2013 will be filled with many activities for children and adults that include a horse shoe and Cribbage tournament and children's pumpkin painting and golf. Sunday, September 21, 2013 will feature a flag retirement ceremony and the event will wrap up with the 3rd District meeting. There is free beer and soda all weekend. There is a charge for the meals that will be served and for the tournaments. Come out and have fun. For more information, contact Marvin Dequaine, AMVETS Post 42 Commander, at 920-487-2248.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sep 20 Kewaunee American Legion Post 29 Golf Outing Alaska Lake Golf Course, Alaska, WI 388-2662
- Sep 21 Annual AMVETS Weekend at Quietwoods South in Brussels. The AMVETS will be enjoying their annual camping weekend. There will be a fish boil, which is open to the public and fun activities for adults and children. 825-7065
- Sep 25 Kewaunee VFW - Brat Fry at the IGA in Luxemburg 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 388-0217
- Sep 26 American Legion Post 29 and VFW Post 3392 present colors at Kewaunee High School 7:00 p.m. 388-0217
- Sep 27 VFW District 8 Meeting. Lunch at 11:30 a.m., meeting starts at 1:00 p.m.; Liberty Grove Town Hall in Ellison Bay, WI. 388-0217
- Oct 2 Kewaunee VFW Post 3392 (1st Thur) 7:30 p.m. 388-0217
- Oct 7 Kewaunee American Legion Post 29 (1st Tue) 7:30 p.m. 388-2662 American Legion Auxiliary Robinson American Legion Post 538 (2nd Wed) 8:00 p.m. 776-1136
- Oct 13 Casco American Legion Post 319 (2nd Mon) 6:30 p.m. 255-3344
- Oct 15 Kewaunee VFW Brat Fry at the Piggly Wiggly Kewaunee. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 388-0217
- Oct 16 Algoma American Legion Post 236 (3rd Thur) 7:00 p.m. 487-9929
- Oct 17 American Legion Post 29, Kewaunee VFW Post 3392 and Robinson American Legion Post 538 present colors at Kewaunee High School football game (Homecoming) 7:00 p.m. 388-0217
- Oct 20 Luxemburg American Legion Post 262 and American Legion Auxiliary (3rd Mon) 7:00 p.m. 365-6155
- Oct 21 Kewaunee County AMVETS Post 42 (3rd Tue) 6:30 p.m. 487-2248
- Oct 26 AMVETS Post 42 29th Annual Fund Raising Dance 1:00 p.m. 487-2248

**FOR SALE**  
554 S. STATE ST. MISHICOT

**TWO BEDROOM, 1 BATH RANCH HOME** located on large lot in Mishicot, across from Fox Hills Resort.

**PRICED TO SELL AT \$84,900.**

**Novak Agency, Inc.** Charlie Novak, Realtor 920-388-2890

**BALL AUTO & TRUCK PARTS** NAPA

WE DELIVER AROUND THE COUNTY 5 TIMES DAILY

- COMPLETE MACHINE SHOP
- HYDRAULIC HOSE MFG.
- AGRICULTURE
- HEAVY DUTY TRUCK
- MARINE
- PAINT MIXING

**Proud to Support The Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund**

510 4TH STREET, ALGOMA | 920-487-7278 (PART)  
OPEN M-TH 7-5:30 | FRI 7-6 | SAT. 7-2 | SUN 9-NOON

**Forage Storage Solutions LLC**

MX1012 NEW MID SIZE SELF PROPELLED BAGGER

G6170 AG-BAGGER

**N4745 COUNTY ROAD AB, LUXEMBURG**

Your Local Dealer for **AG-BAG** The first name in silage quality

**Bags and Covers Sales, Parts and Service**

Mike Larscheid 920-371-3973  
Bruce Sterr 920-960-1144

Paradise Estates LLC would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Veterans and their spouses and to offer assistance in receiving your full benefits you deserve for any assisted living needs you or your spouse have earned.

Thank you,  
**Mike & Kathy Paral**

★ APARTMENTS NOW AVAILABLE! ★

**Paradise Estates LLC**

625 4th Street, Kewaunee, WI 54216 • 920 388-0201  
The Only Residential Care Apartment Complex in Kewaunee County

**Wed Baked Chicken Special** Oct 1, 15

**Sat & Sun Family Style Chicken** \$8.25

**FRIDAY FISH SPECIALS**  
Wed - Friday Happy Hour 3-6:30  
**TROUT BOIL Sept 26**

**THURSDAY**  
\$1.25 Burger  
\$1.50 Cheeseburger

**PIZZA OF THE MONTH**  
Sept - BLT Oct - Packer Pizza

**SEPT 23-28**  
**SPECIAL Chicken Teriyaki Kabobs**

Open Tuesday - Saturday 3 pm - Close  
Sunday 11 am - Close Closed Monday

**THE RENDEZVOUS**  
E896 COUNTY RD. N, LUXEMBURG  
For more info, Call: 920-845-2066

**UPDATE YOUR HOME WITH NEW FLOORING**

A Wide Variety of Carpet, Laminates and Vinyl Choices are Available from:

Shaw  
Congoleum  
Mohawk  
Mannington

**ALL INSTALLED BY OUR OWN FLOORING MECHANICS!**

Your Quality, Low Price  
Brand Name Leader  
Serving The N.E. Wisconsin Area & up

**Lift Chairs \$899 & up**

FREE DELIVERY IN BROWNS, DOOR, MANTOWOC, KEWAUNEE, COUNTY & BEYOND CALL FOR DETAILS

**McMahon's Of Luxemburg**

**Kewaunee County Veterans Organizations, their Auxiliaries, and the Sons of American Legion Want You!**

|   |  |                                  |   |
|---|--|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>AMERICAN LEGION</b><br>Kewaunee Post 29<br>Algoma Post 236<br>Luxemburg Post 262 | <b>Casco Post 319</b><br><b>Carlton Post 538</b> | <b>VFW</b><br>Kewaunee Post 3392 | <b>AMVETS</b><br>Kewaunee County Post 42<br><b>SQUADRON POST 538</b><br>Sons of the American Legion |
|---|--|----------------------------------|---|

To apply or obtain more information, contact **Joe Aulik** at the County Veterans Service Office at 388-7198 or e-mail at [aulikj@kewauneeeco.org](mailto:aulikj@kewauneeeco.org) to sign up for the veteran benefit e-mail list to keep up-to-date on benefits. Follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/KewauneeCVSO](http://www.facebook.com/KewauneeCVSO).

PROOF O.K. BY: \_\_\_\_\_  O.K. WITH CORRECTIONS BY: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY • SUBMIT CORRECTIONS ONLINE

ADVERTISER: KEW HOUSE ACCOUNT      PROOF CREATED AT: 9/15/2014 4:46 PM  
SALES PERSON: Harkema      PROOF DUE: -      NEXT RUN DATE: 09/20/14  
PUBLICATION: WI-BAY KEWAUNEE STAR NEWS      SIZE: 6 col X 20.25 in

WI-5001824899.INDD