

# BREAST CANCER RISK ASSESSMENT FOR VETERANS WITH TOXIC EXPOSURE

**The Dr. Kate Hendricks Thomas Supporting Expanded Review for Veterans in Combat Environment (SERVICE) Act allows Veterans who served in the following locations and periods where they may have had toxic exposure such as burn pits, to receive services to check their risk of breast cancer and get a screening mammogram if needed.**

- **Iraq**
  - August 2, 1990 – February 28, 1991
  - March 19, 2003 – until burn pits are no longer used
- **Southwest Asia theater of operations including Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Qatar**
  - August 2, 1990 – until burn pits are no longer used
- **Afghanistan, Djibouti, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, and Yemen**
  - September 11, 2001 – until burn pits are no longer used
  - Other locations and periods as determined by the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry

***Have you served in any of these areas?***

## **Do you have any:**

- Personal history of Breast Cancer
- Personal history or a 1st degree relative (parents, siblings, children) with a condition that increases the risk of developing breast cancer due to inherited gene mutations
- Personal history of or a 1st degree relative with BRCA 1 and/or BRCA 2 mutations
- Personal history of chest wall radiation between the ages of 10 and 30
- Personal or family history of breast cancer at age 50 or less
- Personal or family history of ovarian/fallopian tube/peritoneal cancer at any age
- Other family history:
  - 2 or more cases of breast cancer after age 50 on the same side of the family
  - Male breast cancer
  - Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry

If you answered yes to any of the above, and are already enrolled in VA, check with your primary care provider to assess your individual risk and determine if a mammogram is needed.

If you're not already enrolled or using VA health care, go to this link for further information about enrollment: <https://www.va.gov/health-care/how-to-apply/>

While no direct link has been found between toxic exposure and breast cancer, VA is concerned about individual reports and is continuing studies to find out if toxic exposure may be a cause of breast cancer.



WOMEN VETERANS CALL CENTER  
**855.VA.WOMEN**

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