**Diseases Associated with Agent Orange Exposure & ALS**

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| **Veterans** may be eligible for [**disability compensation**](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/benefits.asp) and [health care benefits](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/treatment.asp) for diseases that VA has recognized as associated with [exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/militaryexposure.asp).  **Surviving Spouses**, children and dependent parents of Veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange and died as the result of diseases associated with Agent Orange & ALS may be eligible for [**survivors' benefits**](http://www.vba.va.gov/survivors/)**.**   * [**Acute and Sub-acute Peripheral Neuropathy**](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/peripheral_neuropathy.asp): A nervous system condition that causes numbness, tingling, and motor weakness. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10% disabling within 1 year of exposure to herbicides and resolve within 2 years after the date it began. * [**AL Amyloidosis**](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/al_amyloidosis.asp)**:** A rare disease caused when an abnormal protein, amyloid, enters tissues or organs. * [**Chloracne (or Similar Acne form Disease consistent with Chloracne)**](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/chloracne.asp) A skin condition that occurs soon after exposure to chemicals and looks like common forms of acne seen in teenagers. Under VA's rating regulations, chloracne (or other acne form disease similar to chloracne) must be at least 10% disabling within 1 year of exposure to herbicides. * [**Chronic B-cell Leukemias**](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/bcell-leukemia.asp) A type of cancer which affects white blood cells. VA's regulation recognizing all chronic B-cell Leukemias as related to exposure to herbicides took effect on October 30, 2010. * [**Diabetes Mellitus (Type 2)**](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/diabetes.asp): A disease characterized by high blood sugar levels resulting from the body’s inability to respond properly to the hormone insulin. * [**Hodgkin’s Disease**](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/hodgkins.asp): A malignant lymphoma (cancer) characterized by progressive enlargement of the lymph nodes, liver, and spleen, and by progressive anemia. * [**Ischemic Heart Disease**](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/ischemicheartdisease.asp): A disease characterized by a reduced supply of blood to the heart, that leads to chest pain. VA's regulation recognizing ischemic heart disease as related to exposure to herbicides took effect on October 30, 2010. * [**Multiple Myeloma**](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/multiple_myeloma.asp): A cancer of plasma cells, a type of white blood cell in bone marrow. * [**Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma**](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/nonhodgkinslymphoma.asp) (also Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia & Small Cell Lymphocytic Lymphoma as of May 2011). A group of cancers that affect the lymph glands and other lymphatic tissue. * [**Parkinson’s Disease**](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/parkinsonsdisease.asp): A progressive disorder of the nervous system that affects muscle movement. VA's regulation recognizing Parkinson's disease as related to exposure to herbicides took effect on October 30, 2010. * [**Porphyria Cutanea Tarda**](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/porphyria-cutanea-tarda.asp): A disorder characterized by liver dysfunction and by thinning and blistering of the skin in sun-exposed areas. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10% disabling within 1 year of exposure to herbicides. * [**Prostate Cancer**](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/prostate_cancer.asp): Cancer of the prostate; one of the most common cancers among men. * [**Respiratory Cancers**](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/respiratory_cancers.asp): Cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus. * [**Soft Tissue Sarcoma (other than Osteosarcoma, Chondrosarcoma, Kaposi’s sarcoma, or Mesothelioma)**](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/soft-tissue-sarcoma.asp): A group of different types of cancers in body tissues such as muscle, fat, blood and lymph vessels, and connective tissues.   **Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) – All Time Periods of Service**  Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) is **not** associated with Agent Orange exposure. However, VA has recognized ALS diagnosed in all Veterans with **90 days or more of continuously active service in the military** was caused by their military service. As of 2012 the VA will assign “a total disability rating of 100%. |
| **Agent Orange: Exposure during Military Service**  The U.S. military herbicide program in South Vietnam took place between 1961 and 1971. Herbicides were sprayed in all 4 military zones of Vietnam. More than 19 million gallons of various herbicide combinations were used. Agent Orange was the combination of herbicides the U.S. military used most often. **Heavily Sprayed Areas:** Inland forests near the demarcation zone; Inland forests at the junction of the borders of Cambodia, Laos, and South Vietnam; Inland forests north and northwest of Saigon; Mangrove forests on the southernmost peninsula of Vietnam; Mangrove forests along major shipping channels southeast of Saigon  **Exposure to Agent Orange in and Outside Vietnam: as of 18 June 2015**   * [**Exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam**](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/vietnam.asp): Exposure on land in Vietnam or on a ship operating on the inland waterways of Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975 * [**Blue Water Veterans**](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/bluewaterveterans.asp): Possible exposure on open sea ships off the shore of Vietnam during the Vietnam War * [**Korean Demilitarized Zone**](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/korea.asp); Exposure along the demilitarized zone in Korea between April 1, 1968 and August 31, 1971 * [**Thailand Military Bases**](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/thailand.asp): Possible exposure on or near the perimeters of military bases between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975 * [**Herbicide Tests and Storage Outside Vietnam**](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/tests-storage.asp): Possible exposure due to herbicide tests and storage at military bases in the United States and locations in other countries * The VA has a **list of ships whose crews were potentially exposed to herbicides** in Vietnam. The list continually changes and can be viewed at: [**http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/shiplist/index.asp**](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/shiplist/index.asp) * **C-123 Aircraft: Air Force Veterans (active & reserve) who had repeated contact (through flight, ground or medical duties) with contaminated C-123 aircraft used in Vietnam as part of Operation Ranch Hand (ORH) during the period of 1969 to 1986. See additional handout for requirement of duty stations and Air Force Specialty codes to qualify.** |

**Blue Water Veterans**

Blue Water Veterans must have actually stepped foot on the land of Vietnam or served on its inland waterways anytime between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975 to be presumed to have been exposed to herbicides when claiming service-connection for [diseases associated with Agent Orange exposure](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/diseases.asp).

Some offshore vessels docked to the shore of Vietnam, operated in Vietnam's close coastal waters and sent smaller vessels ashore, or conducted operations on the inland waterways of Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975. Evidence **confirmed through military records** must show that the Veteran was aboard one of these ships.

Blue Water Veterans who did **not** set foot in Vietnam or serve aboard ships that operated on the inland waterways of Vietnam anytime between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975 **must show on a factual basis** that they were exposed to herbicides during military service in order to receive disability compensation for diseases associated with Agent Orange exposure.