

PACT Act Toxic Exposure Benefits

Fact Sheet



This August marks the one-year anniversary of President Biden signing the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act, also known as the **PACT Act** (P.L. 117-168), into law, which expanded Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care and benefits for veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances.

While over half a million individuals have filed claims since the passage of the PACT Act, **there are millions more who have yet to file, with two fast-approaching deadlines.**

There are an estimated
3.5M veterans

who may have been exposed to toxic substances during service.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES:

Veterans who are not experiencing symptoms should still enroll now in VA's health care system—if they are not already enrolled—so they can receive care down the road.

AUGUST 9, 2023 ★ ★ ★

Veterans and survivors who file a VA claim before August 9, 2023, could be eligible for retroactive compensation backdating to August 10, 2022, the date the bill was signed into law.

OCTOBER 1, 2023 ★ ★ ★

Post-9/11 combat veterans who were discharged over 10 years ago and are not enrolled in VA health care must enroll by October 1, 2023, to take advantage of the open enrollment period. By taking advantage of the open enrollment period, veterans can avoid a phased-in enrollment period that could mean waiting longer until they are eligible.

With these fast-approaching deadlines, Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP) is urging all veterans to seek assistance from an accredited Veteran Service Organization, such as **WWP**, to enroll in VA health care or file for VA benefits established by the PACT Act as soon as possible.

Under the PACT Act, veterans previously denied a toxic-exposure related claim can file a new claim that VA will review under the new law. Veterans who are experiencing any symptoms or illnesses that may be linked to toxic exposure should file claims, regardless of whether their illness is recognized as a presumptive condition under the PACT Act. Active-duty military personnel may also file a claim if they are within 180 days of discharge.



For more information or to apply,
visit [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT) or call 1-800-MY VA 411

