

FAQs:

1. What is a discrete sub-surface soil sample?

ANSWER - One sample collected from 6 inches or more below ground surface

2. What is a composite surface soil sample?

ANSWER - Samples from three to five locations mixed together and collected less than 6 inches below ground surface

3. Can Navy or Air Force units get equipment and technical support from DESP?

ANSWER - Yes, DESP supports all deployed preventive medicine personnel

4. How do I submit grid coordinates?

ANSWER

- Unclassified grids can be sent on Field Data Sheets or via email to your DESP point of contact

- Classified grids can be emailed via SIPRnet to your DESP POC

5. How do I submit my surveillance/inspection reports?

ANSWER - Email them to oehs@amedd.army.mil

6. Will DESP support humanitarian sampling projects?

ANSWER - DESP can provide technical assistance and sample kits only; we are not funded for laboratory analysis of humanitarian samples

7. Where can I get copies of the Field Data Sheets?

ANSWER - <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/desp/EquipmentandMedia.aspx>

8. How do I test the soil for VOCs?

ANSWER - Request a soil VOC test kit from DESP. VOCs are not part of the regular soil analysis

9. Can I use my TO17 tubes to test for formaldehyde?

ANSWER - No. You need to request media from DESP specifically for formaldehyde

10. How do I submit my coliform test results?

ANSWER - You can write them on the Field Data Sheet, or if you ship the sample the same day you collect it, email the results to your DESP POC

11. Do I need to submit my field test results?

ANSWER - Yes. Please send them with your sampling kits or by email

12. Can DESP send me some reagents for my Water Quality Analysis Set (WQAS)-PM kit?

ANSWER - No, we cannot provide those supplies. We provide equipment and kits to supplement your organic equipment set

13. Can I use the small treated water kit for sampling a well at my remote sites?

ANSWER - The raw water kit is preferred for untreated water samples, but if you are limited on space and can only carry the small treated water kit to your sampling location, then use the small kit

14. Can I use commercial soaps to clean my soil sampling equipment?

ANSWER - Under normal conditions this is not recommended. The oils and fragrance in the soap will coat the cleaned surface of the container and possibly leach or permeate into the samples. If you are not able to collect an essential sample because the equipment is too dirty and you have the correct detergent, then yes. Wash and rinse with clean wipe several times to remove as much soap as possible. Note this on the Field Data Sheet

15. What is a Operational Risk Management (ORM) report?

ANSWER - An ORM is a report that is written for air, water, and soil samples informing the unit of any potential exposure to environmental hazards that could have an impact on the mission and unit readiness. Information for these reports is gathered from the field data sheets