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Agent Orange is a highly toxic herbicide used by the U.S. military during the Vietnam War to defoliate hiding places used by the Viet Cong, rice paddies and fertile fields that provided them with food, and to clear the perimeters of military bases to give service members a clear line of fire. Although colorless, it is known as “Agent Orange” because of an orange band painted on the drums used to store and transport it. After years of advocating led by VVA, Congress enacted into law the Agent Orange Act of 1991. This legislation empowered the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to declare certain maladies “presumptive” to exposure to dioxin and enable Vietnam veterans, and some veterans who served along the demilitarized zone in Korea in the late 1960s – to receive treatment and compensation for these health conditions. Service-connected benefits, however, also may be granted for other maladies not recognized as presumptive health conditions.

**John Rowan**  
*National President*  
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# AGENT ORANGE RELATED HEALTH ISSUES



## What makes Agent Orange hazardous?

Over the past few decades, a substantial body of scientific and medical research has shown that Agent Orange and other herbicides containing dioxin have a high probability of causing or contributing to a variety of health conditions suffered by veterans who served in Vietnam between January 1962 and May 1975.

## Am I eligible for treatment? For compensation?

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has made several maladies “presumptive” to exposure to Agent Orange, and offers treatment and compensation. Blue-water Navy veterans who served on ships off the coast of Vietnam also are eligible for compensation and treatment, subject to the outcome of current litigation.

## What if I have an ailment that is not on the list of presumptives?

It is possible to prevail on this type of claim as directly connected to your exposure to dioxin. Success in such claims, however, is not easy to win and is dependent on the medical evidence presented on your behalf.

## Where can I obtain more information about Agent Orange?

For information, or to file a claim, it is advisable to enlist the expertise of a veterans service officer. To locate a VVA service officer, you can visit VVA's web site, [www.vva.org](http://www.vva.org), and select the “Veterans Benefits” tab on the left side of the screen. From this page, service officers can be located by state or by their last name. The VA's web site, [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov), is one major source of information.

## Types of cancer with no time requirements for manifestation

Cancer of the bronchus	Prostate cancer	Multiple myeloma
Cancer of the larynx	Cancer of the trachea	Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
Lung cancer	Hodgkin's disease	Chronic lymphocytic leukemia

## Soft-tissue sarcoma

(other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma)

### The term “soft-tissue sarcoma” includes the following:

Adult fibrosarcoma	Synovial sarcoma (malignant synovioma)
Dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans	Malignant giant cell tumor of tendon sheath
Malignant fibrous histiocytoma	Malignant schwannoma, including malignant schwannoma with rhabdomyoblastic differentiation (malignant Triton tumor), glandular and epithelioid malignant schwannomas
Liposarcoma	Malignant mesenchymoma
Leiomyosarcoma	Malignant granular cell tumor
Epithelioid leiomyosarcoma (malignant leiomyoblastoma)	Alveolar soft part sarcoma
Rhabdomyosarcoma	Epithelioid sarcoma
Ectomesenchymoma	Clear cell sarcoma of tendons and aponeuroses
Angiosarcoma (hemangiosarcoma and lymphangiosarcoma)	Extraskeletal Ewing's sarcoma
Proliferating (systemic) angioendotheliomatosis	Congenital and infantile fibrosarcoma
Malignant glomus tumor	Malignant ganglioneuroma
Malignant hemangiopericytoma	

## Diseases other than cancer with various time requirements

Type 2 Diabetes (also known as Diabetes Mellitus)	Chloracne
Peripheral neuropathy (acute or subacute)	Porphyria Cutanea Tarda

## Disabilities in children of Vietnam Veterans

Spina Bifida  
Certain other birth defects

*More research must be done to determine if certain maladies in children and grandchildren of those exposed to dioxin are associated with a veteran's service.*