

Safety Information

Explosive Hazards on Guam

This information is provided to raise awareness of the potential explosive hazards associated with munitions present on Guam. Munitions are present on the land and in the waters of Guam from battles fought during World War II (WWII), and munitions-related activities (e.g., live-fire training, storage and disposal) that the U.S. Military conducted on Guam after WWII and continues to conduct today. Military munitions, which come in many shapes, may be encountered on land or in water. If you encounter or suspect you have encountered a munition, consider it extremely dangerous. The U.S. Military recommends that everyone learn and follow the **3Rs of Explosive Safety**:

Recognize

when you may have encountered a munition and that munitions are dangerous.

Retreat

do not approach, touch, move or disturb it, but carefully leave the area.

Report

call 911 and advise the police of what you saw and where you saw it.

Source: National Archives and Records Administration



Naval Supply Depot on the Orote Peninsula, Guam, 1945



Learn more about munitions and explosives safety at 3Rs.mil

Remember that military munitions:

- Come in many shapes and sizes
- Can look like a —
 - Pointed pipe
 - Soda can
 - Baseball
 - Muffler
- They may —
 - Be visible on the surface or be buried
 - Be exposed by erosion or fires
 - Look new or old
 - Be complete or in parts
 - Be found alone or in groups
 - Should be considered dangerous regardless of size or age

Learn more about munitions and explosives safety at 3Rs.mil





Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Safety



Military munitions that were used, but fail to function as intended, are called UXO or unexploded ordnance. Military munitions abandoned without proper disposal or removed from storage in a military magazine or other storage area for the purpose of disposal are called discarded military munitions or DMM. The United States has always maintained a trained and ready military to protect its national interests. As a result of the munitions-related activities (e.g., live-fire training and testing, disposal operations) required to maintain this force and other actions (e.g., souvenir collecting), UXO or DMM can be found almost anywhere. Although the Military controls access to areas known or suspected to contain UXO on active installations, a number of areas that are known or suspected to contain military munitions once used by the military have been transferred to public uses.



Munitions can be hard to see, especially when they have had years to rust and settle into place. Beware as munitions can be hidden by deep grass, foliage or thick brush.

When anyone encounters or believes they may have encountered a munition, it should be considered extremely dangerous. To protect their family, friends and neighbors, everyone should learn and follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety: **Recognize** — when you may have encountered a munition and that munitions are dangerous; **Retreat** — do not approach, touch, move or disturb it, but carefully leave the area; and **Report** — call **911** and advise the police of what you saw and where you saw it.

Although military munitions will most likely be found in areas that the Military currently uses or has used in the past, they could be encountered anywhere (e.g., on land, in water, and in homes as souvenirs). Following the 3Rs of Explosive Safety when you have or think you may have encountered a munition can prevent a tragedy.

UXO are often referred to as duds, bombs, dummy rounds or by other terms. Regardless of what you call them, they should be considered dangerous. Never approach, touch, move or disturb munitions.

Remember UXO:

- Come in many shapes and sizes
- Can look like a —
 - Pointed pipe
 - Soda can
 - Baseball
 - Muffler
- They may —
 - Be visible on the surface or be buried
 - Be exposed by erosion or fires
 - Look new or old
 - Be complete or in parts
 - Be found alone or in groups
 - Should be considered dangerous regardless of size or age



Even small munitions can be dangerous and should be treated with caution. If you believe you have encountered a munition, retreat — do not touch or disturb it, and call 911.

Munitions, including their components (e.g., projectiles, fuzes, rocket motors), may contain high explosives, propellant or pyrotechnics. Munitions should never be collected as souvenirs or “trophies.” No matter how old or damaged a munition may look, it can still be as or more dangerous than the day it was made.

The 3Rs of Explosives Safety

Recognize – Recognizing when you may have encountered a munition is key to reducing the risk of injury or death. If you encounter or suspect you may have encountered a munition, consider it extremely dangerous. Remember, munitions are sometimes hard to identify.

Retreat – If you encounter or suspect you may have encountered a munition, do not approach, touch, move or disturb it, but immediately and carefully – do not run – leave the area following the same path on which you entered. If you can, mark the general area, not the munition, in some manner (e.g., with a hat, piece of cloth or tying a piece of plastic to a tree branch).

Report – When you think you may have encountered a munition, notify your local law enforcement – call **911**.

Don't Forget

Munitions are dangerous and may not be easily recognizable. Never touch, move or disturb munitions or suspected munitions.

Recognize

when you may have encountered a munition and that munitions are dangerous.

Retreat

do not approach, touch, move or disturb it, but carefully leave the area.

Report

call 911 and advise the police of what you saw and where you saw it.



Munitions can be clean or rusty and may be hard to recognize. Even old munitions can be very dangerous.



Munitions may be found both on land and in water.



**For more information,
visit the UXO Safety Education Website at 3Rs.mil**