



# UXO

## UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE



***“IF YOU DID  
NOT DROP IT,  
DO NOT PICK  
IT UP!”***

### For more information

U.S. Army Environmental Command  
Public Affairs Office  
410-436-2556, fax 410-436-1693  
e-mail: APGR-USAECPublicAffairsOffice@  
conus.army.mil  
<http://aec.army.mil>

**W**hen a military munition does not function as intended during use, they frequently become unexploded ordnance or UXO. Many people refer to UXO as “duds.” Most military munitions contain some form of propellants, explosives, or pyrotechnic mixes to make them function properly (explode, propel, or produce intense smoke or light). UXO is extremely dangerous and should never be touched or moved because duds may explode unexpectedly and cause serious injury or death.

Millions of acres of property in the United States contain UXO, most of which is a result of weapons system testing and troop training activities conducted by the Department of Defense. This property includes active military, formerly used defense sites, and base realignment and closure sites. The risks posed by property containing UXO can be considerable, depending on the types and amount of UXO present and how the property is used.

### WHAT DOES UXO LOOK LIKE?

Military munitions are produced in many different sizes, shapes, and colors. Their size and shape depend on how the military intends to use them. Rifle and pistol training munitions are small; artillery and tank rounds, which are used to train soldiers in the use of crew-served weapons, are large; and rockets fired from helicopters, aircraft, or ground vehicles vary in size, as do bombs dropped from aircraft.

In the past century, all shapes, sizes, and types of explosive ordnance have been used in the U.S. for weapons system testing and troop training activities.

Examples include:

- Small arms munitions
- Hand grenades
- Rockets
- Guided missiles

- Projectiles
- Mortars
- Projected grenades
- Rifle grenades
- Submunitions
- Bombs

UXO from any ordnance poses a risk of injury or death to persons in the vicinity. To lessen the danger of UXO hazards and to help prevent placing others at future risk, certain precautions and steps should be taken by anyone who encounters UXO.

## **FOLLOW THE THREE R'S OF UXO SAFETY:**

### **1 RECOGNIZE**

Recognize it! Leave it alone. Don't touch it. Don't throw anything at it. Do not use a device that could transmit a triggering radio frequency, such as a cell phone.

### **2 RETREAT**

If you have found something that could be UXO, leave it alone and leave the area. Do not use a device that could transmit a radio frequency. It does not matter how old and rusty or new and shiny UXO is, UXO is always dangerous and could injure or kill you. Don't take any chances. Leave the area.

### **3 REPORT**

If you have found something that could be UXO, report what you saw and where you saw it to the police or call 911. Reporting it can save another person from injury or death. Report anything you think could be UXO.

