



Background

Mechanical clam harvesting operations off the New Jersey coast inadvertently dredged up munitions from the ocean floor. Some of these munitions were subsequently delivered to clam processing plants. After the clams were processed, clamshells and other debris were transported from the processing plants and stockpiled at various trucking company locations. The clamshells were then purchased by property owners for use as compacted surfaces, such as driveways and parking areas. Numerous driveways at various locations in Delaware and Maryland are known to have contained munitions. Other trucking companies may have inadvertently delivered munitions mixed with clamshells to sites in Maryland, Virginia and New Jersey. Literature searches and personnel interviews are being conducted to help identify the additional sites and sources.

What are military munitions?

The term military munitions includes all ammunition products and components produced for or used by the armed forces for national defense and security.

What are Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC)?

MEC distinguishes specific categories of military munitions that may pose unique safety risks. In this case, MEC refers to military munitions that were discarded at the end of WWI or WWII because they were no longer required.

Given the age and time these munitions were under water, are they still dangerous?

Yes. Military munitions are designed to inflict injury and cause damage. Munitions tend to become more unstable, sensitive and dangerous due to age and exposure to the elements.

What kinds of MEC have been found in clamshells?

World War I era hand grenades, practice mortars, 30mm projectiles, 75mm projectiles and others.

Safety First

If you should encounter a munition on your property, please follow the 3 Rs: Recognize the danger (do not touch it), Retreat (mark the general area and carefully walk away), and Report (call 911).

What do these munitions look like?

Here is a sample of the munitions that could be mixed with clamshells used for paving. Not all munitions will be a readily identifiable shape and may have the appearance of a rusty piece of steel.



French Viven-Bessiere rifle grenade, found in clamshells.



Mark II grenade found in clamshells.



Munitions and Explosives of Concern



Safety Tips

Clamshell Munitions Finds

2006

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What do I do if I find a munition or suspicious items?

- Follow the 3 **Rs**:
1. RECOGNIZE
2. RETREAT
3. REPORT

RECOGNIZE:

When you discover a suspicious item or a possible munition, remember that they can be very dangerous. Do not touch, kick, throw or do anything else to disturb the item. Also, remember that the munitions found in clamshells are sometimes not readily identifiable, and may appear to be any other metallic or rusty item. Use caution, leave it alone and do not touch it.

RETREAT:

If you know or suspect that you have a munition in your clamshells, or elsewhere, mark the area with a small item such as a hat or pen, and immediately walk away on the same path you came in on. Do not run.

REPORT:

Remember the location of the suspicious items and call 911.

For questions on the Army Corps of Engineers' investigation of munition finds in clamshells, please call the project's toll free information line at 1-800-434-0988.

See the Army UXO Safety Education Program website: <https://www.denix.osd.mil/uxosafety>

What do these munitions look like?



French Viven-Bessiere rifle grenade in pristine condition.



French Viven-Bessiere rifle grenade, found in clamshells.



Mark II grenade found in clamshells.



Mark II grenade found in clamshells.