

OVERVIEW

Many Department of Defense (DoD) installations allow hunting within designated areas.

Hunting in these areas comes with certain risks and responsibilities. The potential for encountering a military munition is one of the risks that poses an explosives safety concern.

Given the military's historical use of these installations and changes that have occurred over time in land use, the possibility of encountering a munition in an authorized hunting area is real. Given this potential, hunters are responsible for following the 3Rs (Recognize, Retreat, Report) of explosives safety.



Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician
Photo: Defense Visual Information Distribution Service

The military's conduct of live-fire training normally involves a variety of munitions, including small-arms ammunition, hand grenades, mortars, and artillery rounds. Although most installations closed certain areas (e.g., operational range impact areas) for hunting due to known presence of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and other munitions that pose an explosives hazard, munitions may be encountered anywhere.

Areas closed to hunting are generally marked (e.g., by signs, orange cones, flagging ribbon), but these markings may not identify every area where munitions may be present. Hunters are responsible for staying within their assigned hunting area, sector, or lane. (Refer to the installation map that outlines the boundaries of authorized hunting areas.) If uncertain whether an area is closed to hunting, do not enter it, placing yourself or others in danger, but contact a hunt official.

Help protect yourself from potential explosive hazards by following the **3Rs of Explosives Safety: Recognize, Retreat, Report.**



3Rs Explosives Safety Guide

HUNTERS

Follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety

Recognize

when you may have come across a munition, and that munitions are dangerous;

Retreat

do not approach, touch, move, or disturb a suspect munition, but carefully leave the area; and

Report

immediately what you saw and where you saw it to local law enforcement.



For additional information visit
the U.S. Army's Explosives Safety Education website

<https://3Rs.mil>



Follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety



Turkeys at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin



Bomb



Mortars

Recognize

When you may have come across a munition and that munitions are dangerous.



Recognizing when you may have encountered a munition is the most important step in reducing risk of injury or death. Munitions may be encountered on land or in the water. They may be easy or hard to identify. Although munitions may be present almost anywhere, hunting area maps identify areas of highest risk.

To avoid risk of injury or death:

- Never approach, touch, move, or disturb a munition or suspect munition.
- Be aware that munitions do not become safer with age. In fact, they may become more dangerous.
- Don't be tempted to shoot at a munition, or take or keep a munition as a souvenir.

Munitions come in many sizes, shapes, and colors. Some may look like bullets or bombs, while others look like pipes, small cans, or even a car muffler. Whether whole or in parts, new or old, shiny or rusty, munitions can still explode. The best way to avoid injury or death is to stay out of unauthorized areas, particularly those marked with no entry signs. Heed posted warnings and stay within your assigned hunting area, sector, or lane.

Retreat

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

Avoid death or injury by recognizing that you may have encountered a munition and promptly retreating from the area. If you encounter what you believe is a munition, do not approach, touch, or disturb it. Instead, immediately and carefully leave the area by retracing your steps—going out the way you entered. Once safely away from the munition, mark the path (e.g., with a piece of clothing) so response personnel can find the munition.



Deer at Fort Knox, Kentucky

Report

Immediately what you saw and where you saw it to local law enforcement.

Help improve the safety of future hunts by providing as much information as possible about what you saw and where you saw it. This will help the police advise military explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) personnel or authorized operational range personnel where the munition or suspect munition was seen so they can locate, evaluate, and address the situation.



Mortar

If you believe you may have encountered a munition, report:

- The area where you encountered it.
- Its general description; however, do not approach, touch, move, or disturb it to get a better description.
- When possible, describe its:
 - ✓ Estimated size
 - ✓ Shape
 - ✓ Visible markings, including coloring
 - ✓ Condition (e.g., partially buried, hidden in vegetation, rusted, broken)