

Key Issue



Unexploded Explosive Ordnance (UXO)

WHAT

Unexploded Explosive Ordnance (UXO) are military explosives that did not explode or function as intended. Some examples include unexploded bombs, rockets, grenades, artillery shells, flares, mortars. Hazardous residues may remain even after partial detonation. If disturbed, UXO can cause injury or death. UXO will not look like it did when it was first made. It will have been in the dirt or water for many years and will likely look old and corroded. It may be missing parts and could look like a piece of old pipe, an old car muffler, a pop can or small pieces of corroded metal. UXO does not usually lay neatly on the ground or underwater. It is usually partly exposed or completely buried. UXO can also move or be exposed over time. Freeze-thaw cycles, flooding and storms can uncover buried ordnance or move it from place to place. It can also become more unstable and more dangerous the older it gets. Below are some more examples of what a UXO can look like.



WHERE

UXO can be found almost anywhere but they are typically found in areas that the military conducts or has formerly conducted training or testing involving munitions. The vast majority of military munitions, however, will be found in impact areas of operational and former ranges.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

A simple rule of thumb is to not touch or disturb corroded metal that you find on the ground or in the water. This is a good idea even if you are not in an area that was used for military purposes.

If you see something that looks like UXO: **Remember the 3 R's**

1. **RECOGNIZE** – when you may have encountered a munition.
2. **RETREAT – DO NOT TOUCH**, approach, or attempt to remove, but carefully leave the area.
3. **REPORT** – call 9-1-1 or local police and advise what you saw and where you saw it.

Additional Safety Tips

- Never transmit radio frequencies near a UXO (walkie talkies, radios, etc.)
- Remember UXO come in many shapes and sizes
- UXO can be one or many items

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) Program cleans up environmental contamination and munitions and explosives of concern at properties formerly owned, leased, possessed, or used by the military services (Army, Navy, Air Force, or other Defense agencies) prior to October 1986, which is the date the program was established. The U.S. Army is the Department of Defense lead agent for FUDS and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for executing the program.



This information is provided by the Alpena Community Council. For more information, please see the following website:

[Alpena CRTC Community Council - Northeast Michigan JLUS \(nemimilitarycommunity.org\)](http://nemimilitarycommunity.org)