

## What Do I Do if I Find a Munition or Suspicious Item?

### Follow the 3 Rs:

#### Recognize:

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

#### Retreat:

If you know or suspect that you have found a munition, 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.

#### CALL 911 to Report!

In addition, if a lifeguard is present, alert them to the presence of the item.

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- 2
- 3



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Philadelphia District

For additional information,  
visit our web site at:

[www.nap.usace.army.mil](http://www.nap.usace.army.mil)

■  
or contact the  
Philadelphia District  
Public Affairs office at  
**215-656-6500**

■  
If you discover  
a suspicious item on the beach –

- Do not touch it,  
move it, or disturb it
- Note the location

**CALL 911 to Report!**



NJDEP

New Jersey Department of  
Environmental Protection  
*Environmental Action Line*

**1-877-WARN-DEP**  
(1-877-927-6337)

Surf City & Ship Bottom Public Beaches

# Munitions Concerns

*Safety  
information  
you should  
know...*



## Background

As the first phase of the Barnegat Inlet to Little Egg Harbor Inlet Coastal Storm Damage Reduction project, the US Army Corps of Engineers and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) completed a beach replenishment in Surf City and Ship Bottom, NJ. The beachfill portion of this project was completed in February 2007. Sand dredged from an offshore borrow area approximately 2.5 miles northeast of Surf City was pumped onto the Surf City and Ship Bottom Beaches.

In early March 2007 after the beach nourishment portion of the project was completed, potentially explosive munitions were discovered on the beach in Surf City. These items were recovered by local residents using metal detectors, prompting the beaches to be closed in the interest of public safety through coordination between the Corps, NJDEP and the local Boroughs.

All beach access points were barricaded with construction fencing (orange plastic) and "DANGER: beach closed" signs were posted. A private security firm was contracted to assist in enforcing the beach closure around the clock. The beach remained closed throughout the ensuing removal action.

## Munitions Concerns

Munitions may pose unique safety risks. A Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA) was initiated in March 2007 shortly after the first MEC items were discovered on the beaches. The MEC TCRA extended through May 2007. The beach (dune, berm, and surf zone) has been investigated with geophysical equipment to find and locate MEC items. All detectable MEC items have been safely removed from the beach and properly disposed of.

### What are Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC)?

MEC distinguishes specific categories of munitions that may pose unique safety risks. In this case, MEC refers to munitions that were discarded because they were no longer required. The MEC items recovered to date from the beaches in Surf City and Ship Bottom are considered to be discarded munitions due to the location that they were most likely dredged from and their configuration (fuzes with boosters and boosters by themselves).

Although all MEC items found to date at this site are considered discarded munitions, individuals should not assume that a munition item is safe to handle. All suspected munitions should be considered a potential explosive hazard.

### Given the Age of These Munitions and the Time They Were Under Water, Are They Still Dangerous?

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

### What Do They Look Like?



### Temporarily Prohibited Activities:

- Digging on the beach (*deeper than 12 inches*)
- Use of metal detectors.