



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Philadelphia District

Surf City Beach Nourishment Update

Munitions experts continue with investigation and clearing process

To date, some 32 military munitions (examples pictured at right) have been identified by the public and safely recovered from the beach at Surf City, N.J. without incident.

Items were all turned over to the Surf City Police, who called the State Police Bomb unit, and ultimately to the Army's Fort Monmouth 754th Ordnance Company, responsible for Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD). The majority of these items have been determined to be dangerous ordnance.

The devices were manufactured in the U.S. prior to World War II and used during the war. An ordnance disposal expert in the unit assessed that the items containing explosives had the potential to cause loss of limb, of eyesight and, under the right circumstances, to cause loss of life.

Because of the potential danger of handling such ordnance, the Corps has taken a number of steps to safeguard the public.

What has been done so far?

Our number one priority is public safety.

Immediately after the first suspicious objects were discovered, the Corps took action to close the project area and began plans to conduct a thorough investigation of the site using advanced screening devices.

Safety fences have been placed at all street-end entrances and along the boundaries of the project site, and warning signs (pictured at right) will be going up throughout the project site. Security guards are on site patrolling 24 hours a day to assist in public safety.

On March 30, specialists from the Corps' Military Munitions Center of Expertise began a geophysical investigation of the beach using magnetometers (advanced ground-penetrating

metal detection devices). In the course of their survey they have since recovered 47 additional ordnance items within the project area, and expect to find more as their work progresses. Upon completion of the investigation, they will remove all detectable ordnance for proper disposal.

What lies ahead?

Once this geophysical investigation is complete and the results are finalized, which should be within the next few weeks, the Corps will meet with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the Boroughs of Surf City and Ship Bottom to determine the optimal course of action for clearing and reopening the beaches both safely and expeditiously.

How does this affect you?

Beaches will remain closed to all activity (both recreation and construction) until the investigation and clearing operation is completed.

We greatly appreciate your cooperation in helping keep people off the beach during this process.

We advise anyone who finds any suspicious items to not disturb them and to call either their local police department or 911 immediately.

For updates, visit the Philadelphia District website:
www.nap.usace.army.mil

Or call the information hotline at **215-656-6931** and choose **menu option 2.**

For additional information, contact the District's Public Affairs Office at **215-656-6595/6515.**

