

Follow the 3Rs

Park Information

Emergency Contacts

(410) 641-1441

In Maryland: press 3 then 1

In Virginia: press 2

Contact the Park Office at:

National Seashore (410) 641-1441

MD State Park (410) 641-2120
for additional information.



Visit the US Army's UXO Safety Education website:
www.denix.osd.mil/uxo

Assateague Island

Recognize

Recognize when you may have encountered a munition.

Recognizing when you may have encountered a munition is the most important step in reducing the risk of injury or death. Munitions may be encountered on land or in the water. They may be easy or hard to identify.

To avoid the risk of injury or death:

- ▶ Never move, touch 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 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 easiest way to avoid injury or death is to stay out of areas marked with warning signs or charted as restricted.



Retreat

Do not 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 touch, move 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 police can find the munition.



BACKGROUND

Assateague Island is 37-mile long barrier island that parallels the Atlantic Coast of Maryland and Virginia. Almost the entire island, which provides a variety of recreational opportunities, is publically accessible. When visiting the island, you should be aware of Assateague's historic role during World War II, and avoid disturbing objects with which you are unfamiliar.

From 1944 until 1947, the US Navy used two areas on the island for testing rockets and as live-fire training ranges for aircraft from Naval Air Station Chincoteague, VA, and Naval Air Station Manteo, NC. Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams have repeatedly been called to evaluate and destroy military munitions (e.g., rocket motors, rockets, and an artillery projectiles) encountered on the island. Given the island's past use and the dynamic nature of barrier islands, additional munitions may periodically be exposed or washed ashore in the future.

Report

Immediately notify the police, if on land, or the U.S. Coast Guard, if on navigable waters.

Protect yourself, your family, your friends and your community by immediately reporting munitions or suspected munitions to the police.

Report what you saw and where you saw it in as much detail as possible. This helps the police and military or civilian explosive ordnance disposal personnel find, evaluate and address the situation.

If you believe you may have encountered a munition, call the emergency contacts on this poster and report:

- ▶ The area where you suspect that you encountered a munition.
- ▶ Its general description. (Remember, do not approach, touch, move or disturb it.)
- ▶ When possible, provide:
 - Its estimated size
 - Its shape
 - Any visible markings, including coloring

Although munitions have primarily been encountered along the shoreline and in shallow waters offshore, park visitors are cautioned that munitions may be encountered anywhere. The US Army is addressing the portions of the island determined to have been used for live-fire training and testing under the Department of Defense's Formerly Used Defense's Site Program (www.fuds.mil).

Park visitors should be aware that munitions may be difficult to recognize due to heavy corrosion, partial burial, algae growth and a number of other reasons. Munitions and suspect munitions should be considered dangerous, regardless of how long they may have been in the environment.

Help protect yourself, your family and your community by following the 3Rs of Explosives Safety.