



Safety Bulletin EM 385-1-1

Mobile District Safety and Occupational Health Office

Bulletin 55-09

Munitions and Explosives of Concern – 3 R's

The 15 September 2008 Safety Manual (yellow book) is now in effect for most new contracts and government operations. Please note the changes for munitions and explosives of concern as stated below.

33.A GENERAL

33.A.01 All Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) or suspect MEC encountered on jobsites shall be treated as extremely dangerous. MEC can be Unexploded Ordnance (UXO), Discarded Military Munitions (DMM), or Munitions Constituents (MC). Follow the **3Rs: RECOGNIZE, RETREAT, REPORT** and take the following actions:

- a. **RECOGNIZE:** see examples in paragraph 33.B. Do not touch, disturb or move the item (munitions can become very unstable over time). They can detonate with movement or sometimes due to ground vibration. Munitions come in all shapes, sizes, and color but exposure to weather and time can alter or remove these markings.
- b. **RETREAT:** Mark the general location of the MEC hazard with tape, colored cloth, or colored ribbon. If available, attach the marker to a branch, structure or other existing object so that it is about 3 ft (.9 m) off the ground and visible from all approaches. Place the marker no closer than the point where you first recognized the MEC hazard and do not drive stakes into the ground or otherwise disturb the surface.
- c. Leave by the same route you entered the area if possible. Clear site of all workers and secure from unauthorized entry.
- d. Do not transmit on any radio frequencies. Do not talk on a cell phone near a suspected MEC. Signals transmitted from items such as cell phones, short-wave radios, single side-band radios or other communications and navigation devices may detonate the MEC.
- e. Note the location where the suspect munitions is found, the direction, any landmarks or other features that would aid others in locating the munitions.
- f. **REPORT:** Once area has been evacuated, notification shall be made immediately. Provide as much information as possible, including location, approximate size, shape, color, and any other distinguishing features such as nomenclature or writing, fins, etc.,
 - (1) If not on DoD installation, anytime suspected MEC is encountered, immediately call the local emergency response authority (e.g., local police, sheriff, or 911) to report the finding. GDA and Corps PM shall be notified immediately as well. Before work can begin, the District Commander will determine the level of construction support required at the project site by assessing the probability of encountering MEC.
 - (2) If on DoD installation, immediately notify supervisor, GDA and Corps PM, installation POC (who shall contact and facilitate Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) response). Before work can begin, the Installation Commander will determine the level of construction support required at the project site by assessing the probability of encountering MEC.