



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE
100 Headquarters Avenue
WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE, NM 88002-5000

TEDT-WS-CG

20 MAR 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR Commanders, Directors and Office Chiefs of Team White Sands

SUBJECT: Policy Letter #24: Work Force Briefing and Training on the Hazards of Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)

1. **Unexploded Ordnance is a Real Danger:** It is vital that persons entering White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) acknowledge the very real hazards presented by one of the world's largest munitions impact areas. WSMR has been used as an ordnance and explosives test facility since its inception as a proving ground in 1945. Prior to that, some areas of what is now the Southern part of the Range were used as artillery impact areas by troops training at Fort Bliss. As a tri-service DoD Range, White Sands has tested nearly every type of deployable ordnance developed in the United States since 1945, as well as many items from other countries. Quite a number of these munitions were deliberately designed to blend in with the terrain, and their presence may not be immediately obvious to the casual observer.

2. **Training is Mandatory:** Consequently, even though WSMR performs extensive Range Clearance activities, there is no assurance that any area of the Range is truly 100% free of UXO. Therefore, all personnel under our control or sponsorship will receive either a formal orientation or a detailed briefing on the hazards of Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) present at White Sands Missile Range before they are granted access to the Range. (The "Range" is defined as the area outside the main post cantonment area.)

a. **Contractors:** Activities with contractors working on the Range are specifically included in this requirement and must take positive action to comply with this requirement. Contracting Officer's Representatives, and/or Contracting Officer's Technical Representatives will obtain the required briefing materials from the WSMR web site, <http://www.wsmr.army.mil/ux/Pages/default.aspx>, and coordinate with contractor management to comply with this requirement. This training requirement will be included in all new contracts.

b. **Customer and Tenant Activities:** All customer and tenant activities must fully comply with this requirement. This includes all non-appropriated fund activities and non-governmental/private organizations operating on or visiting the Range. Sponsors of these activities and organizations are responsible for obtaining the required briefing materials from the WSMR web site, <http://www.wsmr.army.mil/ux/Pages/default.aspx>

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, and formally requiring the appropriate management or supervisory personnel to comply with this policy.

3. **UXO Range Hazard Briefing:** Everyone entering or transiting the Range must receive an appropriate UXO Range Hazard Briefing (or at least a basic UXO Orientation for personnel granted casual recurring access for delivery or other commercial purposes) from their Range sponsor or chain of command as a first step in gaining access to the Range for any work-related or recreational purpose.

a. **Training Requirement:** This briefing and/or orientation should be targeted to the receiving audience, but the bottom line is that everyone desiring to enter the Range must receive a briefing or orientation before being allowed access. Annual supplemental UXO hazards refresher training will be provided by each organization to all assigned or sponsored personnel who have continued access to the Range. Each organization will maintain formal records of this training and make them available for review. Enclosed is the UXO Range Hazards Orientation Sheet for signature after completion of the training. You may duplicate this sheet as needed.

b. **Training Material:** A videotape providing our current UXO Range Hazards Briefing is available for each organization. A copy may be obtained from Visual Information or may be viewed from the White Sands Missile Range Home Page. You should use this as your baseline training tool, and everyone should see it. Additional Explosive Safety Education; 3Rs - **Recognize, Retreat, Report** information can be obtained at the following link, <http://www.denix.osd.mil/uxo/>.

4. **For More Information:** The hazards associated with UXO can be complex. If you have any questions, you should immediately contact the WSMR Test Center Operations at 678-3541 or the Installation Safety Office at 678-2305.



TIMOTHY R. COFFIN
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

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