

Munitions Not Always Visible

Many former Fort Ord lands were previously vital U.S. Army training areas and ranges. Portions of these lands are known or suspected to contain military munitions, including discarded munitions and unexploded ordnance. These explosive hazards have been located both on and below the ground's surface as well as inside and outside former training ranges.

Recognizing munitions items is important in maintaining safety. Munitions can come in many shapes and sizes; they can look like pointed pipes, soda cans, baseballs, or car mufflers. Munitions may look old or new, be complete or in parts, may be found individually or in groups, and can be encountered in many places on the former Fort Ord – not solely on former training ranges. Just because you don't see munitions in the immediate vicinity does not ensure they are not there.

Munitions can be hard to see, especially when they had years to rust and settle into place. Munitions can be hidden by deep grass, foliage or thick vegetation, making it difficult for the average individual to see or recognize. Munitions that have been out in the elements rusted and covered in dirt can be very difficult to identify. Disturbing munitions can cause them to detonate which could result in serious injury or even fatality. Never touch, move or disturb a munitions item or suspected munitions item.

When anyone encounters or believes they may have encountered a munitions item, they should consider it extremely dangerous. To protect their family, friends and neighbors, everyone should learn and follow the 3Rs of explosive safety: Recognize – when you may have encountered a munitions item and the potential danger; Retreat – do not touch, move or disturb it; Report – notify local law enforcement of what you saw and where you saw it.