

The job of America's military is to be prepared to fight and win on the battlefield. To be effective, training must provide our Service Members with opportunities to practice their combat skills in realistic and challenging scenarios. Effective training requires them to fire their weapons with live ammunition. The saying, train as you fight, is as true today as it has been for centuries.

Sometimes, military munitions, such as artillery projectiles and bombs, don't work as intended. That is, they don't function as they are supposed to when they hit their target. For short, we call those munitions that fail to work "U-X-O," which stands for unexploded ordnance. As a result of realistic training and testing, UXO may be present on our training ranges. The military strictly controls access to these ranges because UXO is dangerous. All installation areas known or suspected to contain UXO are marked with warning signs. It is important for your safety to pay attention to these signs.

Some of the areas the military once used for training are now found on closed military installations, such as formerly used defense sites. Much of this land is now available for public uses, such as recreation, business or residential. In some cases, UXO is known to be present on such land; in others it may have gone undetected for years. It could be laying on the ground, be buried or found in water.

Never take a chance with UXO. People who have underestimated the danger have paid with life or limb.

There is a simple way to remember what to do if you see something that might be a military munition. We call it the "3Rs" of UXO safety: **Recognize,**

Retreat, Report. First, **recognize** when you may have encountered a munition. Second, “**retreat.**” Do not touch or disturb it, but move carefully away, walking out the same way you entered the area. Last, but also most important for the safety of others, **report** what you saw and where you saw it. Call 9-1-1.

While UXO are normally found where Service Members have honed their combat skills, military munitions, including UXO, might be found right at home. People often keep munitions and historical war relics, like cannon balls, as souvenirs of their military service or conversation pieces. Regardless of how long such munitions may have been kept, they retain their explosive power and remain dangerous. Even Civil War cannon balls can be deadly. The fact that they may have been in your home for decades or handled for years doesn't mean they are safe. So, if you recognize something like that in your home, apply the 3Rs of UXO safety, **R**ecognize they are dangerous, **R**etreat by leaving them alone, and **R**eport them to the police authorities.

Understanding the risks associated with UXO and knowing what to do can help keep you, your family and neighbors safe. Remember and follow the 3Rs of UXO Safety, and make the right choice: Recognize, Retreat, and Report.