



# NEWS RELEASE

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

**BUILDING STRONG®**

For Immediate Release:  
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Contact:  
Bruce Sanders, Public Affairs  
716.879.4410 or 716.481.5439 (cell)  
Bruce.I.Sanders@usace.army.mil

## **U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS FORMER ERIE ARMY DEPOT ORDNANCE REMOVAL PROJECT UPDATE**

**PORT CLINTON, OH (November 4, 2009)** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is wrapping up its cleanup of unexploded ordnance from the beach area near the Former Erie Army Depot. On Thursday, October 29th, 332 items of material potentially presenting an explosive hazard were explosively vented. None of these items contained an explosive hazard. The last scheduled detonation will take place today from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This surface removal action reduces the risk to the public and the environment from potential unexploded ordnance washed up onto the beach from the former impact area in Lake Erie. Unexploded ordnance found during this removal is destroyed in place or in designated areas by detonation. Experts use hand-held ordnance detection devices to search the area. When metal is detected, the area is excavated by hand to the extent necessary to fully identify, remove, and destroy any partially exposed munitions and explosives. To date, this removal recovered 2,282 items with no explosive hazard. Only four of the items recovered to date contained an explosive hazard. The recovered items weigh approximately 14,408 pounds.

If anyone in the community has information that they could provide us with respect past findings of material potentially presenting an explosive hazard, please call us on our toll-free number at 800-833-6390 (Option 4) or send an email to [derpfuds@usace.army.mil](mailto:derpfuds@usace.army.mil).

This removal is being performed under Economy Act Authority and is funded through the Office of Economic Adjustment (2008 funds). This money was sponsored by Congresswoman Kaptur and appropriated by Congress.

This overall effort is being fully coordinated with officials from the Army Corps, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Ohio National Guard, and the affected property owners.

Residents are reminded of “the three Rs” of unexploded ordnance safety: recognize, retreat and report. If a suspicious item or a possible munition is discovered, remember that it can be dangerous. Do not touch, kick, throw something or do anything else to disturb the item. Also remember that old munitions are sometimes not readily identifiable, and may appear to be any other metallic or rusty item. Use caution, leave it alone and do not touch it. If you know or suspect that you have found a possible munition, mark the area with a small item, such as a hat or pen, and immediately walk away on the same path you came in on. Do not run. Report the location of the suspicious item immediately to your local law enforcement officials by dialing 911.

More information about this clean-up project, including the schedule and project updates, may be found at [www.lrb.usace.army.mil/derpfuds/ead](http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/derpfuds/ead) or by contacting the Army Corps of Engineers at 800 833-6390 (option 4).

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### **U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – BUFFALO DISTRICT**

Environmental Project Management Team  
1776 Niagara Street, Buffalo, NY 14207  
Phone: 800.833.6390 (Option 4)  
Email: [derpfuds@usace.army.mil](mailto:derpfuds@usace.army.mil)  
[www.lrb.usace.army.mil/derpfuds/ead](http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/derpfuds/ead)