

# Blossom Point Research Facility



## 3Rs Explosives Safety Guide

### Background

The Blossom Point Research Facility (BPRF) is located in southern Charles County, Maryland. It is situated on a peninsula at the confluence of the Potomac River and Nanjemoy Creek. On Nautical Charts, it is identified as Cedar Point Neck.

Between 1942 and the 1970's, BPRF fired mortars, rockets, and projectiles into the Nanjemoy Creek and Potomac River. Munitions have been encountered in shallow waters near BPRF. Munitions are known to be present on the river's bottom and may be present on nearby shorelines. Although these munitions have been in the environment for over 30 years, they remain dangerous.

Users of the Potomac River and waters surrounding Blossom Point should be aware that munitions may be present. Because anchoring poses the greatest potential risk of an encounter to boaters, anchoring in this area is discouraged.

Boaters, fisherman, crabbers and others that use the waters surrounding BPRF should be aware of the potential hazard munitions pose. To protect themselves, their families and their neighbors, they should learn and follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety.



### Recognize

Recognizing when you may have encountered a munition is the most important step in reducing the potential risk of injury or death. Munitions may be found on land or in the water. They may be easy or hard to identify. If you come across or even suspect that you have encountered a munition, you must consider it dangerous.

Munitions, even suspect munitions, should never be touched, moved, or disturbed. You risk injury or death when disturbing munitions. Be aware that munitions make deadly souvenirs and they do not become safer with age; they often become more dangerous.

Munitions come in many sizes, shapes and colors. Some may look like bullets or bombs while others look like pipes, small cans or even a car muffler. Whether whole or in parts, new or old, shiny or rusty, munitions can still explode. The easiest way to avoid injury or death is to stay out of areas marked with warning signs or charted as restricted. The best way to stay safe is to learn and follow the 3Rs.

### REMEMBER THE 3Rs

#### Retreat

Avoid death or injury by recognizing that you may have encountered a munition.

If you encounter what you believe is a munition, do not touch, move or disturb it. Instead, immediately and carefully leave the area, retracing your steps out of the area by the same path which you entered. Once safely away, mark the path with clothing or something else so it can be easily found once reported.



#### Report

Protect yourself, your family, your friends and your community by immediately reporting munitions or suspected munitions to the police.

Provide as much information as possible about what you saw and where you saw it. This will help the police and military or civilian explosive ordnance disposal personnel find, evaluate and address the situation.

If you believe you may have encountered a munition, immediately notify the police if on land or the U.S. Coast Guard, if on navigable waters. Emergency contacts:

- On land: Call 911
- At sea: Use Channel 16 (156.800 MHz)
- The area where you encountered it.
- Its general description. Remember, do not approach touch, move or disturb it. When possible, provide:
  - Its estimated size
  - Its shape
  - Any visible markings, including coloring

Visit the US Army's UXO Safety Education website: <https://www.denix.osd.mil/uxosafety>

### BPRF INFORMATION

An area that contains project related documents has been established at: Charles County Public Library- LaPlata Branch, Phone: (301) 934-9001  
Contact the BPRF Garrison Manager, Mr. Jack Kaiser, (301) 394-1534, [jack.kaiser@us.army.mil](mailto:jack.kaiser@us.army.mil) for additional information.