

## What is Government doing?



The Australian Government has an approved policy (available on the Defence UXO Web site) for managing land affected by UXO. Under this policy the Department of Defence will dispose of any UXO that has been found and reported. Also, an indemnity is provided for personal injury or property damage caused by a UXO, unless the circumstances of a particular case render it inappropriate to do so. Irresponsible conduct, or the acceptance of a UXO risk (the UXO was known to be there but was not reported) would be circumstances where the provision of the indemnity would be inappropriate.

The Australian Government through the Department of Defence also provides information, advice and recommendations to State and Local Government land management authorities. This is provided to assist in protecting the public from the hazards associated with the development of land and land use changes for areas with an assessed potential for UXO contamination. Areas assessed as having a substantial potential for UXO contamination would have a history of UXO finds or heavy fragmentation.

These areas include known artillery impact sites and ammunition demolition sites. Areas assessed as having a slight potential for UXO contamination would include known training/exercise areas and the non-impact areas of firing ranges.

Defence recommends to land management authorities that all present land usage should continue. However, Defence also recommends that future development or proposed changes in land usage likely to increase human exposure in areas assessed as having a substantial potential for UXO contamination, should only proceed following a UXO investigation and remediation.

Contact details for those UXO investigation and remediation companies that are part of the Defence UXO Panel (DUXOP) are available on the Defence UXO Web site.

The Defence Web site provides general advice on UXO in Australia including information on those known areas which may have a potential for residual UXO.



[www.defence.gov.au/uxo](http://www.defence.gov.au/uxo)



Australian Government  
Department of Defence

# UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE

# (UXO)

## IN AUSTRALIA



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Australian Government  
Department of Defence

## What is Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)?



UXO is any military ammunition or explosive, which has failed to explode as intended. It includes mortar bombs, mines, artillery shells, hand grenades, bombs, rockets, missiles and many other types of ammunition and explosives. Scavenged, discarded and dumped ammunition is also included as UXO.

In Australia, UXO contamination has been created mainly as a result of military training activities. In the past, especially during World War II, a large number of ranges and training areas were approved for use across the country. Many of these sites are contaminated with UXO.



## Are they still dangerous?

**YES!** If mistreated (picked up, played with, thrown, or just disturbed in any way) they may explode without warning. Even UXO still being found on the battlefields of World War I (1914-1918) are still dangerous and have exploded when mistreated.

However, no one in Australia has been seriously injured by a UXO in that first instance of finding it. Only after it was deliberately or irresponsibly mistreated has any UXO, in Australia, functioned causing serious injuries.

## What should I do?

Nothing, unless you're one of those few people who find a suspicious item that may be a UXO. If you should find such an item

### **Do Not Disturb It Report It To POLICE.**

They will arrange for military experts to attend and dispose of it. This is a free service provided by the Australian Government.

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