



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

*“To protect and improve
the health and environment
of the people of Colorado.”*

NEWS

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Historic Military Munitions Debris Found on Green Mountain

DENVER— The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is working with the Colorado Army National Guard and the city of Lakewood to investigate the recent discovery of military munitions debris in the open space on the north slopes of Green Mountain.

According to Tracie White, project manager in the department’s Hazardous Materials Waste Management Division, the munitions debris itself does not pose a threat, but it can indicate the potential for other, more dangerous military munitions-related items in the area. Because the area is used extensively for public recreation, White said it is important for people to know what to do if they encounter anything suspicious.

“Our main concern is for public safety,” White said. “Because there is a possibility of unexploded ordnance that could be present from historic military use, we want to let the public know that if they find anything that might be munitions-related, they should leave it in place and call the proper authorities to have it investigated.”

Items found in the open space on Green Mountain are mainly pieces of spent shells from the pre-World War II era. A historic document indicates during the 1930s, the National Guard leased a portion of Green Mountain for use as an artillery impact area for rounds fired from Camp George West in Golden. The specific boundaries of the impact area are, as yet, undetermined.

According to White, anyone who finds an item he or she suspects could be munitions-related should consider the item to be extremely dangerous. Never touch, move or disturb these items, she said, and remember the three “Rs” of explosives safety:

1. **RECOGNIZE:** Recognizing when you may have encountered a munition is key to reducing the risk of injury or death. If you encounter or suspect you have encountered a munition, consider it extremely dangerous. Remember, munitions are sometimes hard to see and identify. They may resemble a pointed pipe, a soda can, a baseball, a muffler or other metal objects. They may be visible on the surface, buried or exposed by erosion or fires. They may look new or old, be complete or in parts, be found alone or in groups. Any suspicious items should be considered dangerous regardless of size or apparent age.
2. **RETREAT:** If you encounter or suspect you have encountered a munition, do not touch, move or disturb it. Immediately and carefully leave the area, following the same path on which you entered the area. If you can, mark the general area – not the munition – in some manner (e.g., with a hat, piece of cloth, or by tying a piece of plastic to a bush or tree branch).
3. **REPORT:** Call 911 immediately! Notify local law enforcement of what you saw and where you saw it.

If you or someone you know may have collected munitions-related items as souvenirs, please notify law enforcement immediately so trained professionals can remove the items safely.

The Colorado Army National Guard currently is developing a plan of action to further investigate the area to determine what additional steps must be taken to address the issue.

For additional information access <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hm/campgeorge.htm>