



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
SAVANNAH DISTRICT  
100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604**

August 28, 2024

**Subject: Notification and Safety Education Initiative at Department of Defense  
Formerly Used Defense Sites**

**Greg Higginbotham  
County Administrator  
Madison County  
PO Box 608  
Canton, MS 39046**

**Dear Mr. Higginbotham:**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), which executes the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) Program on behalf of the Army, conducts notification and safety education activities at FUDS with munitions-related concerns when additional investigations are not expected to occur in the near future. This letter is to advise you that information will be mailed to landowners whose property may be subject to environmental or safety concerns linked to past Department of Defense (DoD) activities at the FUDS on the enclosed list.

Congress established DoD's FUDS Program as part of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program to address properties formerly owned by, leased to, or otherwise possessed by the DoD prior to October 1986 that may contain environmental contamination or military munitions resulting from past DoD activities. USACE is responsible for identifying, investigating and, when necessary, conducting an appropriate response to address contamination or military munitions at the approximately 5,400 FUDS properties across the country that still require a response.

After initial site inspections, USACE identified properties which may have munitions-related concerns and require further investigation. Due to the large number of munitions response sites (MRS), not every site can be addressed immediately. Because safety is the Army's number one priority at FUDS, USACE will provide landowners on a FUDS MRS a notification letter and a site-specific safety guide at least once every five years.

Should military munitions remain on these properties, they are most likely below ground surface; however, there is a possibility that some may have become partially or fully exposed. If present, these military munitions may pose an explosive hazard.

It may be some time before USACE is able to fully investigate the extent of the environmental contamination or military munitions at each of the identified FUDS; therefore, the site-specific safety guides include information on actions to take to reduce the risks that may remain from past DoD activities. For MRS with potential explosive hazards, the safety information encourages readers to follow the 3Rs of Explosive Safety: **Recognize** – when you may have encountered a munition, and that munitions are dangerous; **Retreat** – do not approach, touch, move, or disturb it, but carefully leave the area; and **Report** – call 911 and advise the police of what you saw and where you saw it. Local law enforcement will arrange for DoD Explosive Ordnance Disposal or police bomb squad personnel to locate, evaluate, and address the situation. For more information please visit: <https://3Rs.mil>.

This notification letter is being mailed to the local offices of Members of Congress and state, county, and city government representatives where the FUDS on the enclosed list are located. This notification letter will also be forwarded to offices that may be called as first responders. A copy of the distribution list is enclosed.

Enclosed are copies of the site-specific safety guides and a sample of the notification letter that will be mailed to landowners within an MRS. Questions about this notification process can be answered by contacting Sararina Keisler, FUDS Program Manager, at (912) 652-5448 or by email at [Sararina.M.Keisler@usace.army.mil](mailto:Sararina.M.Keisler@usace.army.mil). Additional information on the FUDS Program can be found at [www.fuds.mil](http://www.fuds.mil).

Sincerely,



Ronald J. Sturgeon, PMP  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
Commanding

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1. List of FUDS Projects
2. FUDS Notification and Safety Education Fact Sheet
3. Government Distribution List
4. Sample Letter to Landowners
5. Site-Specific Safety Guides

## **Madison County Projects**

Notification and Safety Information will be mailed to property owners within the following Madison County Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS). More information about these projects, including an interactive map, is available at [www.fuds.mil](http://www.fuds.mil).

### **Project List**

Mississippi Ord Plant, OB/OD No. 2 and Training Ranges, A04MS018502

Mississippi Ord Plant, Grenade Court Practice Range, A04MS018505

Mississippi Ord Plant, Functional Firing Area, A04MS018507

Mississippi Ord Plant, Village Fighting Area Range, A04MS018508

Mississippi Ord Plant, OB/OD Range No. 1, A04MS018509

Mississippi Ord Plant, Live Grenade Court, A04MS018510

Mississippi Ord Plant, Small Arms Ranges/Infiltration Course, A04MS018511

## **Madison County Distribution List**

The Honorable Joseph Thomas, Mississippi State Senate, District 22, PO Box 1018, Jackson, MS, 39215

The Honorable Briggs Hopson, Mississippi State Senate, District 23, PO Box 1018, Jackson, MS, 39215

The Honorable Kevin Ford, Mississippi State House of Representatives, District 54, PO Box 1018, Jackson, MS, 39215

The Honorable Edward Blackmon, Jr., Mississippi State House of Representatives, District 57, PO Box 1018, Jackson, MS, 39215

Gerald Steen, Supervisor, President, Madison County, District 3, PO Box 608, Canton, MS, 39046

Karl M. Banks, Supervisor, Vice President, Madison County, District 4, 125 W North St, Canton, MS, 39046

Greg Higginbotham, County Administrator, Madison County, PO Box 608, Canton, MS, 39046

Randy Tucker, Sheriff, Madison County, 2941 US Hwy 51, Canton, MS, 39046

Minor Norman, Fire Coordinator, Madison County, PO Box 608, Canton, MS, 39046



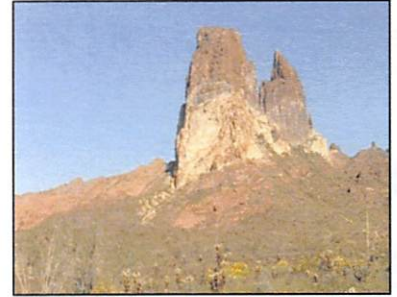
## Formerly Used Defense Sites Notification and Safety Education Initiative Interim Risk Management

### U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

#### Background

For more than 200 years, our military forces have carried out activities such as maneuvers and live-fire training and testing on various properties throughout the United States in preparation to defend our national interests. Some of these activities resulted in a possible need for an environmental response. Properties that the Department of Defense, or DOD, used for these purposes and transferred before October 1986 are known as Formerly Used Defense Sites or FUDS. The DOD is committed to responding to environmental contamination and military munitions on FUDS that resulted from the Military Services' past use and pose an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment.

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Army is the lead agent for the FUDS Program and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers executes the program on behalf of Army and the DOD. The Army is committed to responding to contamination and military munitions (e.g., unexploded ordnance) present on these properties to allow for their safe use. Active coordination and collaboration with property owners, state and federal regulators, tribal and local governments, and affected communities are critical to Army's activities. While conducting these activities, the Army Corps of Engineers ensures that its actions are protective of human health and the environment and conducted in a safe, timely, and transparent manner. It also works hard to keep interested parties informed of its activities, including offering affected communities and property owners opportunities to express their views early and continuously throughout the process.

#### Notification and Safety Education Initiative

Given the number of FUDS, it may be some time before the Army Corps of Engineers is able to address the potential hazards present. For this reason, and in the interest of public safety, the Army is implementing notification and safety education activities as part of the DOD's Interim Risk Management initiative. The Army Corps of Engineers will implement these activities at eligible FUDS every five years beginning with military munitions sites that pose the greatest potential risk. These activities are designed to help reduce impacts to human health, safety and the environment until further response activities are initiated. The goal is to educate property owners and others about how to reduce risk from hazards that may remain from the DOD's use of the property. The Army Corps of Engineers uses cost-effective methods to help safeguard affected communities, maintain transparency, and allow for early and continuous engagement with property owners, affected communities and other stakeholders.

Types of activities the Army Corps of Engineers implements at a FUDS include:

- Notifying property owners whose land is within a FUDS boundary;
- Coordinating with government officials whose constituents reside within a FUDS boundary;
- Staffing a toll-free FUDS information telephone line: 1-855-765-FUDS (3837);
- Providing 3Rs (Recognize, Retreat and Report) Explosives Safety Program ([www.denix.osd.mil/uxo](http://www.denix.osd.mil/uxo)) materials at those FUDS where military munitions may be present; and,
- Conducting public education activities tailored to specific projects.

The Army Corps of Engineers will implement these notification and safety education activities at designated FUDS at least once every five years. For more information about the FUDS Program see [www.fuds.mil](http://www.fuds.mil).

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – HEADQUARTERS

441 G Street, NW

Washington, DC 20314-1000

[www.usace.army.mil](http://www.usace.army.mil)



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
SAVANNAH DISTRICT  
100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

September 27, 2024

SUBJECT: parcelAddr

fName IName  
ownerContact  
ownerAddr  
ownerCityStateZip  
ownerCountry

Dear Property Owner:

This letter advises you that the property listed above is located on property that has been identified as being eligible under the Department of Defense's Formerly Used Defense Sites Environmental Restoration Program. The Formerly Used Defense Sites property name and project property identification number are propName, projName, and propNum.

Congress established Department of Defense's Formerly Used Defense Sites Program as part of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program to address properties formerly owned by, leased to, or otherwise possessed by the Department of Defense that may contain environmental contamination or military munitions resulting from past Department of Defense-related activities. Department of Defense has assigned the Army responsibility for the Formerly Used Defense Sites Program, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers executes this program on behalf of Army and Department of Defense. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for identifying, investigating and, when necessary, conducting an appropriate response to address such contamination or military munitions at approximately 5,400 Formerly Used Defense Sites across the country.

Available information indicates military munitions may be present on or near your property as a result of past munitions-related activities that Department of Defense conducted on this Formerly Used Defense Sites property. More specific information is enclosed. Should military munitions remain on this Formerly Used Defense Sites property, they are most likely below the ground surface; however, there is a possibility that some may have become partially or fully exposed. If present, these military munitions may pose an explosive hazard to you, your family, other property users, or the public. The Army recommends you share the enclosed information with those who use your property, including those who lease or rent your property.

Document ID: docId

To protect yourself, your family, and other property users, please review the enclosed explosive safety education materials, be aware of the potential hazards present, and follow the 3Rs of explosive safety: **Recognize** when you may have encountered a munition, and that munitions are dangerous; **Retreat**, do not approach, touch, move or disturb it, but carefully leave the area; and **Report**, call 911 and advise the police of what you saw and where you saw it. Local law enforcement will arrange for Department of Defense Explosive Ordnance Disposal or police bomb squad personnel to remove and destroy it. Learn more about munitions and explosives safety at <https://3Rs.mil>.

The Army is committed to investigating and, when determined necessary, conducting an appropriate environmental response at Formerly Used Defense Sites properties. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will coordinate its investigation with the appropriate regulators and determine whether an environmental response may be required at this Formerly Used Defense Sites property. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will seek your approval prior to conducting response activities, including an investigation, if determined necessary on your property. However, because of the large number of Formerly Used Defense Sites it may be some time before U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is able to investigate this Formerly Used Defense Sites property further to determine whether military munitions are present and a response is required.

If you have any questions about the Formerly Used Defense Sites Program or explosives safety, please contact our toll free information center, 1-855-765-FUDS (3837). Additional information on the Formerly Used Defense Sites Program can be found at [www.fuds.mil](http://www.fuds.mil).

Sincerely,



Ronald J. Sturgeon, PMP  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
Commanding

Enclosure