

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION, CORPS OF ENGINEERS 1455 MARKET STREET SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94103-1399

GOARD OF SUPERVISORS

2016 DEC 13 A 9:51

December 9, 2016

The Honorable Jim DeMartini Stanislaus County Supervisor, District 5 1010 10th St., Ste. 6500 Modesto, CA 95354

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

Dear Supervisor DeMartini:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), which executes the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) Program on behalf of the Army, will conduct notification and safety education activities within Stanislaus County, California. 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 one of 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 approximately 4,800 FUDS properties across the country.

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.

Should military munitions remain on these properties, 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 the landowner, the family of the landowner, and other property users.

It may be some time before USACE is able to fully investigate the extent of the contamination at each of the identified FUDS; therefore the site-specific safety guides include explosive safety information. The enclosed materials cover 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. For more information please visit: <a href="https://www.denix.osd.mil/uxo">www.denix.osd.mil/uxo</a>.

The Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army has briefed your congressional representatives of the Notification and Safety Education initiative. This notification letter will also be forwarded to local officials and 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 Katherine Greene, FUDS Program Manager, at (916) 557-6671 or by email at <a href="mailto:Katherine.A.Greene@usace.army.mil">Katherine.A.Greene@usace.army.mil</a>. Additional information on the FUDS Program can be found at <a href="mailto:www.fuds.mil">www.fuds.mil</a>.

Sincerely,

MONIQUE OSTERMANN FUDS Program Manager

Monique Ostermann

**Enclosures:** 

List of FUDS Projects
Government Distribution List
FUDS Notification and Safety Education Fact Sheet
Sample Letter to Residents
Site-Specific Safety Guides

## **Stanislaus County Project**

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

### **Stanislaus County**

Vernalis Dive Bomb No. 7, Baker 3 Range Complex (FUDS Project No. J09CA747401)

#### **Stanislaus County Distribution List**

The Honorable Anthony Cannella, California State Senate, District 12, 2561 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Ste. A, Ceres, CA 95307

The Honorable Adam Gray, California State Assembly, District 21, 1010 10<sup>th</sup> St., Ste. 5800, Modesto, CA 95354

The Honorable Jim DeMartini, Stanislaus County Supervisor, District 5, 1010 10<sup>th</sup> St., Ste. 6500, Modesto, CA 95354

Stan Risen, Chief Executive Officer, Stanislaus County, 1010 10<sup>th</sup> St., Modesto, CA 95354

Sheriff Adam Christianson, Stanislaus County Sheriff's Office, 250 E Hackett Rd., Modesto, CA 95358

Dale Skiles, Fire Warden/Assistant Director of Emergency Services, Stanislaus County, 1010 10<sup>th</sup> St., Modesto, CA 95354



# 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.

#### **BUILDING STRONG.**



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 or adjacent to 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) 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 <a href="https://www.fuds.mil">www.fuds.mil</a>.

441 G Street, NW Washington, DC 20314-1000 www.usace.army.mil



#### **DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**

SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION, CORPS OF ENGINEERS 1455 MARKET STREET SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94103-1399

January 27, 2017

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 4,800 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.

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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 come across a munition, and that munitions are dangerous; **Retreat**, do not approach, touch, move or disturb it, but carefully leave the area; and **Report** immediately what you saw and where you saw it to local law enforcement -- call 911. Local law enforcement will arrange for Department of Defense Explosive Ordnance Disposal or police bomb squad personnel to remove and destroy it. (See, www.denix.osd.mil/uxosafety.)

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.

Sincerely.

MONIQUE OSTERMANN FUDS Program Manager

**Enclosure** 

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