



US Army Corps of Engineers
Norfolk District



City of Hampton

News Release

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Hampton to hold public meeting on ordnance sweep of Buckroe Beach

On February 27 at 7:00 p.m. the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Norfolk Division and the City of Hampton will hold a public meeting at Jones Middle School. The meeting will address the ordnance sweep of Buckroe Beach to begin in mid-March.

This sweep is in response to the military ordnance found last summer buried in 12 to 18 inches of sand in waist-deep water. The ordnance items resemble a large bullet and are approximately 12 inches long and 3 inches in diameter.

Officials suspect the source of ordnance at Buckroe Beach was a 1990 City beach replenishment effort that inadvertently dredged offshore sand that likely contained the ordnance. The items found at Buckroe were used during World War I and II by the Army and Navy for coastal defense to take down aircraft. They are not currently used by the military.

The surface sweep will involve ordnance experts with special metal detecting equipment and should take 6 to 8 weeks to complete. The Corps will establish a safety perimeter around the investigation area. Should any Ordnance be found, it will be disposed of onsite.

Following the surface sweep, the Corps will work with the interagency team to assess long-term safety measures to prevent future ordnance at the beach.

The Corps of Engineers manages hundreds of similar investigations across the country. Corps officials stress that during these investigations the safety of the public and workers is paramount.

Those citizens living within Hampton should call 311, or 727-8311, for general information. For information about the upcoming sweep or other Corps-related information, please attend this public meeting or call 441-7701.