



For Your Information

Recent Ordnance Findings

In the summer of 2002, local metal detector hobbyists found three 76mm anti-aircraft ordnance items at Buckroe Beach buried under 12 to 18 inches of sand in waist deep water. Three MK25 flares were also found on the beach. These flares are used by the military to mark night training exercise areas conducted offshore. All items were removed safely by the Langley Air Force base explosive ordnance disposal team. The source of the 76mm rounds at Buckroe Beach is believed to be a 1990 beach replenishment that inadvertently dredged offshore sand containing the ordnance from an area previously used for military training.



76 mm anti-aircraft round
(12 inches by 3 inches)



MK25 flare (24 inches by 4 inches)

Temporarily Prohibited

- Digging on the Beach
- Metal Detectors

Safety Tips

Picking up ordnance items or flares may result in injury or contact with a hazardous substance. Only ordnance specialists can tell if an item contains explosives or hazardous substances. If you encounter a suspect item:

- Do not touch it, move it, or disturb it!
- Note the location of the item
- Call 911 to report it
- Contact a lifeguard or park ranger to secure the area

What's Being Done?

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will conduct a surface sweep along the public section of Buckroe Beach in February and March 2003. The surface sweep will involve ordnance experts with special metal detecting equipment. The Corps will establish a safety perimeter around the investigation area and will investigate the public portion of the beach grid by grid.

Ordnance is a word to describe military ammunition, components, or explosives.

History

During WWI & WWII, the Navy and the Army used 76mm anti-aircraft rounds at neighboring military bases for training exercises for coastal defense.



Ft. Wool, VA: Company D, 2nd Coast Artillery Loading 3-inch gun at Battery Hindman, c.1943

Points of Contact

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