3Rs Safety Guide

Former Quabbin Bomb Range

Massachusetts
Franklin, Hampshire and
Worcester Counties



Bomb, Rocket, and Strafing Ranges Bombing and Strafing Ranges







Introduction

The purpose of this guide is to provide information about the military training activities that took place at the former Quabbin Bomb Range and to raise awareness of the explosive hazards that may exist at the ranges associated with the property.

The former Quabbin Bomb Range was used from 1941 to 1951 for practice bombing, aerial gunnery, ground gunnery and aircraft training by the U.S. Army, U.S. Army Air Force and U.S. Navy. Several areas of the former Quabbin Bomb Range have been identified through historical research and site visits as having potential explosive hazards. These areas include the Bombing and Strafing Ranges and the Bomb, Rocket, and Strafing Ranges. The munitions known or suspected to have been used at the ranges include practice bombs with spotting charges, practice rockets, practice underwater munitions and small arms ammunition.

The former Quabbin Bomb Range is located in the town of New Salem, and in Franklin, Hampshire and Worcester counties, Massachusetts. The area is publicly and privately owned and managed as a reservoir for the Greater Boston area, and is also used for fishing and boating.

Because explosive hazards associated with military munitions from past military training may remain on the land and in the waters of the former Quabbin Reservoir, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recommends that the landowners, water body manager and visitors follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety – Recognize, Retreat and Report.



The Consolidated B-24 Liberator dropped practice bombs on the former Quabbin Bomb Range

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What types of potential hazards exist?

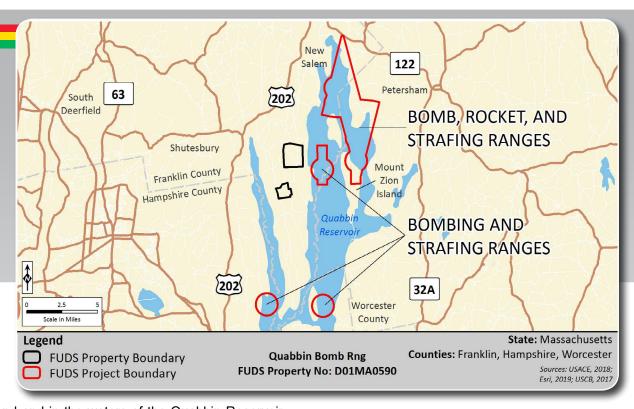
A: Military munitions, such as practice bombs with spotting charges, practice rockets, practice underwater munitions and small arms ammunition, were potentially used at the former Quabbin Bomb Range. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is unable to rule out the presence of munitions that may pose an explosive hazard.

Q: What do I do if I suspect I may have come across a military munition?

A: If you suspect you may have come across a military munition, the best way to ensure your safety is to follow the 3Rs of Explosives 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.

Q: What are the findings of the work that the government has completed?

A: Historical research and site inspections indicate that military munitions were potentially used at the ranges, and some munitions may remain on the



land and in the waters of the Quabbin Reservoir. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that further investigation is required at the former Quabbin Bomb Range.

Q: What will be done next?

A: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will make explosives safety education material that is based on the 3Rs available to the landowners, water body manager and the community. Additionally, it will coordinate with the landowners and water body manager as it plans required response activities.

Q: Where can I get more information?

A: For more information, call the Formerly Used Defense Sites Information Center toll-free number 1-855-765-FUDS (3837). Additional information can be found by searching on the property name, Quabbin Bomb Rng, in the Geographic Information System tool on the Formerly Used Defense Sites website at www.fuds.mil.

Follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety



when you may have encountered a munition and that munitions are dangerous.



do not approach, touch, move or disturb it, but carefully leave the area.



call 911 and advise the police of what you saw and where you saw it.



Practice bomb debris at the former Quabbin Bomb Range

Former Quabbin Bomb Range

For More Information



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for identifying, investigating and, when necessary, conducting an appropriate response to address

contamination and military munitions resulting from past Department of Defense activities at Formerly Used Defense Sites, also referred to as FUDS.

For information about the former Quabbin Bomb Range, contact the FUDS Information Center by calling the toll-free number 1-855-765-FUDS (3837). For general information about the FUDS Program, visit www.fuds.mil.

Follow the 3Rs of Explosives Safety



Visit the U.S. Army's Explosives Safety Education website: 3Rs.mil