



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
New York District

Corps Facts

Subject: Munitions Response Site Prioritization Protocol

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The Munitions Response Site Prioritization Protocol was developed by the Department of Defense in response to direction from Congress to establish a method for assigning a relative priority to defense sites containing military munitions for response actions. The protocol is applicable to sites known or suspected to contain unexploded ordnance (UXO), discarded military munitions (DMM), or munitions constituents (MC). The sites may be located at active installations, at Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) installations, or at Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS).

The Protocol was established in collaboration with the States, American Indian and Alaskan Native Tribes, and Federal Agencies. The Department of Defense established a workgroup who interviewed persons familiar with or interested in Munitions Response Site prioritization. This process determined the factors to be considered in the prioritization process.

Overview of the Protocol

The Munitions Response Site Prioritization Protocol was developed in three modules to evaluate the unique hazards posed by UXO, DMM, and MC.

- The Explosive Hazard Evaluation (EHE) Module provides a single approach for the evaluation of explosive hazards. This module is used when there is a known or suspected presence of an explosive hazard. The module considers data elements relative to three factors – explosive hazard, accessibility, and receptors.
- The Chemical Warfare Materiel Hazard Evaluation (CHE) Module provides an evaluation of the chemical hazards associated with the physiological effects of chemical warfare materiel. The CHE module is used only when chemical warfare materiel is known or suspected of being present at a Munitions Response Site. This module considers data elements related to three factors – chemical warfare materiel hazard, accessibility, and receptors.
- The Health Hazard Evaluation (HHE) Module provides an approach to evaluating the relative risk to human health and the environment posed by MC. The HHE Module is used for evaluating the potential hazards posed by MC and other non-munitions-related incidental contaminants. The module considers three factors – contamination hazard factor, receptors, and migration pathway.

Each of the modules is scored from 38 to 100 and is assigned a rating from G (lowest) to A (highest). Besides the ratings, there are three other possible outcomes of scoring each module – evaluation pending (insufficient data are available to conduct the scoring), no longer required (a response has already been conducted and completed), or no known or suspected hazard.

Based on the results of scoring the three modules, each Munitions Response Site is assigned to one of eight priorities, where Priority 1 indicates the highest potential hazard and Priority 8 indicates the lowest potential hazard. The priorities do not have specific assigned actions, e.g., Priority 1 does not indicate the need for an immediate removal action, and Priority 8 does not indicate that no action is required.

Sequencing of Munitions Response Sites

The sequencing of Munitions Response Sites for actions is based primarily on the priorities determined using the protocol. In general, a Munitions Response Site that presents a greater relative risk to human health, safety, or the environment will be addressed before a site that presents a lesser relative risk. However, Congress indicated to the Department of Defense that factors such as local land reuse needs, community interest, funding and technology availability, and others may influence the sequencing of actions.

Who to Call for More Information

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wants the public to be a part of study efforts as we work hard to ensure the public's safety, the safety of on-site workers, and to protect the environment. For more information about the Munitions Response Site Prioritization Protocol, contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New York District Project Manager, Greg Goepfert at 917-790-8235 or visit the Formerly Used Defense Sites Program website at: <http://hq.environmental.usace.army.mil/programs/fuds/fuds.html> or visit the Munitions Response Site Prioritization Protocol site at: <https://www.denix.osd.mil/denix/Public/News/OSD/MMRP/mmrp.html>.