

Ordnance And Explosives Risk Assessment

Ordnance and Explosives Program

Former Fort Ord

July 2001

What is Risk?

The National Research Council (NRC) has defined risk to be “the probability that a substance or situation will produce harm under specified conditions.” It is a combination of two factors: the likelihood that an event will occur and the consequence from that event.



The special risks at military ranges involve the explosives safety risks associated with physical forces generated by detonating ordnance and explosives. Explosives safety risks exist because people or animals can come into contact with, and disturb, ordnance and explosives present on former ranges or training areas. If ordnance and/or explosives detonate when it is encountered, one of three outcomes can occur: no injury, injury or death.

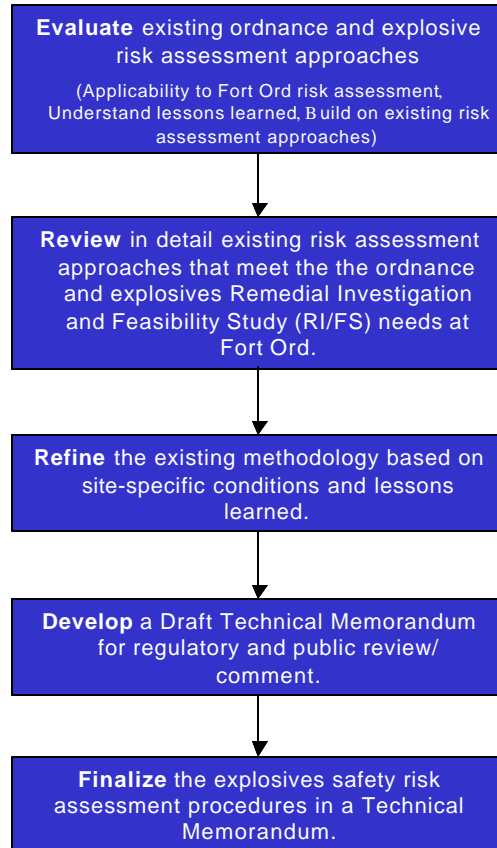
What is Risk Assessment?

The NRC defined risk assessment as “an organized process used to describe and estimate risk.” The EPA has developed a process for estimating human health and ecological risks from chemicals under its Superfund Program. However, there are no widespread tools for estimating and describing safety risk from unexploded ordnance.

To uniformly address the concerns posed by ordnance and explosives at Fort Ord, the Army, EPA, and DTSC are working together to develop a risk assessment tool for Fort Ord.

How is the Risk Assessment Approach Being Developed at Fort Ord?

The Fort Ord Project Team has developed a Risk Assessment Focus Group who is assigned with the task of developing a Risk Assessment approach. The Focus Group is comprised of Army, DTSC and EPA representatives, as well as contractor support personnel. This group will draft a risk assessment approach that will provide a description and estimate the explosives safety risk on Fort Ord's former training ranges. In order to develop this approach the Fort Ord Project Team will conduct the following tasks:



What has been done so far?

To date, the Project Team has agreed the Fort Ord risk assessment approach should:

- be developed with public involvement
- be defensible and flexible, accommodating various site conditions
- be qualitative and straight-forward
- incorporate lessons learned from existing risk assessment tools
- focus on ordnance and explosives risks, and
- assist in communication of ordnance and explosives risk to the public

How Can YOU be Involved?

The Fort Ord Project Team will be seeking stakeholder input throughout the process. In addition, the Project Team will periodically be providing information to the public concerning the explosives safety risk assessment in general, as well as the steps Fort Ord is taking to develop a risk assessment approach. The public needs to both understand the issues and be afforded the opportunity to provide input to help influence the process.



As of July 2001, the Project Team is still in the early stages of structuring the risk assessment approach and is seeking feedback on several items, including:

- ***Which elements of risk are important to the public?***
- ***What are public concerns about the risk assessment?***

For more information, please contact:

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