

Impact Area Groundwater Study Program

SANDWICH NOTIFICATION PROTOCOL

June 2002

Report to the Community

Fact Sheet 02-01



The figure above represents the Sandwich Notification Protocol Safety Zones for Town and School

This document provides information on the National Guard Bureau *Impact Area Groundwater Study Program's* agreement with the Town of Sandwich regarding notifications of potential discoveries of unexploded ordnance near the MMR/Sandwich border.

The National Guard Bureau established the Impact Area Groundwater Study Program in 1997 to assess and clean up the impacts of certain types of historic training activities conducted at the Camp Edwards' Impact Area and training ranges. Camp Edwards is part of the Massachusetts Military Reservation located on Cape Cod. The 15,000 acres of Camp Edwards lie above the Upper Cape's primary drinking water resource, called the Sagamore Lens. Protection of this aquifer is the primary goal of the Guard Bureau's program. Work is being conducted with oversight from the Environment Protection Agency and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

Sharing a border: MMR and the Town of Sandwich

The town of Sandwich shares a border with Camp Edwards at the Massachusetts Military Reservation on Cape Cod. This area is collectively known as the Southeast Corner of the Ranges. Three of these ranges located within Camp Edwards and referred to as J-1, J-2 and J-3, were leased to defense contractors for weapons testing in the seventies and eighties; a fourth range, known as the L-range, was used by the military for training.

As a result of investigations in the Southeast Corner, Groundwater Study personnel began to identify and uncover significant numbers of military munitions, most of which were inert and were buried approximately 3 feet below ground surface.

Unexploded ordnance (UXO) is any military munition that has been prepared for action and fired, yet remain unexploded and constitutes a hazard.

Military Munitions are all ammunition products and components produced or used by the Department of Defense.

Sandwich Notification Protocol

Because of the potential dangers posed by UXO, Sandwich citizens and officials became concerned in 2000 about the discovery and disposition of UXO close to their border. The Forestdale School is approximately 700 feet from the border and the Grand Oaks neighborhood and the neighborhood encompassed by Greenville Road, run alongside the fenceline with MMR. When a particularly large military munitions burial site was found and moved, Sandwich officials called in National Guard Bureau representatives and requested a plan that would ensure timely notification to officials and other appropriate parties. Together with the EPA and DEP, the Guard devised a strategy that would keep the town informed of actions involving military munitions close to its border and ensures safety for Sandwich citizens.

After several meetings, an agreement was reached that requires the Guard's Groundwater Study Program to notify officials and/or school personnel when the fragmentation radius of a detected military munition falls within a "buffer zone" extending 500 feet from the Sandwich border into Camp Edwards. Called the "**Sandwich Notification Protocol**", this agreement has been strictly followed by the Groundwater Study Program since October of 2000.

If field technicians detect military munitions, they map out a potential "fragmentation radius," which conservatively estimates the furthest an exploded item may project. If the estimated radius falls within the agreed upon buffer zone, then the notification protocol is activated. It may require notifying the neighborhood, the school or both.

Program personnel are responsible for notifying the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, the Forestdale School Principal (if the discovery indicates), and the Town Administrator. If school notification is indicated, notices are prepared for all students to bring home that explain the nature of the discovery. There are no detonations or moving of munitions during school hours.



When an open detonation, called a "Blow-in-Place" event, is necessary and triggers the Sandwich Notification Protocol, extensive engineering controls are implemented to ensure all blast fragments are contained beneath the protective barrier.

Technicians managing the event use controls including 2 feet of sandbagging, placement of plywood sheathing and steel plate buffers.

Post blast, soil is collected and tested for any explosive residue. Contaminated soils, if any, are removed and properly disposed of.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

GROUNDWATER STUDY PROGRAM
1803 WEST OUTER ROAD
CAMP EDWARDS, MA 02542
PHONE: 1-508-968-5822
FAX: 1-508-968-5286
www.groundwaterprogram.org

Copies of the Sandwich Notification Protocol are available at Sandwich Town Hall and Upper Cape Libraries, or by calling the Groundwater Study Office.

A public meeting, called the Impact Area Review Team, is held the last Tuesday of each month, bringing together regulatory agencies, citizen representatives, technical experts, and others to update the community on the groundwater cleanup program. The public is welcome to attend.

Contacts:

Pamela Richardson, Impact Area
Groundwater Study Program, 1-508-968-5630

Jim Murphy, U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency: 1-888-372-7341 ext. 81028

Ellie Grillo, MADEP Community
Involvement: 1-508-946-2866