



Focus on **Investigation at Jackson Park Elementary**

from Ecology's Toxic Cleanup Program

Army and Navy plan summer 2004 investigation of discarded ammunition at Jackson Park Elementary School

Introduction

The Army Corps of Engineers plan's to look for old discarded ammunition at the Jackson Park Elementary School during the school's summer break, June through August 2004. The investigation is being conducted because, between November 2003 and February 2004, the Navy found 320 pieces of old ammunition (mostly unfired 45-caliber rounds) at an adjacent Naval (Jackson Park) housing area.

History

Prior to its current residential use, Jackson Park Housing Complex was known as Naval Ammunition Depot Puget Sound. It was used for ammunition storage, handling, transfer and demilitarization from 1908 to 1959. The U.S. Navy owns the largest of four parcels of the formerly used defense site. The other three are owned by the City of Bremerton, Bremerton School District and private owners.

Available Information

The Seattle district of the Army Corps of Engineers received \$600,000 in funding to investigate the possibility of an unexploded-ordnance hazard at the Jackson Park Elementary School. This decision was based on the Navy's recent discovery of 320 items of live ordnance (small arms, propellants, high explosive projectiles and projectile fuses) during an ongoing cleanup on an adjacent piece of property. The site investigation will take place during the school's 2004 summer break.

The Army Corps of Engineers and the State Department of Ecology's concerns for public safety have dictated that this will need to be an expedited process. Based on the accumulated evidence, we feel that children are possibly in at risk of coming into contact with ordnance or munitions-related materials. Based on current information the following facts are currently relevant to this site investigation.

- No ammunition has been reported found at the school.
- One hundred percent of the ground's surface was filled and graded prior to the schools construction.
- With 40 percent of the land covered by structures, the school is used by the public often.
- There may be enough funding left over to extend the investigation to adjacent properties.



- Although 320 pieces of ammunition have been recovered in the adjacent Navy property (mainly 45-caliber rounds) no fired or armed ordnance, which is much more hazardous, has ever been found at this or any of the adjoining properties.
- A public meeting was being scheduled for the week of May 10, by the Army Corps of Engineers. Greg Johnson and Ben Forson represented Ecology.

Summary of school-investigation work plan

- Up to four-inches in diameter of brush removal to expose ground surface.
- Surface search with metal detectors, to ensure surface metal is removed.
- Use of geophysical metal detectors to locate buried items.
- Excavation of a certain percentage of the metal contacts.
- Final removal action and institutional controls (to be determined).
- Contractor must complete the field work during the 2004 summer break (six to eight weeks).

Contacts

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