Danielle Pettit-Majewski, Director

Public Notice

Johnson County Public Health is aware of the planned detonation taking place at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant in Middletown, Iowa.

Per the United States Army:

> On Nov. 20 at approximately noon, the United States Army will detonate degraded lead azide (Pb(N3)2) at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant located at 17571 DMC Highway 79, Middletown, IA 52638. This detonation has been planned in coordination with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. In-place detonation by Explosive Ordnance Disposal experts is the safest way to eliminate the explosive safety hazard. The degraded lead azide has been deemed unsafe for relocation.

More information is available at: https://www.army.mil/asc#org-iowa-army-ammunition-plant

As of November 18, Johnson County, Iowa is not directly in the path. We are monitoring the situation and encouraging residents to do the same. The United States Army has noted they will provide updates 48 hours in advance of the planned detonation and 6 hours in advance of the detonation and every hour after until the detonation. After the detonation, the United States Army will issue a final estimate of the impacted area.

Residents may contact the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant and Environmental Protection Agency for additional questions or concerns.

Iowa Army Ammunition Plant

- usarmy.ria.asc.list.pa@army.mil

- 520-693-1317
- https://www.army.mil/asc#org-iowa-army-ammunition-plant

Environmental Protection Agency

The controlled detonation is authorized under EPA's RCRA authority. Below are two EPA contacts listed on the recent RCRA permit public notice:

- Patricia Murrow, EPA project manager: 913-551-7627
- Patrick Hurley, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator: 913-551-7202

Individual Actions for Lead and Air Quality Concerns:

- Monitor Air Quality www.airnow.gov
- Avoid going to the impacted area until the United States Army issues its final estimate of impact
- If you are inside of the affected areas, avoid outdoor air by staying indoors
- Keep windows and doors closed
- If it is safe to do so, set heating and cooling systems to "recirculate" to minimize outdoor air exposure and maximize indoor air filtration until the plume passes by your community
    - Plan to replace your air filter after the air exposure period
- Avoid unnecessary travel through impacted areas
- After the Army determines the air exposure period has ended, consider cleaning indoor and outdoor surfaces such as play surfaces for children and windowsills
- If your car was parked outside, consider washing your car at a car wash to minimize your contact with potentially exposed surfaces
- If other smaller items are outside, consider washing them prior to bringing them inside your home or having children interact with them
- Learn more about actions you can take to protect you and your family from potential exposures to lead at https://www.epa.gov/lead/actions-reduce-potential-lead-exposure and https://www.epa.gov/lead/learn-about-lead

Resources for Lead Exposure

Disclaimer: These resources provide general information about lead exposure and prevention, and they are not a substitute for incident-specific guidance from emergency management officials and public health agencies.

- **U.S. EPA – Basic Information about Lead Air Pollution**
- **U.S. EPA – Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water**
- **U.S. CDC – Lead Exposure Symptoms and Complications**
- **U.S. CDC – Testing for Lead Poisoning in Children**
- **U.S. CDC – Top 8 Ways to Protect Children from Lead Exposure**
- **U.S. CDC – Symptoms of Lead Exposure**
- **Iowa HHS – Lead Poisoning Information**
- **Iowa HHS – Blood Lead Testing – Parents & Guardians**
- **Contact your county public health department** for questions regarding blood lead testing and other contamination concerns.

Resources for Incident Information

- **Sign up for Alert Iowa** to receive emergency alerts when issued by your county emergency management agency (participating counties only).
- Follow your county emergency management agency on social media platforms to get the most up-to-date information.
- Review the **U.S. Army press release** regarding the detonation to determine response procedures and identify your risk level based on expected exposure locations.
- Review the **EPA's public notice** regarding the Army's planned detonation.

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