

FAQ

Themenfeld Kampfmittel

Sprache Englisch

Erstellt von:

Hansestadt Lüneburg

Bereich 32 – Ordnung und Verkehr – Gefahrenabwehr

Schießgrabenstraße 7

21553 Lüneburg

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General Information on Explosive Ordnance

What are explosive ordnances?

Explosive ordnances include a wide range of military ammunition types including, but not limited to, bombs, warheads, guided missiles, ballistic missiles, as well as artillery, mortar, and small arms ammunition.

What should I do if I find explosive ordnance?

Finding explosive ordnance poses an acute risk to life! It is of utmost importance that you do not touch the objects found and leave them exactly where they lie. Maintain a safe distance from the items and immediately initiate the following information chain.

You are required to immediately notify the following authorities:

- Police Inspection Lüneburg/Lüchow-Dannenberg/Uelzen Phone: 04131 8306-0 or 110
- Hanseatic City of Lüneburg, Department of Public Order and Traffic – Hazard Prevention Authority Phone: (04131) 309-3300
- Explosive Ordnance Disposal Service Lower Saxony Phone: (0511) 30245-500 (available 24/7)

For faster identification of a suspicious explosive object and assessment of the hazard potential, it is recommended to send digital photos created without physical contact to kbd-einsatz@lgl.niedersachsen.de.

What are duds?

Duds are explosive ordnances that were made sharp, ready to detonate, dropped, and due to a malfunction or intentionally or for other reasons did not explode.

What are suspected dud points?

Suspected dud points are areas identified by expert analysts and experts as potential locations for unexploded ordnance based on historical analyses and reconstructions. Identifying a suspected dud point implies that there might be a dud in the affected area. A final clarification of whether a dud is actually present is made exclusively through a thorough technical investigation of the suspicion area. These investigations are crucial for public safety and are intended to prepare necessary measures for ordnance disposal if the suspicion is confirmed.

When is exploration conducted and who decides that?

Property owners and developers are responsible for ensuring that their property poses no danger. They must plan protective measures such as explorations into a construction project and have them carried out properly by specialist companies. Explorations are necessary for properties on which there have been acts of war such as ground combat, air and tank defense, or bombardments. This also applies if the property was or still is on military premises or if chance finds occur during construction activity. Additionally, there are construction regulations that require exploration.

The Hanseatic City of Lüneburg, as the responsible hazard prevention authority, is legally obliged to take all necessary measures to ensure public safety and order. This includes explorations for hazard assessment (e.g., ordnance explorations) as soon as there are indications that a dud exists. The ordering of barricades and, if necessary, the initiation of evacuations also fall within the jurisdiction of the City of Lüneburg.

How is an ordnance exploration carried out?

There are three types of ordnance exploration:

- Surface exploration
- Borehole exploration
- Construction-accompanying exploration

Surface exploration involves the use of magnetometers, mine detectors, electromagnetic search coils, or geo- and ground radar to detect deviations that could indicate objects in the ground.

Borehole exploration can be carried out using various methods such as screw drilling, core drilling, or oblique and horizontal drilling. Drilling is usually done down to six meters below the ground level of 1945. The results of the measurements are evaluated using specialized software.

In construction-accompanying exploration, certified individuals accompany the deep construction works. Where possible, the excavation is explored layer by layer. Additionally, intermediate explorations and base explorations are conducted.

What happens before the ordnance exploration begins?

Before the work begins, the property owner is informed and educated about the process. The site is then explored for duds using technical equipment, and research is conducted based on wartime aerial photographs from American and British forces and other archival materials to determine potential locations of unexploded ordnances.

What legal basis justifies the conduct of exploration measures?

The authority to conduct exploration measures is derived from § 11 of the Lower Saxony Police and Public Order Act (NPOG). Additionally, the circular "Explosive Ordnance Disposal" from the Lower Saxony Ministry of Environment, Energy, Construction and Climate Protection dated December 8, 1995, states that explosive ordnance disposal is part of public danger prevention and falls under the responsibility of the respective municipality. The municipality is therefore obligated to conduct hazard prevention investigations when indications suggest that exploration for explosive ordnance is necessary.

Who bears the costs of the ordnance exploration?

If explosive ordnance is found on the property, the owner of the property bears the costs, as every person is responsible for ensuring that their property does not pose a danger. If no explosive ordnance is found, the costs remain with the authority that initiated the hazard investigation.

On what legal basis is the ordnance exploration conducted?

The Hanseatic City of Lüneburg, as the responsible hazard prevention authority, is legally obliged to take all necessary measures to ensure public safety and order. This includes explorations for hazard assessment (e.g., ordnance explorations) as soon as there are indications that a dud exists. The ordering of barricades and, if necessary, the initiation of evacuations also fall within the jurisdiction of the City of Lüneburg.

Why do I have to bear the costs of ordnance exploration and evacuation?

When explosive ordnance contamination is detected on a property, it poses a concrete danger. The property owners are responsible according to § 7 of the Lower Saxony Police and Public Order Act (NPOG). The associated costs, such as those for ordnance exploration

and evacuation, are imposed on the responsible property owners according to § 66 of the Lower Saxony Police and Public Order Act (NPOG).

The costs for the recovery, defusing, detonation, transport, and disposal of the explosive ordnance are borne by the state of Lower Saxony for reasons of equity.

Is it possible to refuse the exploration?

Refusal of exploration measures is not possible. The legal framework authorizes the Hanseatic City of Lüneburg to carry out the hazard investigation. The use of technical exploration methods, such as the use of magnetic field probes in boreholes, represents the current state of technology and is considered both appropriate and adequate for investigating suspected points.

What costs should I expect?

The costs for a hazard investigation measure and the removal of a dud can vary depending on the circumstances. This results from a variety of factors, including the size of the area to be explored, the nature of the terrain, the necessary depth of the exploration, and the effort required for any safety measures (e.g., evacuation). The exact costs cannot therefore be stated in advance. The costs for defusing, possibly detonating, recovering, and disposing of a dud by the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Service of Lower Saxony are borne by the state of Lower Saxony.

Who can I contact if I have further questions about ordnance exploration?

The responsible hazard prevention authority is the Hanseatic City of Lüneburg, which can provide you with information.

Contact:

- Hanseatic City of Lüneburg

Department of Public Order and Traffic – Hazard Prevention Authority

Phone number: (04131) 309-4400

Email: ordnungsamt@stadt.lueneburg.de

What should I do if the specialist company discovers explosive ordnance on my property?

It is not necessary for you to take immediate action. The commissioned specialist company has detailed instructions for such situations and will initiate the necessary information processes for you. The responsible hazard prevention authority, in coordination with the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Service, will initiate all necessary steps and provide you with comprehensive information about further procedures.

What does the safety radius mean and who determines it?

The safety radius in the context of explosive ordnance defusal refers to the defined perimeter around the location of a dud or other explosive ordnance within which specific safety measures must be implemented to protect the population and minimize potential damage from an explosion.

This radius is determined to ensure a safe zone around the operation site while specialists from the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Service prepare and carry out the defusal or controlled detonation of the explosive ordnance.

Who exactly must be evacuated in the specific case?

In the event of a necessary evacuation due to the defusal or controlled detonation of explosive ordnance, all persons within the defined safety radius are required to leave the area immediately. This includes the residents of apartments and houses in the affected area as well as persons in public spaces. In addition, all roads and access paths into the area of the safety radius are closed for the duration of the operation, which also excludes the operation of buses and trains within this zone.

What can I do if I need to be evacuated and am physically impaired or bedridden?

Do not worry, help will be provided. The police or other aid organizations, such as the fire department or emergency services, will assist you with the evacuation. If you do not have the option to stay elsewhere during the defusal measures, the Hanseatic City of Lüneburg will provide accommodation in a specially set up emergency shelter if necessary.

Where will I be accommodated for the duration of the defusal measures?

If you do not have the option to stay elsewhere during the defusal measures, the Hanseatic City of Lüneburg will provide accommodation in a specially set up emergency shelter.

What happens if my child's school or daycare center is affected?

All facilities will be informed about the evacuation. They will then inform the parents about further procedures accordingly.

How long will I have to leave my apartment or house?

How long the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Service will need for the operation cannot be stated in advance. The defusal or detonation must be carefully planned and precisely carried out. Although the respective bomb disposal expert and his team are experts in their field, the local conditions make each defusal or detonation unique. Here, precise work takes precedence over speed. It is all the more important that the instructions of the public authorities are followed so that the work can begin as early as possible.

Can I take my pet with me in the event of an evacuation?

Yes, it is allowed to take your pets with you in the event of an evacuation. It is of great importance that you have suitable transportation means, such as containers or leashes, ready to ensure the transport and stay of your pet in an emergency shelter. Do not forget to take food if necessary.

In the event that you cannot find alternative accommodation for yourself and your pet, the Hanseatic City of Lüneburg will make arrangements to ensure the accommodation of your pet during the evacuation.

What should I take with me in the event of an evacuation?

Affected residents should definitely take important personal documents such as:

- Identity card
- Driver's license
- Bank card/cash
- Medical documents or important medications if necessary

Special food and, in the case of families with small children, diapering utensils and baby food should also be taken along. Useful items also include books, games, or electronic entertainment devices, as the stay may last several hours.

What should I do if I am dependent on an oxygen device and need to be evacuated?

Do not worry, help will be provided. If you rely on an oxygen device and an evacuation becomes necessary, it is essential that you carry your portable oxygen device and all available oxygen cylinders with you. Emergency personnel from the police as well as aid organizations including the fire department and emergency services are ready to assist you during the evacuation. These organizations are prepared to provide support and can provide additional oxygen if needed. Your safety and the continuity of your medical care will be ensured.

Should houses and apartments be locked?

Residents who must leave their apartments and houses due to an evacuation are asked to close all shutters before departure to minimize the risk of damage from a possible explosion. It is also required that the doors of the apartments and houses be securely locked. The key should remain with the respective person for security.

Am I insured in the event of damage?

For questions about insurance coverage, you must contact your insurance companies. Moving vehicles serves primarily to minimize damage in the event of an event, but also to ensure that emergency routes are kept clear.