

Federal Facilities where RDX is a Contaminant of Concern



RDX is a secondary explosive that can be released to the environment through spills, firing of munitions, open incineration and detonation of ordnance, leaching from inadequately sealed impoundments and demilitarization of munitions.

Until recently, the EPA classified RDX as a probable human carcinogen. However, in response to pressure from the military, the EPA may re-categorize its cancer potential resulting in less stringent regulation and cleanup of RDX. The proposed change is also expected to undermine claims by veterans that link RDX exposure to liver and lung cancer.

RDX is not significantly retained by most soils and can readily migrate to groundwater. Potential exposure to RDX may occur by dermal contact or inhalation exposure. Ingestion of contaminated drinking water or agricultural crops irrigated with contaminated water is also significant route of exposure, according to federal health officials.

- Aberdeen Proving Ground (MD)
- Bangor Naval Submarine Base & Ordnance Disposal (U.S. Navy) (WA)
- Barksdale Explosives Plant, Former (WI)
- Blue Grass Army Depot (KY)
- Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge (TX)
- Camp Bonneville (WA)
- Cornhusker Army Ammunition Plant (NE)
- Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge (IL)
- Culebra Islands (PR)
- Dugway Proving Ground (UT)
- Eglin Air Force Base (FL)
- Fort Detrick (MD)
- Fort Devens – Sudbury Training Annex, Former (MA)
- Fort McClellan (AL)
- Fort Wingate Depot Activity (NM)
- Hawthorne Army Depot (NV)
- Holston Army Ammunition Plant (TN)
- Iowa Army Ammunition Plant (IA)
- Isla de Vieques Bombing Range (Puerto Rico)
- Joliet Army Ammunition Plant (IL)
- Kansas Army Ammunition Plant (KS)
- Lake City Army Ammunition Plant (MO)
- Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant (TX)
- Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant (TX)
- Los Alamos National Laboratory (NM)
- Louisiana Army Ammunition Plant /Camp Minden (LA)
- Marianas Land Based Operational Range Complex (Guam & Northern Mariana Islands)
- Marpi Point (Saipan)
- Massachusetts Military Reservation (MA)
- Milan Army Ammunition Plant (TN)
- Nansemond Ordnance Depot, Former (VA)
- Naval Station, Norfolk St. Juliens Creek (VA)
- Naval Weapons Station Yorktown (VA)
- Newport Chemical Depot (TN)
- National Training Center Fort Irwin (CA)
- Pantex Plant/National Nuclear Security Administration (TX)
- Picatinny Arsenal (NJ)
- Port Hadlock Detachment, U.S. Navy (WA)
- Presidio of Monterey (CA)
- Pueblo Chemical Depot (CO)
- Radford Army Ammunition Plant (VA)
- Ravenna Army Ammunition Plant (OR)
- Redstone Arsenal (AL)
- Savannah Depot Activity (IL)
- Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant (KS)
- Tooele Army Depot (UT)
- Umatilla Army Depot (OR)
- U.S. Navy Port Hadlock (WA)

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Notations: Some of the above facilities have multiple RDX-contaminated sites, and some sites have been remediated.

Sources: The U.S. Center for Disease Control admits that the number of sites that have been evaluated for RDX is not known (2012). The above list was compiled using available government sources including: U.S. ATSDR online database for contaminant mapping, site-specific Public Health Assessments, U.S. EPA online sources, and reports by the National Research Council. The list of facilities is intended to provide examples and should not be considered a comprehensive list of all known or possible RDX-contaminated sites. Since the release of RDX is not required to be reported under SARA Section 313 (Superfund), there are no data on RDX in the Toxics Release Inventory.

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