



## MUNITIONS & EXPLOSIVES OF CONCERN (MEC)

The NASA Wallops Flight Facility is a quiet and tranquil place compared to its early days when the original owners took great pride in blowing the day-lights out of it! The U.S. Navy and Naval Aviation Ordnance Test Station (NAOTS) conducted research and development for weapons training both on the Main Base and on Wallops Island that left some unwanted items behind. These items include practice bombs, debris from spent munitions, and unexploded munitions or duds. All of these items are collectively referred to as Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC). We have all witnessed fireworks debris and the occasional “dud” during Fourth of July celebrations. The problem with military debris and “duds” is that they may still contain real, live explosives. This is a much larger concern than the typical firecracker.



To make matters worse, these MEC have been on the ground, in the ground, or in the water for 50 to 70 years and don't look like their original color or shape. The Navy had numerous documented areas where munitions were handled or used (ammunition storage areas, target areas and gun ranges). MEC have also been found in unlikely locations. MEC have been excavated as fill dirt and moved during construction activities, or moved with the sands due to tides and storms.

NASA has found MEC on the island in several locations including areas near Building X-30, Z-100 Camera Stand, and numerous areas on northern Wallops Island. In addition, MEC has been detected near the Visitor Center and Boat Basin, and on the Main Base (near N-222 and B-30).

### **What to do if you encounter MEC: 3 R's RECOGNIZE, RETREAT, REPORT**

If you see (**RECOGNIZE**) any item that appears to be MEC do the following:  
**Don't touch anything.**

Leave (**RETREAT**) the immediate area.

Call 911 (**REPORT**) from any Wallops phone, or 757-824-1333 from an outside phone or cell phone, and tell the dispatcher where the item is located.

Wait for Security to arrive and secure the area.

Do not cross any security tape or enter any MEC identified area.



**“Safety Awareness Saves Lives”**





## Invading our Wetlands: Nutria!

Report Sightings of This Invasive Species

Before It Destroys Our Wetlands!



Nutria (*Myocastor coypus*) are large aquatic rodents native to South America. They feed mostly on aquatic vegetation, but will leave the water to feed on land as well. Nutria were brought to North America around 1900 as a new source of fur. Nutria arrived on the DelMarVa Peninsula in the early 1940s in the vicinity of Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Dorchester County, Maryland. In Accomack county, two nutria were captured by a trapper in Saxis Wildlife Management Area in 1998. Another was found

on Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge in 2004. Nutria tracks were reported in 2012 in Pitts Creek.

When nutria become established in an area, they can cause tremendous damage to natural ecosystems by eating aquatic vegetation. Removal of this vegetation destroys food and habitat for native wildlife and can result in permanent damage to the wetlands, which are extremely important to the health of the bay and its fish and shellfish populations. Nutria also damage private property by gnawing landscaping plants and by burrowing into levees and undermining waterfront bulkheads. They also impact agriculture by consuming produce, especially strawberries, melons, and pumpkins. Female nutria can bear young by six months of age and can produce up to 30 young in their lifetimes, so they can infest new habitats very quickly.

### Distinguishing Characteristics



- ◆ Large blocky head and orange teeth
- ◆ Body length up to 24 inches
- ◆ Body weight up to 20 pounds
- ◆ Round, slightly haired, 15 inch long tail
- ◆ Hump-back posture when walking
- ◆ Distinctive banana-shaped droppings up to 2 inches long



Call 877-463-6497 to Report Sightings



For more information contact  
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