



8th Army Explosives Safety Gram

ARMY SAFE IS ARMY STRONG



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Did you know “Training” requires actual Training?

Nearly 3 out of 4 explosives accidents occur during training activities. Human error is reported as the main cause of over 80% of these accidents. What are the most frequently reported causes of this human error?

- Failure to follow properly established procedures.
- Failure to maintain situational awareness.
- Failure to implement mitigating measures identified in unit risk analyses.
- Lack of adequate training in handling/employing the munitions involved.
- Complacency on the part of leadership and/or the individual service member.

Generally these human errors take place as a result of a breakdown in the quality of leadership provided. According to FM 22-100, *Leadership is **influencing** people—by providing purpose, direction, and motivation—while **operating** to accomplish the mission and improving the organization.*

The application of sound composite risk management (CRM) principles in combat and training operations has proven to reduce preventable accidents. Troops armed with basic knowledge of explosives safety and risk management principles will accomplish the mission and reduce the probability of a catastrophic explosives accident. What do we know about the basic knowledge of explosives safety? What does it require? What is the worst thing that can happen?

Here are some training topics for understanding what basic Explosives Safety requires:

Commanders, let's say your unit is scheduled to conduct a live fire exercise and will occupy the Ammunition Holding Area (AHA) to store your munitions to use at the range. Did you know before your troops can be assigned to transport, handle munitions, or occupy the AHA, they have to be trained in explosives safety first? In addition, range control will not issue keys to the AHA NCO (E6 or above) until he/she show proof of completing the AMMO 45-DL Introduction to Ammunition or suitable training as determined by the 8A Safety Office.

IAW DA PAM 385-64, Explosives Safety Standards, Army requires that all personnel who conduct ammunition and explosives (A&E) related activities complete explosives safety training appropriate for the activities that they perform. Following training subjects are required:

- Explosives Transportation requirements
- Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Proper A&E handling requirements
- Proper A&E storage and management requirements

Mandatory and recommended training courses are listed at Table 1-1, DA PAM 385-64. They can be obtained through Distance Learning (Online) at Defense Ammunition Center- (<http://ammo.okstate.edu>).

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Training presents many safety challenges. Being prepared with proper ammunition and explosives safety trainings can help you stay safe and safely accomplish the mission!