SAFETY ALERT: EXPLODING TARGETS

WHAT IS A BINARY EXPLODING TARGET?

Exploding targets are used primarily for long range firearms practice. They are typically sold as a kit of two binary compounds that, when mixed together, will explode when hit by a projectile with sufficient velocity. The components are usually an oxidizer such as ammonium nitrate and a fuel such as aluminum or another metal-based powder. **Most binary exploding targets come in a clear jar with a white or black plastic cap.**

WHAT IS THE DANGER TO DNR STAFF?

Danger is minimal, but because the mixed chemicals become an explosive composition, caution should be exercised. The practice of using exploding targets is gaining popularity across the U.S., and recreational shooting enthusiasts are using DNR managed lands more often for target shooting.

DNR staff should be mindful that not all exploding targets are manufactured by big-name companies. Individuals who illegally mix homemade components to create explosive devices not only endanger themselves,, but create a hazard to field staff who may find unexploded containers. Homemade exploding targets are not stable and should be considered extremely dangerous.

Projectiles created by an exploding target can cause serious injuries.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I FIND ONE IN THE FIELD?

1. Keep others away from the area where the target container is located.
2. Mark the area. Contact local authorities and inform them of the location of the container.
3. According to the State Fire Marshal's office, the safest way to dispose of an unused binary explosive reactive target is to simply pour it out on the ground. Watering it in will help speed the decomposition of the materials. Since the main component is a stable fertilizer, there should be no environmental impact or hazard to authorities or unsuspecting persons.
4. To reduce the risk of explosion, <u>do not</u> stomp on the chemical or attempt to grind it into the soil.

These products have caused wildfires in Minnesota and other states .

Minnesota DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WHAT DO EXPLODING TARGETS LOOK LIKE?