

**A Sea Road Arts Publication
for Sussex Heritage Community**

Discovery of Weapons

Including Unexploded Ordnance, Knives
& Safety Advice



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Introduction

This Guide details the action you should take if you discover what may be unexploded ordnance or you have found or been offered weapons such as knives or swords of historic or archaeological value. You may also have in your possession knives or other weapons that you feel uncomfortable with and want to hand in to the police.

Due to the intense nature of recent warfare in World War I (1914-18) and World War II (1939-45), there are still unexploded bombs and grenades in the landscape – in woods and ditches, under ploughed fields, on rocky shores and in the wreckage of aircraft in the sea and almost inaccessible parts of the coast. You may think that Nazi bombing of the UK only began in World War II but in fact the Germans bombed the UK in World War I - especially London Theatreland, using aircraft and Zeppelin airships as you can read here:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_strategic_bombing_during_World_War_I

The UK has been involved in an almost endless series of wars since 1945. So another aspect of weapons and explosives to be aware of is the trade in souvenirs, historically some brave fighters, often in shock, do not want to part with captured weapons or their own guns and had brought them back secretly to the UK. See the list of confrontations involving UK on page xxx

Immediate Actions. If you do come across unexploded ordnance you may be fearful, but you need to be calm and follow the guidance on pages 7 to 10.

Once you have noted the key actions to take, please read on in the guide to see the wide variety of circumstances in which weapons, both old and new, have been found in England.

About this Guide

This is one of a series of guides published by Sea Road Arts to support the work of Mr Daryl Holter of Sussex Heritage Community to preserve our great heritage.

Comments

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kind regards

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World War II bombs

DISCOVERY OF UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE DEVICES

WHAT TO DO

Setting the Scene - An Interview with Mr Daryl Holter

Daryl Holter is a leading expert in heritage preservation. Here is an interview with Mr Holter in which he explains how to ensure your safety and the safety of your family and friends and neighbours.

Some people make the decision to take discovered Ordnance home with them, later placing their finds on to social media, this is incredibly dangerous and potentially life threatening to the finder and their family.

Whilst discovering artefacts is not illegal and sometimes can't be helped, if you do find something potentially dangerous, there are laws which you must obey.

If you are looking for metal objects, you must have the landowner's written permission to carry out this activity, otherwise your actions could be deemed as theft and trespass. You could be in breach varying laws including the Military Remains Act 1986 and the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

If you choose to dig into to a riverbank in order to remove an artefact this could be viewed as criminal damage, and you could potentially be damaging a SSSI or an area of outstanding natural beauty.

These items could be deemed as Treasure these will have to be reported in accordance with the Treasure Act. There could also be local authority bylaws in place as well. Please take non-dangerous finds to your local **Portable Antiquity Scheme Officer (The Coroner's Finds Officer)** for recording. Provenance, and understanding the historical record are so important, so please do not ignore the value of our shared heritage.



Bullets and Shot

DANGER: However, some items may be, as previously stated, **live ordnance** such as, bombs, grenades, explosive rounds, magnetic parachute mines, mortars, firearms, or bladed artifacts You will understand that all are incredibly dangerous. They may be covered in mud and look old and inert, but they could be live rounds or explosive equipment that could kill.

When such an occasion occurs it is imperative that the ordnance is not touched, back away to a safe area and call the Police immediately using 999.

It is for the **Explosive Ordnance Disposal team (E.O.D)** to deal with this situation as the finds could well pose risk to life.

DO NOT MOVE THE OBJECT. At no time should the object be moved for a better photo, investigated, interfered with or unreported and taken home. This would pose even further risk to life.

You are not qualified to make these decisions, so leave this to the experts! There are concerns that items found are taken home as trophy pieces of later sold, again this is incredibly dangerous and could be in breach of the Firearms Act. Firearms or ordnance could well have component parts that make up a firearm, thus breaching the Firearms Act 1968. If unknowingly sold on, they could find their way to unscrupulous hands. There are inherent dangers, the risk posed to not only the finder is extended to the emergency services and the E.O.D who will have to deal with some of these objects or your emergency, this can be resource intensive, please consider all the dangers, so **leave the item in place and call 999.**



Indian Flintlock Blunderbuss in silver and gold inlay – from Seringapatam

EOD – Explosive and Bomb Disposal

All types of metal may be discovered. The problem is that wartime weapons that fall from aircraft or are disposed of illicitly can still explode when recovered.

Here is an example of hand grenades found by magnet fishing:

BBC report: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-48993141>

If you find an explosive device, you should tell the police immediately using 999.

The police will then alert the Army EOD team:

<https://www.army.mod.uk/who-we-are/corps-regiments-and-units/royal-logisticcorps/rlc-regular-units/11-eod-regiment/>

The Army explains that **11 EOD&S Regiment RLC** employs around 500 specialist soldiers selected from five individual corps within the British Army.

Ammunition Technicians form the majority of the Regiment's personnel, together with Drivers and Supply Specialists, belonging to the Royal Logistic Corps. The Royal Corp of Signals provide our Electronic Counter Measures and Communications Specialists.

Military intelligence operators staff our intelligence section providing the Regiment with essential counter terrorist information.

REME Technicians keep our vehicles, specialist equipment, such as 'Wheelbarrow' bomb disposal robots and our high-tech electronics, operational. Administrators from the Adjutant General Corps are employed in our UK and overseas units.



World War II Bombs

Protection of Military Remains Act 1986

The remains of all aircraft which crashed whilst in military service, whether on land or at sea, are protected to the extent laid down by the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986. It is an offence under this Act to tamper with, damage, move or unearth any remains which come within the scope of the Act unless the Secretary of State has issued a Licence authorising such things to be done, and they are done in accordance with the conditions of the Licence.

Aircraft remains which come within the Act include: a. The remains of aircraft which have been in the military service of any country, and which lie in UK territorial waters, and b. The remains of all aircraft which have been in UK military service lying in international waters.



United States
Army Air Force
Liberator Unstable
Mabel crash-
landed on
Bulverhythe
Recreation
Ground, near
Bexhill-on-Sea in
East Sussex on the
night of 31st
December 1943
after bombing
Nazi submarine
pens in south-west
France.

All the crew
survived.

Full story available
by PDF on request.

DISCOVERING WEAPONS AND EXPLOSIVES

We now move to review many aspects of the discovery of weapons and explosives. UK soil has not been physically attacked since 1945 by any foreign power using air or land warfare, but the UK has been attacked by terrorists many times.

A further concern for public safety which sadly happens many times, is a domestic gas explosion, firework factory fire or other fire where explosive substances such as farm fertilizer or paint stores are involved. There are also factory explosions where industrial processes have become uncontrolled, and nuclear installations where escaped radiation has polluted the environment.

There are also incidents where the incorrect use of petrol, gases, and chemicals such as chlorine and acids has cause death and injury. If you have a workplace with volatile items, you need a risk evaluation, an escape plan and systematic safety monitoring by trained staff. Petrol is heavier than air and its vapour will flow downhill.

Detailed advice and warning notices can be obtained from the health & safety Executive.

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/>

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) regulations can be found here:

https://www.hse.gov.uk/coshh/index.htm?utm_source=hse.gov.uk&utm_medium=refferal&utm_campaign=coshh&utm_content=home-page-info

Example Risk Assessments can be found here:

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/coshh/riskassess/index.htm>

Guide to Toxic Substance Safety:

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg173.htm>

Biological substances safety guide:

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg167.htm>

UK COMBAT MISSIONS

It may surprise you to know how many wars and insurgencies we have been involved in since the end of World War II. Here is a list of the involvement of British Forces. Souvenirs or defence weapons from war zones can be brought into the UK, consequently there is a market in illegally imported military weapons on top of those imported by criminals including terrorists. The National Crime Agency and the Border Force are deeply concerned by weapon imports of any kind. Always report immediately on 999 if you know someone may have an illegal weapon.

Balochistan Insurgency – end of 1945

Sheik Bashir Rebellion in Somaliland – end of 1945

Indonesian National Revolution – end of 1945

Operation Masterdom – Indochina – 1946

Afghan Tribal Revolt 1947

Greek Civil War – to 1948

Corfu Channel Incident – 1948

Malaysian Emergency – 1948-1960

Korean war – 1950-1953

Anglo-Egyptian War – 1950-1952

Mau Mau Uprising in Kenya – 1952-1960

Jebel Akhdar Ware in Oman – 1954-1959

Cyprus Emergency – 1955-1959

Suez Crisis – 1956-1957

Border Campaign Ni Ireland – 1956-1962

First Cod War – Iceland – 1958-1961

Upper Yafa Disturbance - Aden – 1959

Dhofar Rebellion – Oman – 1962-1975

Indonesian-Malaysia Confrontation – 1963-1966

Aden Emergency – 1963-1967

The Troubles – N. Ireland – 1968-1998

Second Cod War – Iceland – 1972-1973

Third Cod War – 1975-1976

Falklands War – 1982

Lebanon War – 1982-1984

Gulf War – 1990-1991

Bosnian War – 1992-1995

Operation Desert Fox – 1998

Kosovo War- 1998-1999

Sierra Leone Civil War – 2000-2002

War in Afghanistan – 2001-2021

Iraq War – 2003-2009

First Libyan Civil War – 2011

Operation Shader – Islamic State Caliphate - Syria Iraq – 2014 -ongoing

Persian Gulf Crisis – 2019 – ongoing.



'Y' Secret Signals Unit
Gurkha Kukri used during
covert operations in
Burma in World War II.

National Crime Agency Weapons Hauls

Dover, Kent

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/joint-operation-nets-dover-firearms-haul-2?highlight=WyJ3ZWFwb25zliwid2VhcG9uIl0=>

Hailsham, East Sussex

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/pair-jailed-for-supplying-guns-made-at-hailsham-firearms-factory?highlight=WyJ3ZWFwb25zliwid2VhcG9uIl0=>

County Down N. Ireland

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/nca-arrest-man-on-suspicion-of-importing-firearms-as-gun-haul-is-seized-in-bangor?highlight=WyJ3ZWFwb25zliwid2VhcG9uIl0=>

Liverpool

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/brothers-jailed-for-gun-smuggling-plot?highlight=WyJ3ZWFwb25zliwid2VhcG9uIl0=>

County Lines Drug Gangs Weapons

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/hundreds-arrested-and-more-than-310k-cash-seized-as-part-of-national-activity-targeting-county-lines-drug-gangs?highlight=WyJ3ZWFwb25zliwid2VhcG9uIl0=>

Norfolk

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/man-charged-following-norfolk-firearms-seizure?highlight=WyJ3ZWFwb25zliwid2VhcG9uIl0=>

County Antrim

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/ballymoney-men-arrested-over-attempted-gun-importation?highlight=WyJ3ZWFwb25zliwid2VhcG9uIl0=>

Bristol

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/bristol-man-arrested-in-nca-firearms-investigation-and-gun-seized?highlight=WyJ3ZWFwb25zliwid2VhcG9uIl0=>

Dover

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/gun-smuggler-with-60-firearms-in-car-jailed-for-nine-years?highlight=WyJ3ZWFwb25zliwid2VhcG9uIl0=>

London

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/builder-jailed-for-pistol-and-ammunition-smuggling-plot?highlight=WyJ3ZWFwb25zliwid2VhcG9uIl0=>

Tamworth

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/irish-national-found-guilty-of-possessing-disguised-firearm?highlight=WyJ3ZWFwb25zliwid2VhcG9uIl0=>

Ladbroke Grove

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/drug-dealer-jailed-after-shotgun-recovered-in-ladbroke-grove?highlight=WyJ3ZWFwb25zliwid2VhcG9uIl0=>

Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/two-men-charged-following-seizure-of-four-firearms-in-essex?highlight=WyJ3ZWFwb25zliwid2VhcG9uIl0=>

Sheffield

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/two-men-arrested-in-sheffield-on-suspicion-of-drugs-and-firearms-offences?highlight=WyJ3ZWFwb25zliwid2VhcG9uIl0=>

Channel Tunnel

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/two-charged-over-channel-tunnel-firearms-seizure?highlight=WyJ3ZWFwb25zliwid2VhcG9uIl0=>

Leeds

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/operation-venetic-former-footballer-guilty-of-northern-firearms-conspiracy?highlight=WyJ3ZWFwb25zliwid2VhcG9u1l0=>

Birmingham

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/five-men-charged-after-firearm-and-ammunition-seized-in-birmingham?highlight=WyJ3ZWFwb25zliwid2VhcG9u1l0=>

Junctions 12 and 13 of M1 Motorway

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/self-loading-pistol-and-ammunition-seized-on-motorway?highlight=WyJ3ZWFwb25zliwid2VhcG9u1l0=>

Manchester

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/manchester-man-hid-handgun-under-his-hot-tub?highlight=WyJ3ZWFwb25zliwid2VhcG9u1l0=>



A History of Weapons and Explosives

From a heritage perspective, the discovery of ancient weapons can be an exciting moment. Stone axes, bronze spearheads and arrow tips do make for fascinating signs of times long in the past. Here is a brief list of the invention of weapons over history.

64,000 years ago – stone-tipped arrows found, still with animal blood on them in Natal, South Africa.

There followed over time, bows, arrows spears, hand axes, and knives wooden shields

3,300 BCE - Longbow

2333 BCE – Slingshots, spears, maces, swords, clubs

2200 BCE – War boats and chariots

Before 1450 BCE – Three-pronged trident, metal shields, helmets, breastplates.

Before 770 BCE – Catapults

Before 300 BCE – Chain mail

Before 1000 AD - Gunpowder

Before 1400 AD – Muskets, blunderbusses, arquebuses

1690 - Flintlock Rifle

1867 – Dynamite

1875 – Gelignite plastic explosive

C-4 explosive – 1944 – see history and types here:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plastic_explosive

Nuclear – 6 Aug 1945 – Uranium Fission Gun Device

1952 – Thermonuclear hydrogen weapon

1958 – Neutron bomb

HANDING IN WEAPONS

Here are some key sets of information on the handing in or safe storage of weapons.

Home Office Firearms Security

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/firearms-security-handbook/firearms-security-handbook-2020-accessible>

National Crime Agency Advice on Firearms

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/crime-threats/firearms>

Critical Aspects of NCA Guidance

Within the UK

The **National Firearms Targeting Centre**, run in close collaboration with counter-terrorism police, coordinates the national intelligence picture on firearms. We also work closely with police and other investigative and forensic agencies, such as the [National Ballistics Intelligence Service \(NABIS\)](#), to share [intelligence](#) and capabilities.

Border Force is a vital partner in securing our borders and preventing the trafficking of illegal firearms. Where Border Force seize firearms, the NCA conduct the investigation.

The **NCA Armed Operations Unit** provides tactical advice and surveillance to NCA and partner agency firearms investigations.

The **Firearms Prevent Team** aims to reduce the threat to the UK from the criminal acquisition, possession and use of firearms through innovation, technology and prevent initiatives. We use both internal and external stakeholder engagement to prevent criminals from gaining access to these weapons and limiting their ability to distribute and promote their criminal enterprises.

The **NCA National Assessments Centre** analyses all-source intelligence to articulate understanding on the firearms threat to the UK. Core and bespoke products inform agency, wider law enforcement and government planning and response.

How you can help

The public provide law enforcement with a vital source of information on illegal firearms. If you have any information about illegal firearms or any concerns about people having access to firearms, please report it to the police or anonymously to [Crimestoppers](#).

Advice for licence holders

If you legally own a firearm, please ensure you comply with the terms of your licence or certificate. Please remember:

- Keep firearms locked and hidden when not being used
- Transport your firearms securely
- Be vigilant when carrying your firearm
- Be safe online and be cautious about who knows you own a firearm

Please read the [firearms safety leaflet](#) from the [British Association for Shooting and Conservation](#) for further information.

[The Home Office firearms security handbook](#) provides guidance on storing and transporting firearms.

Related publications

- [pdfNational Strategic Assessment of Serious and Organised Crime 2021](#) **Popular**
- [pdfKnow the gun, know the law, know the consequences: NCA firearms campaign social media toolkit](#) **Popular**
- [pdfHome Office firearms security handbook 2020](#) **Popular**
- [documentKnow the gun, know the law: Key aspects of UK firearms legislation](#) **Popular**
- [pdfNational Strategic Assessment of Serious and Organised Crime 2020](#) **Popular**

KNIFE AMNESTY

Sussex Police say:

We encourage the public to drop off their dangerous or unwanted knives and blades at our knife amnesty bins.

Knife amnesty bins are available **all year round** in police stations across Sussex where people are encouraged to safely dispose of knives and blades **with no consequences and no questions asked.**

[Find details of your local police station](#), including opening hours and accessibility.

EDUCATING THE YOUNG

Sussex Police say:

We educate young people from an early age about the dangers and consequences of carrying a knife with the aim of preventing young people getting involved in knife crime.

Our neighbourhood youth officers are working to reach young people at the earliest stages to challenge myths on carrying knives.

This is through a range of activities such as school lessons and assemblies, knife arch deployments and use of an engagement van across the county to reassure communities and provide advice.

THE LAW

It is **illegal to possess a banned knife or weapon**. It's also illegal to: bring into the UK, sell, hire, lend or give someone a banned knife or weapon. carry any knife in public without good reason, unless it has a manual folding blade less than 3 inches long.

Banned knives and weapons

It is illegal to bring into the UK, possess, sell, hire, lend or give someone a banned knife, unless a legal exemption applies.

Knife type	Description
Butterfly knives	Also known as 'balisongs'. A handle that splits in the middle to reveal a blade.
Disguised knives	A blade or sharp point hidden inside something that looks like an everyday object such as a buckle, phone, brush or lipstick.
Flick knives or gravity knives	Also known as 'switchblades' or 'automatic knives'. Folding knives where the blade opens automatically, by gravity or by pressing a button or something else on the knife.
Stealth knives	Nonmetal knives or spikes which are not made for use at home, for food or as a toy.
Zombie knives	A knife with a cutting edge, a serrated edge and images or words suggesting it is used for violence.
Swords	A curved blade over 50 centimetres, with some exceptions such as antiques, swords made to traditional methods, or swords made before 1954.

Knife type	Description
Swordstick	A hollow walking stick or cane containing a blade.
Push dagger	A knife where the handle fits within a clenched fist and the blade comes out from between two fingers.
Blowpipes	Sometimes known as 'blow guns'. A hollow tube out of which hard pellets or darts are shot by the use of breath.
Telescopic truncheons	A knife that extends automatically, or by pressing a button or spring that is in or attached to the handle.
Batons	Straight, side-handled or friction-lock truncheons.
Hollow kubotan	A cylinder-shaped container containing a number of sharp spikes

Knife type	Description
Shurikens	Also known as 'shaken', 'death stars' or 'throwing stars'. A hard non-flexible plate with three or more sharp radiating points, designed to be thrown.
Kusari gama	A sickle attached to a rope, cord, chain or wire.
Kyoketsu shoge	A hook-knife attached to a rope, cord, chain or wire.
Kusari or 'manrikigusari'	A weight or hand grip attached to a rope, cord, chain or wire.
Handclaws	A band of metal or other hard material worn on the hand, from which sharp spikes come out.
Footclaws	A bar of metal or other hard material worn on the foot, from which a number of sharp spikes come out.
Knuckle dusters	A band of metal or other hard material worn on one or more fingers.

Knife type**Description**

Cyclone or spiral knives

A blade with one or more cutting edges that form a spiral and come to a point.

Belt buckle knife

A buckle which incorporates or conceals a knife.

Reasons you MAY be permitted to carry a knife or weapon

- taking knives you use at work to and from work
- taking it to a gallery or museum to be exhibited
- if it'll be used for theatre, film, television, historical re-enactment, or religious purposes, for example the kirpan some Sikhs carry
- if it'll be used in a demonstration or to teach someone how to use it

A court will decide if you have reason to carry a knife or a weapon if you're charged with carrying it illegally.

For more information please see :

<https://www.gov.uk/buying-carrying-knives>



A wide variety of knife weapons

GAS LEAK SAFETY – advice from U-Switch

Home gas explosions almost always lead to catastrophic damage and death. Both cooking gas and carbon monoxide gas are lethal.

What causes a gas leak?

Gas leaks in the home are usually the result of poorly fitted, badly maintained or faulty appliances like boilers and cookers.

If your appliance is badly fitted, gas can escape — typically from the gas hose that leads into your appliance or from around the seal — so you should always make sure your appliances are installed by an accredited Gas Safe engineer (previously CORGI).

If you are not sure if your engineer is accredited, you can check the Gas Safe site or ask the engineer to show their registration card. If your appliances are a bit older and you are having them serviced, always use a Gas Safe engineer.

You should also be cautious of old or second-hand appliances, particularly if you are just moving into a new property or renting. Luckily, there are some easy-to-spot signs that will tell you if your old appliances are faulty (which we cover below).

How do you detect a gas leak?

The most tell-tale sign of a leak is the smell of gas in your home. But in the case of a carbon monoxide leak, there are also particular physical symptoms you may suffer from if there is a leak.

If you are feeling lightheaded, ill, dizzy, or nauseous you should go outside immediately. If the symptoms go away in the fresh air, you could be feeling the effects of carbon monoxide poisoning.

There may also be some clear signs from your household appliances that indicate a leak, even if you can't smell gas:

- If the flame is a tired-looking orange or yellow colour rather than crisp and blue, this can signal an issue.
- If the pilot light always seems to blow out, there could be an issue.

- On the outside of the appliance, keep an eye out for soot or any black or brown scorched areas.
- Watch out for excessive condensation on the windows, or a musty smell in the air.

How do I prevent gas leaks?

The easiest way to deal with a gas leak is to prevent it from occurring in the first place. Your first line of defence is with your household appliances.

Always make sure any appliance is installed by an accredited Gas Safe Register engineer, and make sure you check them on a regular basis for signs of wear and tear.

Likewise, if they do require maintenance, make sure your engineer is registered. To avoid carbon monoxide poisoning, install an audible carbon monoxide alarm in your home. These are fairly cheap and available from DIY stores and look similar to smoke alarms. Make sure they are installed in an open space like a hallway and change the batteries annually.

What should I do if I smell gas?

To avoid the worst, you should always act immediately if you smell gas in your home.



The first step is to turn off the gas supply at your gas meter. The valve that regulates the flow of gas will be connected to your pipe at a right angle but can sometimes be difficult to locate and/or access.

That's why you should always familiarise yourself with whether your gas supply can be turned off — especially if you're in a new property or have recently made changes to the layout.

The next step is to get fresh air into your home to help disperse the gas. Open all the windows and doors and leave them open to ensure the air is able to flow.

If you can't open the windows, get outside and into the fresh air as soon as possible.

While you are airing out your home, avoid using any electrical switches, as the sparks could cause an explosion. This includes light switches or electronic doorbells. Similarly, avoid smoking, using matches or burning any naked flames (e.g. candles) as they could all ignite the leaked gas.

Once you have taken these steps and dealt with the imminent danger, it's time to call in the experts. The **National Gas emergency number is 0800 111 999**, but don't just rely on memory. Save the number in your mobile phone and have it written down in an easily accessible location.

The number is free to call and is available 24 hours a day. The general advice here is not to use a mobile phone inside your home if you suspect a gas leak, as there's a (very small) risk that it could ignite the gas. To be on the safe side, go outside or to a neighbour's home.

Once you have called the number, make sure someone is around to help the emergency engineer locate the leak and gain access to the property once they arrive.

Finally, in the unlikely event that a fire breaks out, your first call should be to the fire service on 999.

FIREWORK SAFETY

THE FIREWORK CODE

ALWAYS FOLLOW THE FIREWORK CODE

* Do not buy fireworks from UNLICENCED retailers.

These fireworks may be unsafe and illegal.

* Only buy fireworks that comply with current safety standards. *

* Always keep fireworks in a closed box.

Take them out one at a time and close the box.

* Never put fireworks in your pocket.

* Be considerate. Let your neighbours know you will be having a display, especially if they are elderly or they have pets or children.

* Avoid setting fireworks off late at night, particularly if it is a school-night.

* Ensure your pets are safe.

* Carefully follow the instructions on EACH firework.

* Never go back to a lit firework unless the instructions advise otherwise.

* Never throw fireworks; it is dangerous.

* Light fireworks one at a time, at the end of the fuse, and at arm's length.

* Light sparklers one at a time and wear suitable gloves, even when lighting them.

* Never give sparklers to a child under the age of 5.

* Never throw spent fireworks on a bonfire.

STAY SAFE, BE CONSIDERATE, AND DON'T BECOME A NUISANCE.

* All fireworks supplied by BFA members are tested to conform to the current safety standards.

If you require more information, contact the seller or any member of the BFA.

Click [here](#) to download a PDF version of the above BFA Firework Code.

MISUSE OF FIREWORKS, YOU COULD BE FINED AND PROSECUTED

What is firework misuse?

* Possessing CAT F1 fireworks whilst aged 15 or under

* Possessing CAT F2 or CAT F3 fireworks whilst aged 17 or under



- * Letting off fireworks between 11pm and 7am (midnight on Bonfire Night and 1am on New Year's Eve)
- * Throwing or setting off fireworks in a public place

The RED Firework Guide to GIVING YOUR OWN FIREWORK DISPLAY.

The Explosives Industry Group have created a new Red Firework Guide (which replaces HSG 124), this guide is available at <http://www.eig2.org.uk/new-guides-for-firework-displays/>



Both Photos: The Royal Navy aircraft carrier HMS Illustrious is illuminated by fireworks during celebrations for the 100th anniversary of Naval Aviation. Moored on the River Thames in London, Illustrious visited the capital for 6 days culminating in a 50 aircraft flypast and the fireworks display.

HERITAGE DISCOVERIES - WHAT YOU MAY FIND

The British Museum's Portable Antiquities Scheme has reached an incredible milestone after recording the [1.5 millionth archaeological find](#) that was discovered by the public, and it was found in Shropshire.

Since its launch in 1997, the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) has dramatically changed archaeology by encouraging finders to bring objects they find forward for recording. The item that helped cross this historic milestone was a medieval lead papal bulla (a seal for authorising papal documents, such as edicts and indulgencies) of Pope Innocent IV (r.1243-54), that was found in Shropshire.

If you find something of potential historic importance or local heritage value, please contact your local Finds Officer and get it evaluated.

Here are some links to the amazing heritage finds that the Portable Antiquities Scheme covers:

Examples of Neolithic Finds:

<https://finds.org.uk/counties/berkshire/finds-through-the-ages-the-neolithic-period-in-berkshire/>

Liverpool:

<https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/stone-age-axehead-rediscovered>

Hampshire:

<https://www.hantsfieldclub.org.uk/hampshire-archaeology-report-2013-pas.pdf>

Lydford

<https://rammuseum.org.uk/stone-axe-hammer-just-passing-through/>

Bronze Age Stone Axes

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Bronze Age stone axes in the Portable Antiquities Scheme](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Bronze_Age_stone_axes_in_the_Portable_Antiquities_Scheme)

Dorset Bronze Age Axe Hoard

<https://www.wessexarch.co.uk/our-work/bronze-age-axe-hoard-dorset>

Cumbria

<https://archaeology.co.uk/articles/news/unusual-bronze-age-hoard-found-cumbria.htm>

Mixed Neolithic and bronze Age Finds:

<https://swcollectionsexplorer.org.uk/browse-collections/page/21/>

How to Find Stone Age Tools and hand them in to the Portable Antiquities Scheme for evaluation. They will be returned to you.

<https://www.stoneagetools.co.uk/finding-tools.htm>

Metal Finds

https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/55702/SERF-martyn-barber.pdf



Cucuteni - Trypillia Axes and Tools Romania

CONCLUSION

You can see from this guide that it is an extreme risk to assume that any weapon is innocent and inert. It is vital that you take care of yourself, you family, friends, and neighbour exercising extreme caution and phoning 999 if you find anything that looks like an explosive device or dangerous weapon.

Also don't forget that you can report suspicious terrorist activity including the purchase or storage of fertilizer, chemicals and powders, metal cannisters and bomb-making equipment direct to MI5 on their encrypted contact page which gives details of all the ways you can report threats to national security. If in doubt **REPORT IT**. Better safe than sorry.

<https://www.mi5.gov.uk/contact-us>

If you find guns or hear of guns being moved or obtained via criminal gangs then please **contact 999 – don't call** the National Crime Agency as they do not accept crime reports that have not been previously cleared by County or Met police.

Lastly – if you'd like to know what a nuclear bomb looks like – here is one – Take care out there!



Sussex Heritage Community

Little Boy – Hiroshima - Replica

Acknowledgements and Photographic Attributions

Page

Cover Photo – Early German Grenade – Wikimedia Commons

6 – World War II Bombs – Wikimedia Commons

7 – Bullets and shot – Wikimedia Commons

8 – Flintlock – Metropolitan Museum of Art

9 – World War II bombs – Wikimedia Commons

10 – Bulverhythe Crash Landing – Wikimedia Commons

13 – ‘Y’ Secret Signals Gurkha Kukri – Burmese Jungle –

Photo by David EP Dennis

16 – Pistol – Wikimedia Commons

24 – Knives – James Case - Philadelphia, Mississippi, U.S.A.

26 – Gas flame – U-Switch

28 – Fireworks – Royal Navy Defence Imagery

29 – Fireworks – Royal Navy Defence Imagery

31 – Cucuteni Axes and Tools – Cristian Chirita

32 – Uranium Gun Nuclear Weapon Replica at Imperial War Museum

Photo by David EP Dennis