



# Former Blair Rifle Range Community Information Session UXO Clearance of Select Forested Areas - Update September 25, 2023

Presented by: Debbie Nicholls, P.Eng, ing, Project Manager  
Directorate of Contaminated Sites (DCS)





# Meeting Objectives

- Describe UXO clearance results from Feb-March 2023.
- Discuss future UXO related work at the former Blair Rifle Range.
- Present necessary trail closure schedule.
- Recommend UXO safety steps.
- Answer questions.





# UXO Project Team

## DND

- Debbie Nicholls, P.Eng, ing (UXO project Manager)
- James Lightfoot (UXO Expert)
- Matt Pozza (Geophysicist)

## NOTRA (UXO contractor)

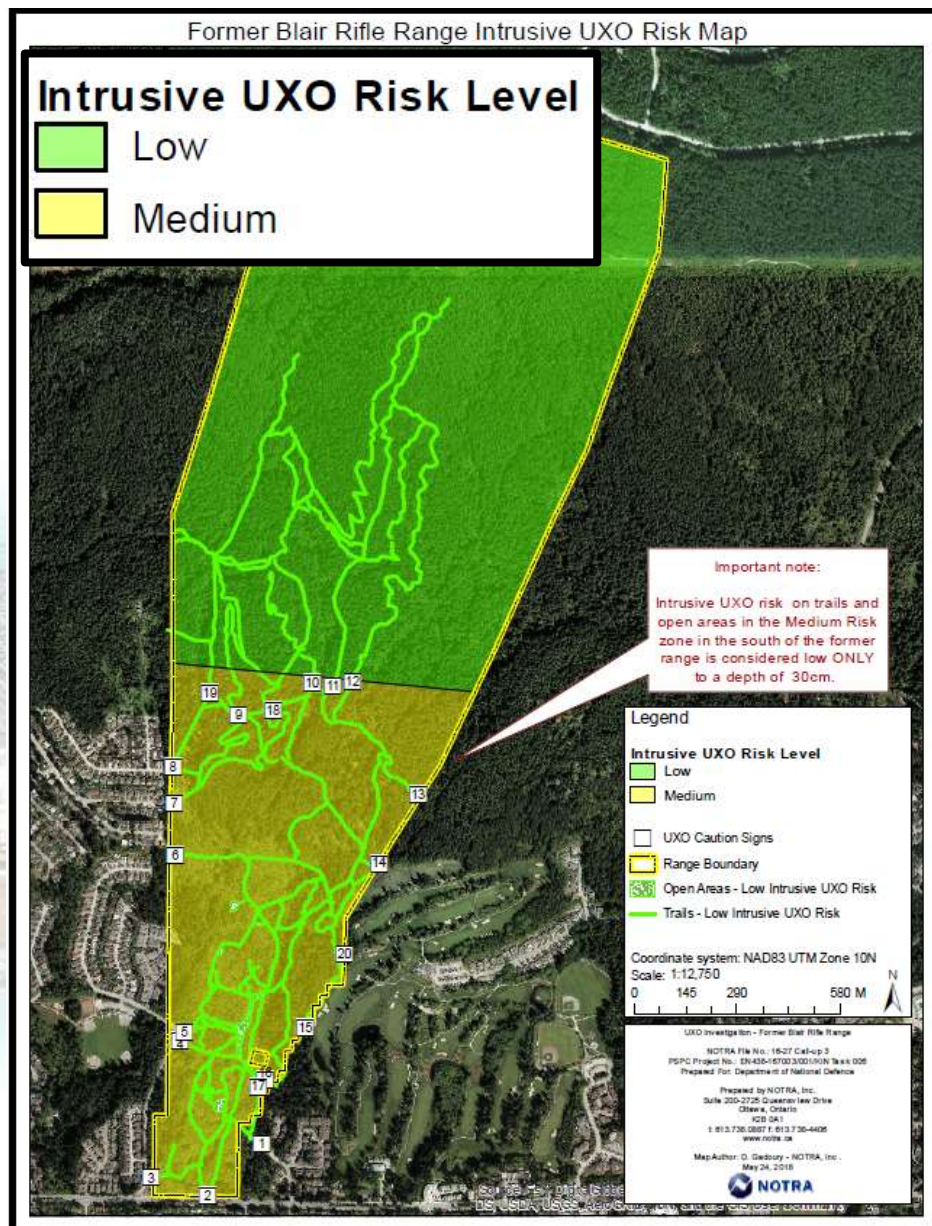
- Sean Davies, P. Eng (Notra Project Manager)
- Wolfgang Kaske (Project Lead)
- Stephen Burns (Quality Manager)
- Dennis Gamble (Senior Geophysicist)
- Ben Churchill (Field Geophysicist)
- Max Kuehling (H & S Director)
- Field and technical staff

## CMHC & Province of BC

- DND's UXO team is working in collaboration with representatives from CMHC and the Province of BC.



# Blair Range – UXO Removal (Objectives)



Phase 1: 22 Feb – 31 March 2023

Phase 2: 18 Sept 2023 – 31 May 2024

Phase 3: Sept 2024 (TBD)

## Objectives:

- Clear munition items/UXO to a depth of 30-45 cm (deeper items removed when visible) in impact areas within the medium intrusive risk zone.
- Verify/replace missing UXO caution signs.

## Scope:

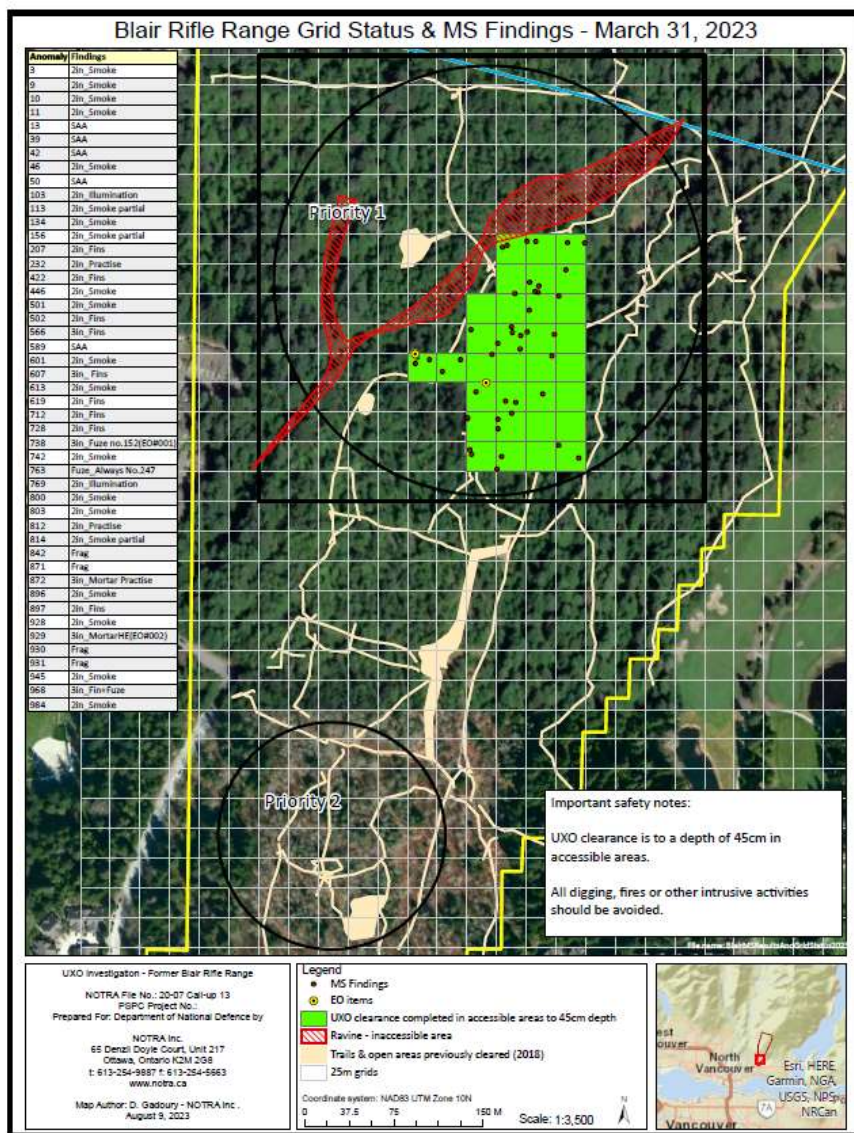
- Remove UXO in priority areas/ potential impact zones.
- The size of the priority areas may increase based on findings. **Multi-year project.**
- UXO clearance is undertaken between trees.

## Exclusions:

- All trails & open areas cleared in 2018 are excluded; they are considered complete.



# Blair Range – UXO Removal (Results)



## Winter-Spring 2023 Results:

- 2 hectares (32 grids (25 m x 25 m)) were cleared.
- Munition components and fragmentation found.
- A total of 2 UXO were found and safely disposed of.
- Types of UXOs found include:
  - ✓ 1 X 3 inch mortar High Explosive (HE)
  - ✓ 1 x 3 inch fuze



# Blair Range – UXO Removal (Continues)

## Fall 2023 – Spring 2024:

- UXO clearance activities will continue within an expanded search area.
- 3 more blocks (blue, pink and yellow) of 25 to 35 grids each will be cleared of UXO.
- Each grid is approximately 25 m x 25 m in size.
- Work will be undertaken between Sept 18, 2023 and May 31, 2024.
- For safety reasons, trails will be closed on a rotational schedule to minimize impacts to the public. A minimum 50 m safety buffer is required between UXO workers digging up items and the public.

## Future work:

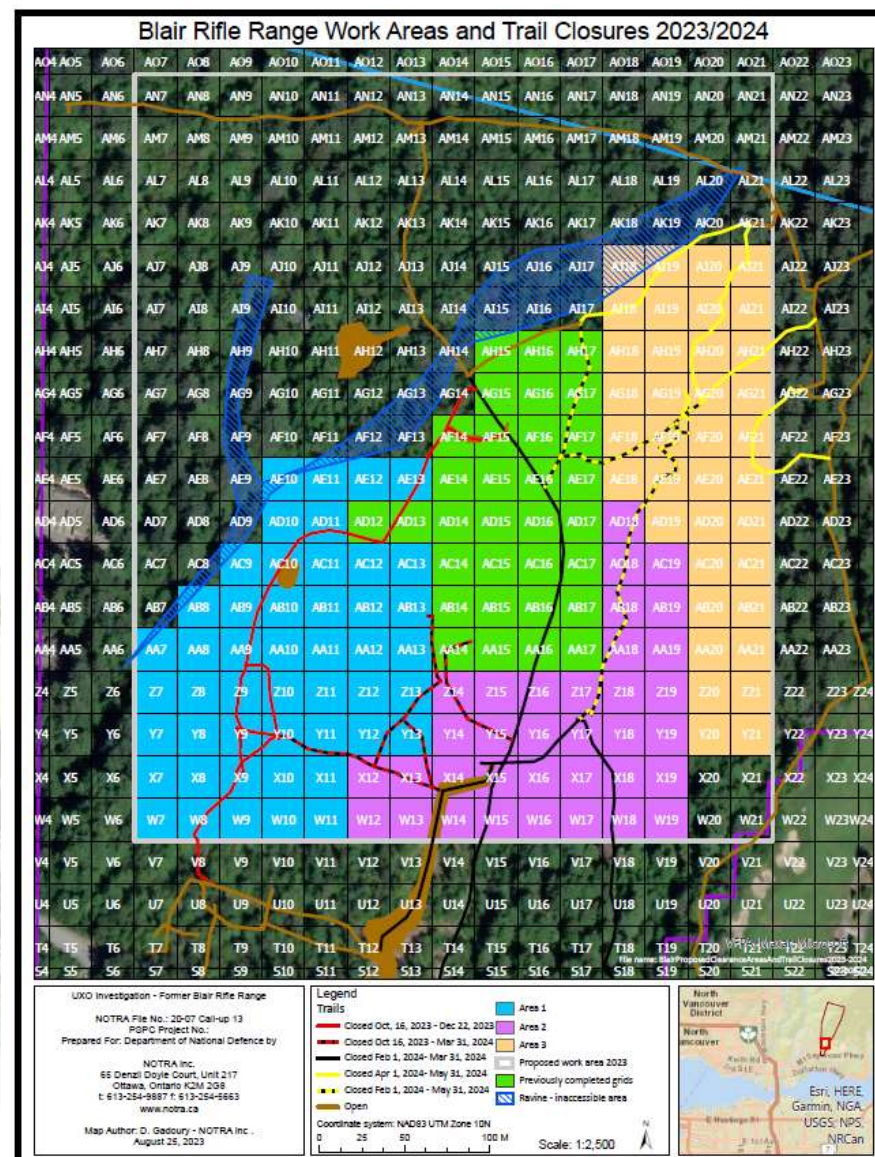
- It is likely UXO clearance activities will continue further into 2024 and potentially into 2025.
- Additional trail closures will be presented at a later date.



# Blair Range – UXO Removal (Trail Closures)

## Trail closures:

- For safety reasons, trails in the work area will be closed on a rotational schedule.
  - ✓ Red trails closed: Oct 16 to Dec 22, 2023
  - ✓ Black trails closed: Feb 1 to March 31, 2024
  - ✓ Yellow trails closed: April 1– May 31, 2024
- Closures will be done at intersections.
- Signs will indicate when a trail is closed.
- Please refrain from entering closed trails for your safety and the safety of the UXO workers.

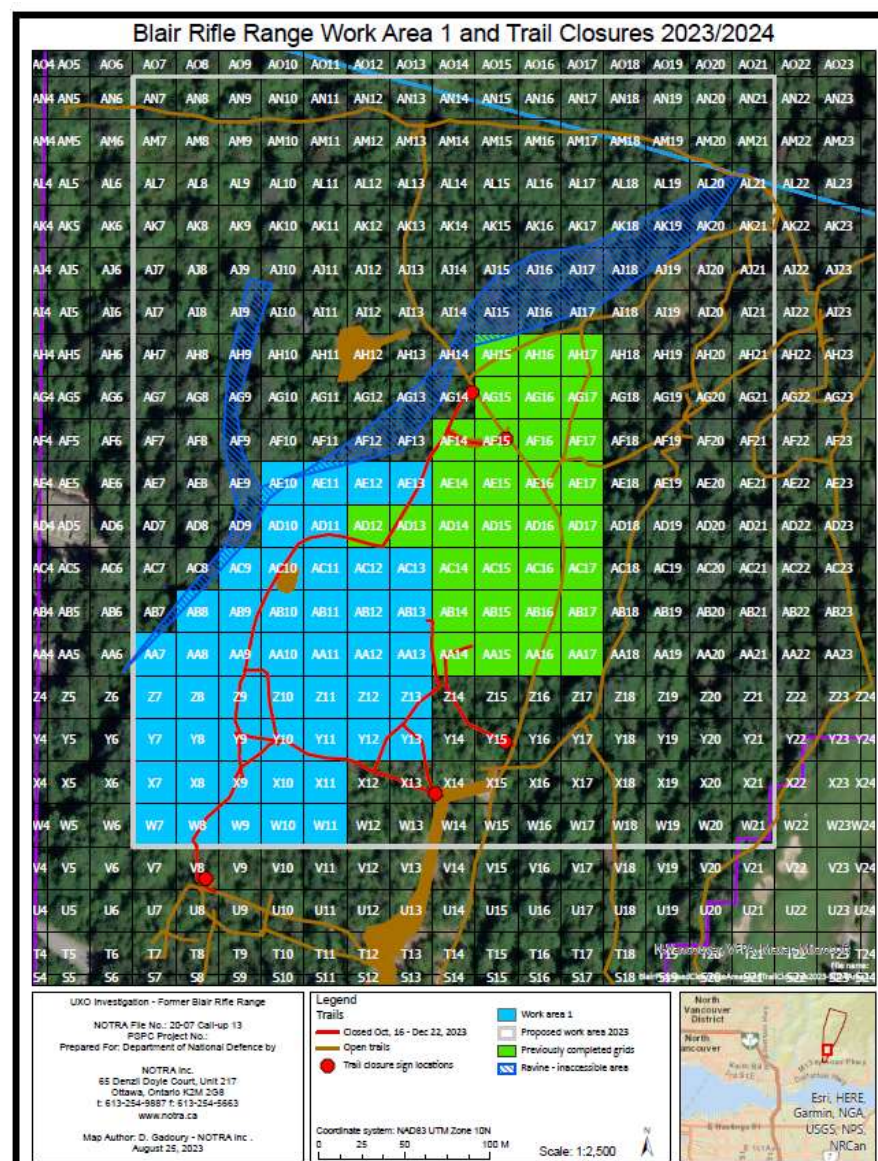




# Blair Range – Trails closed Oct-Dec 2023

## Trail closures:

- ✓ Red trails closed: Oct 16 to Dec 22, 2023.
- ✓ All other trails (brown) will remain open to the public.
- ✓ Please loop around using open trails (brown).

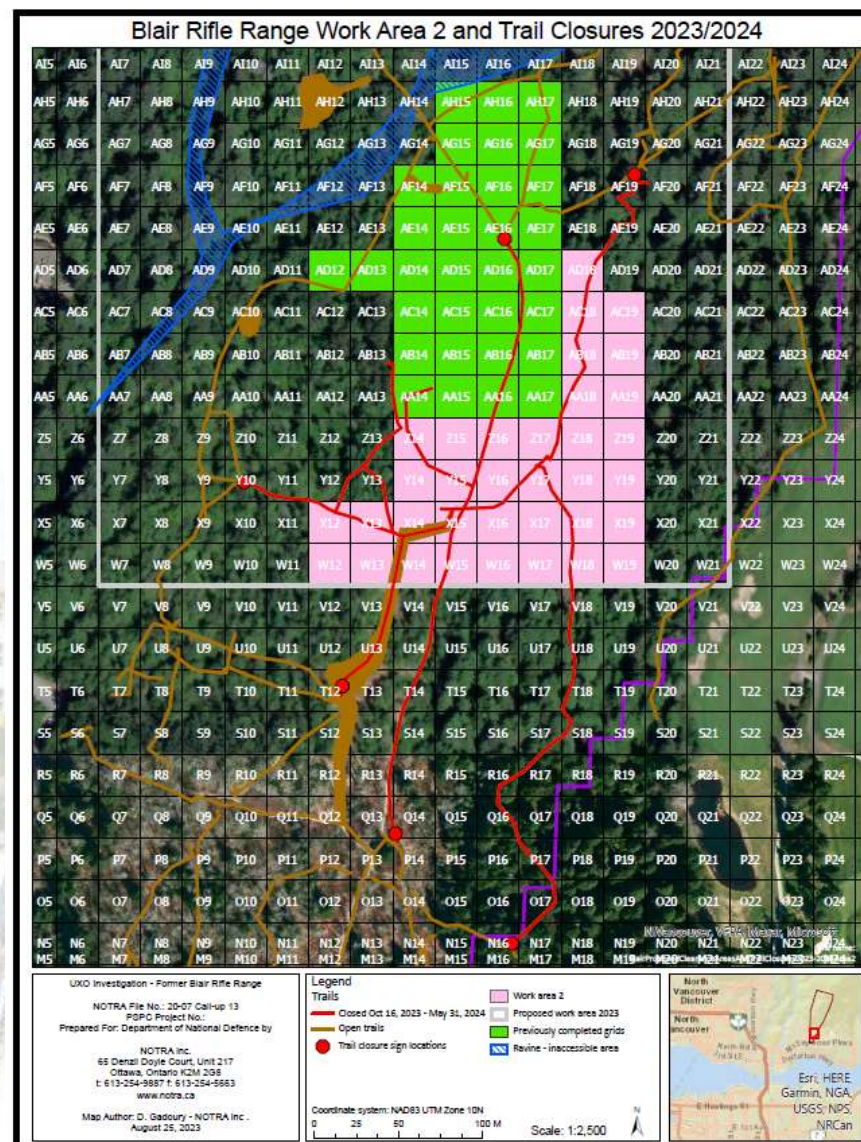




# Blair Range – Trails closed Feb-March 2024

## Trail closures:

- ✓ Red trails closed: 1 Feb to 31 March 2024.
- ✓ All other trails (brown) will remain open to the public.
- ✓ Please loop around using open trails (brown).

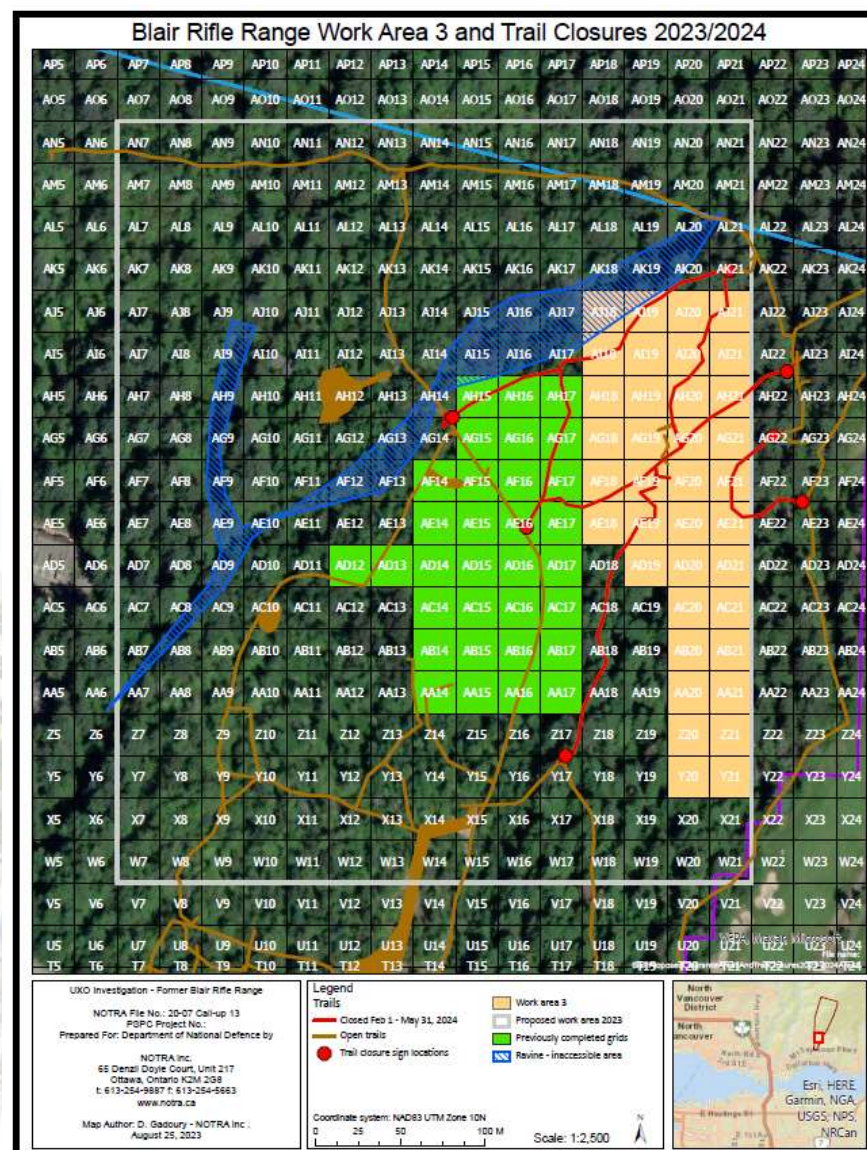




# Blair Range – Trails closed April-May 2024

## Trail closures:

- ✓ Red trails closed: 1 April to 31 May 2024.
- ✓ All other trails (brown) will remain open to the public.
- ✓ Please loop around using open trails (brown).

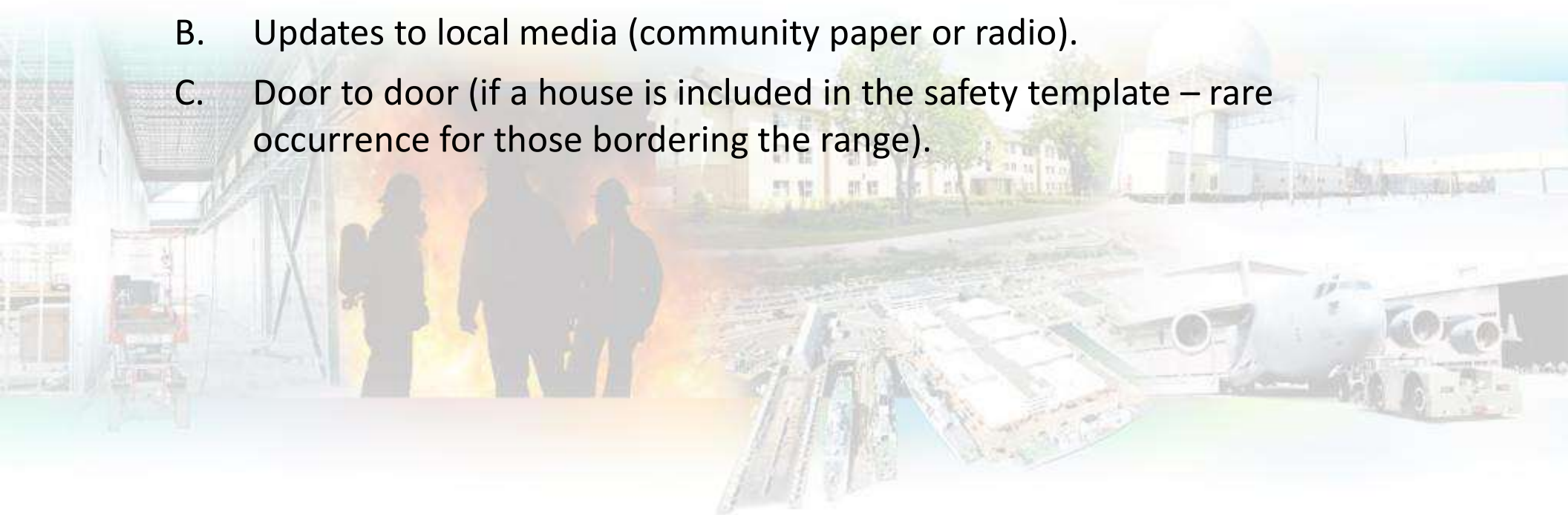




# Blair Range – UXO Removal (Communication)

## Communication:

- In the event a dangerous item is found and needs to be disposed of by detonation, the community will be advised via:
  - A. E-mail notification sent out by DND to interested parties (please forward e-mail address to [UXOCanada@forces.gc.ca](mailto:UXOCanada@forces.gc.ca) – subject Blair Info).
  - B. Updates to local media (community paper or radio).
  - C. Door to door (if a house is included in the safety template – rare occurrence for those bordering the range).





# Practicing UXO Safety

- Even with recent survey and removal work, UXO may still be present on the property.
- As with all former military sites, we encourage you to continue to use good judgement and caution when visiting the property.
- Stay on designated trails and refrain from digging or making campfires in the area.

## **If you see something that looks like it may be UXO, please follow these steps:**



Don't touch it.



Turn around and leave the area  
the same way you came in.



Call 911 or local police.

If you have any questions about DND's UXO  
activities at the former Blair Rifle Range,  
please contact us at  
[UXOCanada@forces.gc.ca](mailto:UXOCanada@forces.gc.ca).



# Additional Information

## UXO Website:

- General: [www.Canada.ca/UXO-Safety](http://www.Canada.ca/UXO-Safety)
- Blair Rifle Range: [www.Canada.ca/Blair-UXO-Safety](http://www.Canada.ca/Blair-UXO-Safety)

## UXO Contact E-mail:

- [UXOCanada@forces.gc.ca](mailto:UXOCanada@forces.gc.ca)





# Questions ?

