



ENG

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Important information for military activity

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What's this folder for?

This folder provides guidance and guidelines for environmental protection (EP) and measures to prevent damage to all participants and units participating in exercises.

References

The folder is based on:

- Norwegian laws and regulations
- Directives that regulate exercise activity in Norway
- Environmental protection instructions
- NATO's Environmental protection agreements

Background

The armed forces can exercise and train in their own training areas and on civilian areas with the landowner's permission or in areas requisitioned under the Requisition Act. Permissions to use areas for military activity do not grant immunity from other Norwegian laws.

By: Norwegian Joint Headquarters, Major Bø.

Design: FKOM – jan. 2024 (FKOM 1918) N Mossblad.

Photos: Norwegian Armed Forces

Implementation

EP shall take precedence over exercise needs. Should there be a conflict between Norwegian / Host Nation (HN) standards and Troop Contributing Nations' / NATO standards, the most stringent rules and regulations shall take precedence. The final authority concerning any EP issues is the HN. All HN regulations and NATO policies and doctrine will be applied. Failure to meet the HN EP regulations will have legal and fiscal consequences for the offender.

Who has the responsibility?

When carrying out military activities and operations, both NATO and the participating nations have a joint responsibility to protect the environment. Each nation has the ultimate responsibility for the actions of its own forces. The participating headquarters (at different levels) are responsible for coordinating and execute the EP effort within their respective commands.

The Commander's responsibilities

The Commander at all levels has the responsibility for environmental protection, and he/she must ensure that their staffs take environmental issues and concerns into consideration during the planning of operations. Commanders shall ensure that their unit complies with laws, regulations, directives, and instructions. Commanders shall provide appropriate environmental protection education and training for their own unit.

Reporting of incidents and damages



All EP incidents and damages must be reported to the Environmental Protection Officer (EPO) or the EP group as soon as possible.

Reports must, at a minimum, contain the following information:

- To (who is the report for?):
- From (who is writing the report):
- Title (title of the report):
- DTG (date and time):

- A – Purpose of report/what type of incident
- B – Incident time
- C – Location of incident
- D – POC related to incident and responsible commander

Instructions for managing spill



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Larger spill and spill close to drinking water areas shall immediately be informed to the fire service

Restrictions



Out of Bound (OOB), also called prohibited areas, is forbidden for any military operations and military personnel during the exercise. The exercise map provides detailed information on locations for the various prohibited areas.

Norwegian Environmental Protection Officer (EPO) EPOs can support to point out the areas in connection with reconnaissance, planning and during the exercise itself. EPOs and umpires/liaison officers have the authority to stop the activity if the unit is entering a prohibited area.

A list of prohibited areas

- Nature reserve / national parks / nature conservation areas.
- Other protected areas, e.g. bird rock / migration and breeding areas during the breeding season.
- Cultural monuments. In Northern Norway specially attention and care should be to the Sami and the Kven people culture heritage.
- Schools/schoolyards/kindergartens.
- Sports facilities and sports grounds.
- Telecom and power installations.
- Reforested areas.

If a unit discovers contamination caused by others, the same procedures will apply.

Minimum distances



Military personnel must observe given minimum distances to e.g. drinking water, farms, houses, and cabins. This also applies to garages, warehouses, outbuildings, etc., and regardless of whether they are in use or not, condition and location.

If something is to be used, the owner must give permission for use or rent. If a unit considering to borrow/rent, such an agreement should be in writing and confirmed with the Exercise Control (EXCON) in advance.

Violation is considered a civil police matter and is not covered by the damage budget or equivalent.

The distances below are minimum distances.

Activity closer than those below is prohibited:

Drinking water sources (intake/pool)	200 m
Hospitals/health facilities	200 m
Refugee reception	200 m
Churches/graveyards/cemeteries	200 m
Noise-sensitive livestock	200m
Reindeer fence in use/reindeer slaughter sites	200 m
Aquaculture: fish and shellfish	200 m
Cultural monuments	50 m
Houses and cottages	50 m

Use of exercise maps / M711E






The exercise maps contain six map symbols that represent restrictions:

- The map legend with restrictions is located at the bottom of the map.
- The ordinary legend is printed on the back of the map.
- The maps will not show the complete picture, so extra information is required. Contact the EPO if you need more details.





Interpretation of map symbols

Map symbols			
Description	Out of bounds All military activity is prohibited	Sensitive area Heavy vehicles and fuel distribution prohibited	Object sensitive to noise All military activity prohibited
Activity on foot			(+ 200 m distance)
Tracked vehicles on snow		If conditions allow (Not ski tracks)	(+ 200 m distance)
Motor vehicles on roads	(Unless specified otherwise)		(Consider noise effects)
Bivouacs, positions		If conditions allow	(+ 200 m distance)
Use of blank ammunition		If conditions allow	(+ 200 m distance)
Air activity		If conditions allow	(+ 1000 ft distance)
Sea activity			



You cannot establish a 100% correct picture of the terrain just by using a map.
Each participant is responsible for ensuring that all necessary environmental considerations are taken.

 Object out of bounds All military activity prohibited in the vicinity of the object	 Out of bounds aquaculture All military activity prohibited in the vicinity of the object	 Out of bounds cultural heritage All military activity prohibited in the vicinity of the object
		(+ 50 m distance)
		(+ 50 m distance)
	(+ 200 m distance)	(+ 50 m distance)
		(+ 50 m distance)
(No landing)	(+ 1000 ft distance)	(+ 1000 ft distance)
	(+ 200 m distance)	

Cultivated ground



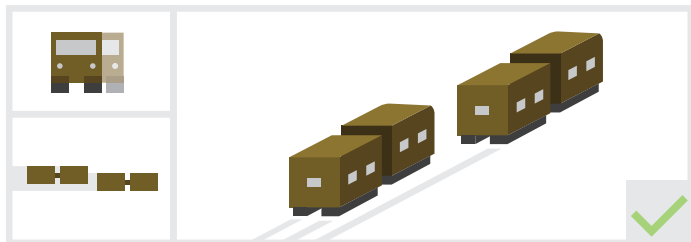
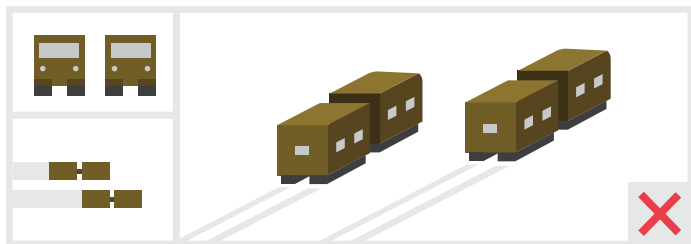
Basically, all cultivated ground (also snow-covered) is a prohibited area for military activity due to the cost and consequences of damage.

Use of cultivated ground can only be permitted with the approval of the landowner. This also applies to fallow land or fields to be ploughed in the spring. Damage to the cultivated ground can take many years to repair.

All damages and financial losses must be compensated.

Tracked vehicle formation

- Drive carefully when crossing ski tracks.
- Driving in open country/terrain:





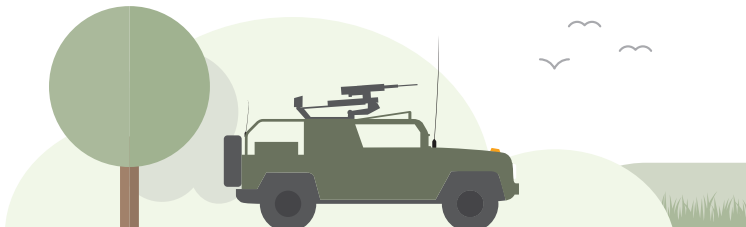
Forest



- Follow roads, power lines and natural tracks when possible.
- Removal of individual trees (hardwood/deciduous trees) may be appropriate to facilitate accessibility. Cutting a large number of trees requires approval from the landowner, and trees must be cut near the ground. Cut branches and twigs off trees, and pile along the nearest road.
- Stumps are cut close to the ground.

Outlying field

- Nature in the coastal zone, in the mountains and in wetlands is very vulnerable, so take extra care when driving in these areas.
- In the mountains; drive where the snow layer is thick, just avoid snow free areas.
- Make sure that the thickness of the frozen soil is sufficient to avoid unnecessary damage.
- If necessary: Snow and ice clearance (SNIC) of private property requires a SNIC sketch in collaboration with the landowner.



Reindeer, moose, and other animals



Both wild and domesticated animals can be harmed by the activities of the Armed Forces.

- **Keep your distance**, drive slowly and be careful; do not provoke animals to move.
- **Farms with animals**, including beehives, are vulnerable to noise and vibrations.
- **Hunters can be** out in the woods and in the mountains; respect their hunting and avoid disturbing them. Hunting is prohibited on duty and during exercises.
- **Tame reindeer** are sensitive to noise and great care is required. Avoid driving close to the animals. In addition, flying low over herds will be a major risk and must be avoided.
- **Wild reindeer** are extra sensitive, and the direction of march must be changed if animals or fresh tracks are observed.

If stressed or injured animals are observed, contact the EPO or:

- **Domesticated animals:** Contact the owner, landowner, or veterinary officer.
- **Wild animals:** Contact the wildlife authority or the police.



Fuel handling



- Use a nozzle/pouring spout on jerry/fuel cans to avoid spill.
- Absorbent mats and/or drip pan must be used when to fuel vehicles.
- Use absorbents according to the instructions for use.
- Contaminated sand/snow/absorbents must be collected in garbage bags. If necessary, coordinate with the EPO or the EP group about where it should be delivered.
- Large releases of spillage, which the unit cannot handle itself, must be reported to the fire service on phone 110.

Soil and snow on public roads

Soil, mud, snow, and other residues left on public roads by military vehicles can cause a significant danger to other road users. This can result in serious collisions and accidents. For that reason, all participants in the exercise must take responsibility for their own and others' safety by removing soil, snow and loose objects left on roads.



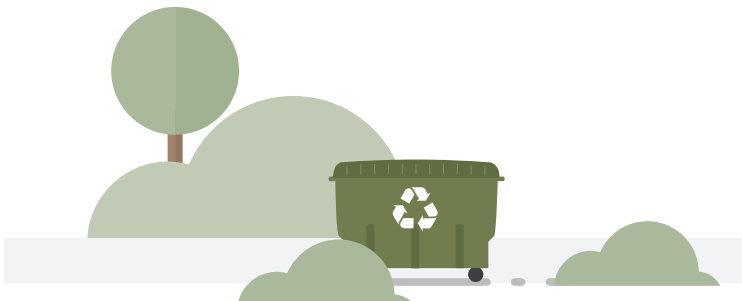


Waste management

All waste must be sorted and delivered to the nearest military/exercise waste point, or possibly brought to camp.

- **Disposing of waste** in the exercise area is strictly prohibited.
- **It is not permitted** to use civilian containers.
- **Bring all waste** to marked containers at the exercise waste collection points.
- **Do not leave waste** in the bivouac area.
- **Containers for human waste** are only for human waste in degradable bags.
- **Hand in hazardous and medical waste** in marked containers.
- **During major exercises**, there is a waste plan that describes how waste is to be sorted and delivered.
- **Empty casings**, marking agents, communication cables, barbed wire and loose ammunition must not be left in the exercise area.

Waste left in the training area is violation of the Pollution Act.





Animal and plant diseases and alien species

Military activity can cause:

- Spread of transmissible animal, fish, and plant diseases.
- Spread of alien species.

- **Do not** enter buildings with livestock.
- **Cultivated ground** may be infected with field oat, potato cyst nematode or other harmful organisms. These fields must be avoided in order not to spread the diseases further.
- **If military equipment** (material and vehicles) has been in contact with an infected river, it must be disinfected before coming into contact with a new river. It is forbidden to disobey the restrictions on avoiding these rivers.
- **Parasites such as Gyrodactylus Salaris** can potentially survive in water on vehicles for up to 10 days. Gyrodactylus-infected rivers can occur along the entire coast of Norway. These rivers have a disastrous impact on Atlantic salmon.
- **The river Glomma** in Eastern Norway, south of Elverum, is infected with crayfish plague.

Contact veterinary officer for further information. The EPO and the EP group can also obtain information.





Relations to locals

Local residents have unique knowledge of the area which can be very important in avoiding damage.

Landowners should be contacted before using their property.

Landowners and other locals have a greater tolerance in relation to military activity if you ask for their knowledge and take it into account in the assessment.

0047 400 38 526

Call regarding complaints, claims and damages

forsvaretskade@gmail.com

Send a mail regarding complaints, claims and damages

FIRE

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POLICE

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AMBULANCE

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