Public Safety Advisory

Iowa Army Ammunition Plant – Planned Lead Azide Detonation, November 20, 2026

From: Cedar County Public Health and Cedar County Emergency Management
Audience: Cedar County residents
Date: November 19, 2026

The U.S. Army plans to conduct a controlled detonation of degraded lead azide at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant on Friday, November 20. Cedar County Public Health and Cedar County Emergency Management are aware of the planned detonation and are closely monitoring the situation. We are sharing guidance because conditions may affect communities in our county.

Residents should stay informed and follow guidance from the U.S. Army and local public health and emergency management agencies:

- **Stay indoors:** Keep windows and doors closed for 24–48 hours after the detonation as a precaution, unless updated official guidance indicates otherwise.
- **Use indoor air recirculation:** Residential furnaces may continue operating. Facilities with outside air intakes, including schools and commercial buildings, should consider temporarily switching to recirculation mode when safe.
- **Improve indoor filtration:** Consider using a portable air cleaner equipped with a HEPA filter.
- **Monitor official updates:** Follow local news and the U.S. Army's website for plume updates and safety instructions.
- **Clean surfaces safely:** Once the airborne exposure period has ended, wet-clean potentially affected surfaces, including playground equipment, toys, and windowsills, using soap and water. Avoid dry sweeping, which may redistribute dust. Consider washing your vehicle and replacing the cabin air filter if needed.
- **Limit unnecessary travel:** Avoid potentially affected areas when possible. Use your vehicle's air recirculation setting if driving through impacted areas.
- **Practice good hygiene:** Wash hands before eating or drinking and remove shoes when entering homes to limit tracking dust indoors.
- **Seek medical guidance:** Contact a healthcare provider if you are concerned about lead exposure or related health effects.

Blood Lead Testing and Health Concerns

Lead exposure may not cause immediate symptoms. Blood lead testing is the recommended method for evaluating potential exposure.

- **Consult a healthcare provider:** Individuals concerned about exposure should discuss whether blood lead testing is appropriate.
- **Consider vulnerable populations:** Children younger than six and pregnant women warrant particular attention because of their increased vulnerability.

If you think you or your child may have been exposed to lead, contact your healthcare provider for guidance and to determine whether a blood test is appropriate. Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention lead testing guidance for more information.

Healthcare providers can determine appropriate testing and follow-up based on an individual's exposure history. Refer to Iowa HHS's Reportable Environmental and Occupational Conditions guidance for instructions on reporting blood lead test results.

For the latest information and updated dust plume maps, visit the U.S. Army's Iowa Army Ammunition Plant updates.

Additional Information and Resources

- U.S. Army — Detonation Information, Maps, and Updates: ASC Installation Community Notifications
- U.S. Army — Frequently Asked Questions: Lead Azide Detonation FAQ
- Iowa HHS — Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program: Lead Exposure, Prevention, and Testing (Lead Exposure & Surveillance | Health & Human Services)
- Iowa HHS — Environmental Health Reporting: Reportable Environmental and Occupational Conditions

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Important: Information regarding the detonation, potential exposure areas, and recommended precautions may change. Local public health agencies are encouraged to refer to the most current U.S. Army notifications and Iowa HHS guidance when communicating with residents and community partners.