

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO : Distribution

DATE: December 18, 1964

FROM : Roy Reider, Safety Director

ENG-DO

DEC 17 1964

SUBJECT: BURIAL OF EXPLOSIVE-CONTAMINATED OBJECTS AT LASL

SYMBOL : Safety Office, H-3

REFERENCE : Memo of August 29, 1961, Reider to Distribution, subject: "Burial of Explosive-Contaminated Objects at LASL".

134b
General

The Standing Operating Procedure for Burial of Explosive-Contaminated Scrap and Equipment, dated July 31, 1961, has been revised and updated and a copy is attached.

The revision clarifies the areas of responsibilities and prohibits the burial of Explosive-Contaminated Combustible Materials. Explosive-contaminated material should be buried only at the approved burial pits on Mesita del Buey.

Groups should make efforts to dispose of explosive-contaminated material by methods other than burial, such as flashing, whenever possible.

Additional copies of this SOP can be obtained at the Safety Office, H-3.

6	RUSCO	12/21
1	SPER	12/18
	WELJAV	
2	EDDY	12/21
3	BIBBS	12/21
4	BAWCELL	23/17/21
7	MINNICK	
5	DWARHOLE	
	MONTGOMERY	
7	FILE	L.J. 1757

Info

WCC:jn

Enc: SOP, as noted above

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***LASL STANDING OPERATING PROCEDURE
FOR BURIAL OF EXPLOSIVE-CONTAMINATED SCRAP AND EQUIPMENT
CLASSIFIED AND UNCLASSIFIED**

I. SCOPE

These are general operating procedures for the preparation and disposal, by burial, of explosive-contaminated, noncombustible scrap and equipment, classified and unclassified, which is not worthy of salvage. Combustible contaminated scrap will be disposed of by local procedures.

II. LOCATION

All LASL Explosives Areas, the HE contaminated burial pits, and the classified disposal hole on Mesita Del Buey are the areas concerned. The HE contaminated burial pits and classified disposal hole are fenced and access to them is controlled by Group SP-2.

III. LIMITS

A. Personnel

The number of personnel will be maintained at the minimum required to do the job safely, no less than two, but will never exceed 15 (except if the work is being done in an area or building where there is a posted limit, then that area or building limit applies).

B. Explosives

The amount of explosives will be limited to contaminating amounts. The preparation of items for disposal by burial must include the removal of all substantial amounts of explosives from surfaces which can be exposed in a normal fashion, that is without disassembly. It is important that exterior contamination be reduced to the level where there is no reasonable prospect of any significant accidental detonation or ignition. In the event that arduous and/or potentially hazardous disassembly may seem to be necessary to reach this state of decontamination, Group H-3 should be consulted to determine the best disposition of the situation.

IV. EQUIPMENT

A. Clothing

During the handling of explosive contaminated objects, all persons will wear eye protection.

*General Revision

IV.

B. Transportation and Handling

1. Motor vehicles used for transporting explosive-contaminated objects will have a smooth, crack-free bed, two fire extinguishers, and means for securing the loads. A small truck, controlled by Group H-1, is equipped for this use; however, any GMX or Zia assigned vehicle, meeting the requirements may be used. For special hauls where large equipment is needed the crack-free bed requirement may be met by the use of tarps and after use will be treated as contaminated equipment.
2. Only lifting devices which have rated load limits at least equal to the weight of the object to be lifted, and are regularly checked, may be used for loading or unloading objects.

V. PREPARATION

- A. The Group Leader, or his designated representative, of the disposing Group will decide what objects are to be disposed of by burying. The burying of explosive contaminated objects should be utilized only when it is unsafe, or uneconomical to decontaminate or flash.
- B. The objects to be disposed of by burying will be cleaned in accordance with the standards of paragraph III.B, above. The cleaning will be the responsibility of the Group which is disposing of the object.
- C. When the object is clean, the Group Leader, or his designated representative, of the disposing Group will examine the object and authorize burial.
- D. In addition to being clean, the object should be in such shape and size that it can be safely handled and transported.
- E. After the approval for burial of any material or objects has been granted by the Group Leader, or his designated representative, the Group Property Representative will be notified. The Group Property Representative will perform the necessary property control transactions with SP-2.
- F. When a truck load accumulates at a site, SP-2 will be notified by the Group Property Representative. SP-2 will then by means of a job order notify Group ENG-4 of the need to make a haul and will coordinate with the Group Property Representative, ENG-4, and the local AEC, on any property accountability matters.

V.

- G. ENG-4, by work order to The Zia Company, will be responsible for the collection from LASL sites, handling, and burial of the explosive-contaminated scrap and equipment in accordance with this SOP.

VI. TRANSPORTATION

A. Smoking

1. The smoking regulations of the area in which the contaminated equipment is being loaded must be observed. In addition, smoking will not be permitted in the vehicle at any time or within 100 feet of the vehicle while it is parked or being loaded or unloaded, except for casual passage during transit. There will be no smoking within the burial pit fences.
2. Matches and flame-producing devices are prohibited where smoking is prohibited.

B. Securing of Load

1. The loaded objects must be secured in a manner that will prevent them from rolling, pitching, sliding, striking one another, or falling from the vehicle.
2. Small objects may be packed in fiber drums, cardboard, or wooden boxes for handling and transporting, provided that the weight per container does not exceed 100 pounds. The objects are to be removed from the containers for burial and the containers returned to the disposing Group for disposition or reuse.

C. Parking the Truck

When a vehicle loaded with or near explosive-contaminated objects is parked, the hand brake must be set and at least one rear wheel must be chocked.

D. Fighting of Fires

In case a vehicle which is loaded with explosive-contaminated objects is involved in a fire, an attempt should be made to extinguish the fire so long as the fire does not reach the gasoline tank, the truck bed, or the load. If these become exposed to the fire, personnel should be cleared back to a minimum distance of 200 feet, and approaching traffic stopped.

VI.

E. Refueling

The vehicle must not be refueled while it is loaded with explosive-contaminated objects.

F. Classified shipments will be accompanied by SP-2 in a radio-equipped vehicle for security reasons.

VII. BURIAL

A. Materials

Only noncombustible objects or materials that are no longer needed, not economical to flash, not worthy of salvage, and are explosive contaminated are to be buried. No combustible material is to be buried. Combustible material which is attached to noncombustible objects will be removed by the disposing Group where practical, with the aim of keeping to a minimum the volume of noncombustible material buried. Contaminated equipment which is essentially all combustible should be disposed of by other means and should not be buried.

B. Classified Objects

1. Classified objects will be buried only in those holes designated for classified scrap.
2. They will be dropped in the hole in such a manner that personnel will not be over, or near the edge of, the hole during the drop. To the extent practical, the handling equipment involved will not extend over the hole.
3. Any earth or concrete cover placed over the hole will be placed in such a manner to prevent exposure of personnel over the hole.
4. Permanent records of all classified explosive-contaminated objects buried and their locations will be maintained by SP.

C. Unclassified Objects

1. Unclassified objects will be buried in open pits.
2. The objects will be unloaded and placed carefully in the pit in an orderly manner without driving or unloading over previous deposits. Care should be taken to avoid bumping or banging objects together.

VII. C.

3. At required intervals, they will be covered with a minimum of six inches of earth by the use of a bulldozer or loader.
4. The bulldozer or loader will not strike the objects at any time. It will not be driven over the objects until at least a six-inch covering of earth exists. During this operation, all personnel, such as supervisors, observers, etc. except the operator, should remain at least 100 feet from the operation.
5. Permanent records of all explosive-contaminated objects buried and their location will be maintained by SP.

D. No explosive-contaminated objects will be buried with radioactively contaminated objects unless prior approval is obtained from Group H-1.

VIII. CLEANUP

Vehicles and equipment which may become contaminated with explosives will be cleaned after each operation. Such equipment will be certified clean by a representative of Zia Safety or LASL Safety Group before any maintenance is performed on them and before they are released for other use unless this provision is covered by other LASL SOP's.

APPROVED BY:

C. A. Reynolds
C. A. Reynolds, ENG-4

12-10-64
Date

R. W. Drake
R. W. Drake, GMX-DO

9 (sic) December 1964
Date

H. S. Allen
H. S. Allen, SP-DO

12-14-64
Date

R. Reider
R. Reider, Safety Director

14 December 1964
Date