

chamberlain, kathryn, NMENV

From: Enz, Robert D. [REnz@doeal.gov]
nt: Thursday, November 17, 2005 1:12 PM
To: chamberlain, kathryn, NMENV
Cc: Pleau, Bernard
Subject: rifle grenade incident--Ash Pile

Katie,

Your paragraph as requested:

The rifle grenade was found approximately 8 AM on 11/16/05 by environmental restoration workers who were bagging debris for removal from the Ash Pile, located immediately down slope from the Incinerator Building, an incinerator used back in the 1940s. The rifle grenade was located in a debris rubble zone (i.e., mostly tin cans) located about 130' down from the mesa top where the Incinerator Building is situated. The grenade lay at a depth of about 3' below the top of the rubble zone, and was exposed as the tin-can rubble was placed in bags for removal. Once the rusty device was recognized, work was stopped immediately and the general area was flagged off. All workers were pulled from the site, and LANL's EM&R was called. EM&R closed public access to the airport, shut down airport operations, and took over management of the grenade and the surrounding area. The device was detonated by EM&R explosives experts, who were able to determine prior to detonation that the device was a rifle grenade of the 1930s or 1940s vintage. Based on the detonation results, the rifle grenade proved to be live. Within the general area, these same detonation experts were also able to identify a pulled pin from another grenade, but no other grenades other than the one rifle grenade was identified.

