FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 24, 2026

No Risk Expected in the Quad Cities from Planned Lead Azide Disposal

Joint release from the Rock Island County Emergency Management Agency, Rock Island County Health Department, the Scott County Emergency Management Agency, and Scott County Health Department

QUAD CITIES, Iowa and Illinois — Based on updated U.S. Army modeling, and the current weather forecast, the planned disposal of lead azide near Middletown, Iowa, is not expected to pose a public health risk in the Quad Cities, as communicated by state and federal agencies to Rock Island and Scott County Emergency Management Agencies and Rock Island and Scott County Health Departments. **No protective actions are recommended for Quad Cities residents at this time.**

The U.S. Army plans to conduct a controlled detonation of degraded lead azide at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant on Wednesday, November 25, weather permitting. The Army's current models project that dust containing lead will move southwest from the site, away from the Quad Cities.

For the latest information

The U.S. Army posts updates on the planned lead azide disposal, including the operation's timing and maps showing where lead dust is projected to travel. The Iowa Department of Health and Human Services and the Illinois Department of Public Health have provided public health guidance for residents in their respective states.

- U.S. Army updates and projected impact maps
- Iowa Department of Health and Human Services guidance
- Illinois Department of Public Health updates and guidance

All four agencies have been monitoring the situation and will continue to review official updates, weather conditions, and any changes to the projected affected area until the situation is resolved. If new information changes the assessment for the Quad Cities, the agencies will share updated guidance through official channels.

Media inquiries

All media inquiries regarding the planned lead azide disposal should be directed to the U.S. Army. U.S. Army public safety advisory