

ATCL-AC SUBJECT: Use of Improvised Cover in Ammunition and Explosives Operations or Environments

Static Electricity Recommendations in a Tactical Environment

Ammunition in production outer-pack is well protected from static electricity and the risk associated with storage in outer-pack from static discharge is negligible. As such, munitions should remain in production/depot packaging and configuration until use. Do not put tarps/cover directly on the ammunition boxes, leave a space to allow for air circulation. The following applies to unpackaged ammunition.

Recommended:

- When working with unpackaged munitions seek the support of your local QASAS or trained ammunition Service members.
- Wear cotton outer garments
- Where possible, raise humidity level, i.e., fan driven “mist devices”
- Drive a metal stake (razor wire picket would work) as far as possible into the soil/sand. Have operators frequently grasp the stake/metal object to drain or at least equalize the static charge on the operator.
- Be aware of ammunition items that are sensitive to static spark including 20mm, 30mm, 120mm tank, 2.75” rocket, electric detonators or damaged munitions.
- Control the use of fuels/solvents that could create an ignitable vapor
- Use of grounded standard issue camouflage netting such as NSN 1080-01-475-0696

Things to Avoid:

- Handling electrically initiated munitions on dry windy days
- Wearing nylon and/or polyester fabric (silk and wool should be avoided to a lesser degree)
- Use of conductive material for sunshades such as nylon/polyester blankets or nylon/polyester based parachutes materiel.