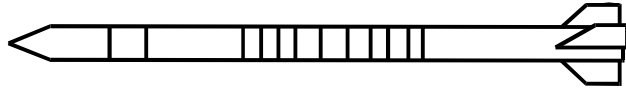


**ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN**

When finding penetrators or parts of penetrators —

- Leave the penetrator alone, as with all battlefield debris.
- Notify the chain of command of its location.



Assume a DU contamination zone of 50 meters around actively burning fires involving any armored combat vehicles or ammunition supply vehicles. If METT-TC permits, stay out of this area.



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**EMERGENCY FIRST AID FOR DU WOUNDS**

The presence of DU does not change the procedures for first aid or rescuing the injured. Conduct rescue and administer first aid according to the Soldier's Manual of Common Tasks. Notify the chain of command that the person may have injuries involving DU, because additional medical testing may be required.



**Depleted Uranium Awareness**

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**Headquarters, Department of the Army  
1 July 1999**

\*This publication supersedes GTA 3-4-1, 2 June 1997.

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**DEPLETED URANIUM (DU)**

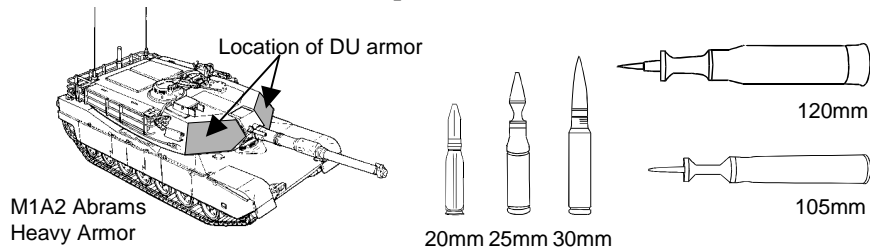
Depleted uranium (DU) is a dense, slightly radioactive heavy metal used by the United States and other forces in munitions, armor, and other applications.

**HEALTH RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH DU**

Like lead and other heavy metals, internalizing large amounts of uranium could affect your health. The primary organ affected is the kidney.

## THE MILITARY USE FOR DU

The M2/3 Bradley fighting vehicle, M1-series tanks, and some US aircraft fire DU munitions. The M1A1/A2 Abrams heavy armor tanks use steel-encased DU for increased armor protection.



## DU CONTAMINATION

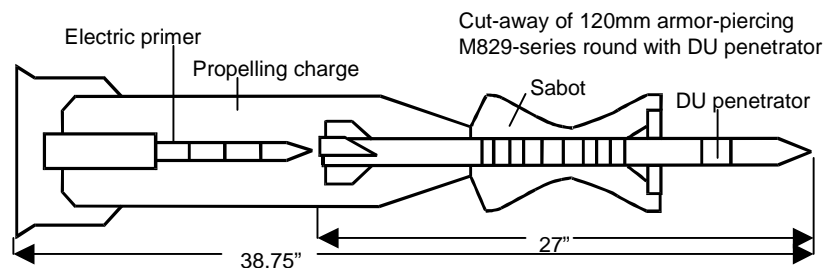
DU contamination, consisting of dust and fragments, can occur in three main ways:

- When a DU munition breaches armor.
- When DU armor is breached.
- When DU ammo burns.

This contamination can enter the body through the nose, mouth, and wounds.

## PROTECTIVE MEASURES FOR UNFIRED DU MUNITIONS AND INTACT DU ARMOR

No additional protective measures are required for unfired DU munitions beyond those required for *all* munitions or for intact DU armor.



## SITUATIONS WHEN DU PRESENTS A HAZARD

You are in a situation where DU presents a hazard if you—

- Are in, on, or near (within 50 meters) an armored combat vehicle at the time it is struck by DU munitions or an M1A1/A2 Heavy Armor tank when it is struck and breached by any munition (DU or non-DU).
- Are near (within 50 meters) actively burning fires involving DU munitions.
- Decontaminate the crew compartment of a breached armored vehicle.
- Frequently enter vehicles with penetrated DU armor or vehicles penetrated by DU munitions.
- Find a penetrator.

## ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

When you are in, on, or near a vehicle at the time of impact by DU munitions or a DU-armored vehicle at the time of impact by munitions—

- Conduct combat lifesaving.
- Continue operations, if possible.
- Notify the chain of command.

When you are decontaminating the crew compartment of a breached armored vehicle—

- Wear respiratory protection (protective mask or other approved respirator).
- Cover exposed skin (roll down sleeves, wear gloves, and such).
- Dust off uniform after leaving the vehicle and before removing protective mask.
- Always exercise standard field hygiene, including washing hands and face.