



MAGTFTC-MCAGCC 29 Palms

Environmental Standard Operating Procedure



1 October 2025

Roadwork, Soil Grading, and Excavation (REG)

Application and Purpose

These procedures apply to any individual proposing roadwork (project proponent or action sponsor), is actively engaged in roadwork (crew member), or is engaged in soil grading or excavation for other purposes, including military units conducting field training aboard the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC). These procedures apply to roadwork and soil grading and excavation activities located on range training areas (RTAs), including Mainside, Camp Wilson, and fixed ranges aboard MCAGCC.

This document provides environmental protection procedures for roadwork (road and parking lot construction and maintenance) and all other soil grading and excavation.

Procedures

Project proponents, road crews, and personnel engaged in roadwork and soil grading and excavation, including military units conducting field training, will confirm that their actions do not negatively impact natural or cultural resources without prior review and authorization.

Operational Controls

The following controls apply:

- For road construction throughout MCAGCC, conduct the following:
 - Before starting work, confirm compliance with the environmental standard operating procedure (ESOP) for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation (reference [a]).
 - Confirm compliance with the comments, requirements, and constraints indicated in the NEPA documentation.
 - Contact the Public Works Division (PWD) to obtain a dig permit, if required, and confirm that permit requirements are met.
 - Confirm that any applicable permits to operate are properly posted for any equipment being used and that the permit conditions are met.
 - Cover any holes or trenches overnight or when left unattended to optimize human safety and avoid animal entrapment.
 - Abate fugitive dust by applying water, tarps, or other measures.
- For road maintenance throughout MCAGCC on improved (paved) and unimproved (unpaved) roads in the Mainside, Range, and Camp Wilson RTAs, conduct the following:
 - Confirm compliance with reference (a), the ESOP for NEPA documentation, and reference (b), Combat Center Order 3500.4 and its associated standard operating procedures (SOPs).

- Contact PWD to obtain a dig permit, if required, and verify that permit requirements are met.
 - Confirm any applicable permits to operate are properly posted for any equipment being used and that the permit conditions are met.
 - Cover any holes or trenches overnight or when left unattended to optimize human safety and avoid animal entrapment.
 - Abate fugitive dust by applying water, tarps, or other measures.
- For road maintenance in the other RTAs, conduct the following:
- Confirm compliance with reference (a), the ESOP for NEPA Documentation, and reference (b), Combat Center Order 3500.4 and its associated SOPs.
 - Plan operations using the current RTA map available in MCAGCC's Range and Facility Management Support System (RFMSS).
 - Confirm compliance with reference (c), the ESOP for Wildlife Handling, regarding any wildlife present near the proposed maintenance route.
- For other soil grading and excavation not associated with road construction and maintenance throughout the MCAGCC:
- Military units conducting field training will do the following:
 - Confirm compliance with reference (b), Combat Center Order 3500.4 and its associated SOPs.
 - Plan operations using the current range and training area map available in MCAGCC's RFMSS.
 - Confirm compliance with reference (c), the ESOP for Wildlife Handling, regarding any wildlife present at the training site.
 - Return the site to grade (for example, knock down berms and fill excavations) after training has completed.
 - Personnel other than military units will conduct the following:
 - Before starting work, confirm compliance with reference (a), the ESOP for NEPA Documentation, and reference (b), Combat Center Order 3500.4 and its associated SOPs.
 - Contact PWD to obtain a dig permit, if required, and confirm permit requirements are met.
 - Confirm any applicable permit(s) to operate is properly posted for any equipment being used and that all permit conditions are met.
 - Cover any holes or trenches overnight or when left unattended to optimize human safety and avoid animal entrapment.
 - Abate fugitive dust by applying water, tarps, or other approved measures.

Contact Environmental Affairs Conservation via phone at (760) 830-5720, 5719, 5369, 5200, 7896, or 7641 regarding specific situations or other concerns not addressed by this procedure in case of cultural resources discovery (for example, burn pits, cans, bottles, stone objects, or bones), or in case of natural resources discovery.

Training Requirements

- Affected personnel will be trained in this document.
- Before conducting work in the RTAs, personnel will first receive environmental awareness, desert survival, and unexploded ordnances awareness training. Contact Range Safety via phone at (760) 830-6945 to schedule this training.

Recordkeeping

The following records must be maintained:

- NEPA Decision Memoranda for specific projects, PWD Dig Permits, Equipment Operation Permits, and EA letters authorizing bird nest checks (VMR ESOP).
- Incident reports for desert tortoises, other wildlife, Joshua Trees, and cultural resources.

Emergency Preparedness and Response Procedures.

- Refer to reference (a) for emergency procedures to confirm that the emergency response complies with NEPA legal requirements.
- Refer to reference (b) and its associated SOPs for emergency procedures in the RTAs.
- Refer to reference (d) for spill response requirements.

Inspection and Corrective Action.

The Environmental Compliance Coordinator (ECC) will confirm unit adherence to this ESOP. The ECC will confirm that unit personnel are trained in this ESOP and maintain appropriate documentation in accordance with this ESOP. If this ESOP contains an enclosed inspection checklist, designated personnel will conduct the inspections using this ESOP as guidance and document the inspections via the enclosed checklist. If deficiencies are discovered during an inspection, the ECC will ensure immediate corrective action is taken and that all deficiencies and corrective actions are recorded on the enclosed checklist.

References

- (a) ESOP for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Documentation
- (b) Combat Center Order (CCO) 3500.4, Range, Training Area, and Airspace Program
- (c) ESOP for Wildlife Handling
- (d) Combat Center Order CCO 5090.1, Environmental Protection

Use and Version Control

ESOPs are used to augment instructions contained in official orders and directives, and, where necessary, provide for sufficient control of the installation's significant practices. Environmental Affairs maintains the authoritative, current version of this and other ESOPs on the installation's website: <https://www.29palms.marines.mil/Staff-Offices/G-4-Installation-Support-Directorate/Environmental-Affairs/#environmental-sops>.