Public Tours of the Nevada National Security Site

Registration
Free, general-interest public tours of the 1,360-square-mile Nevada National Security Site are provided monthly. Seats are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Six months’ worth of tours are opened up at a time, with notifications given on NNSS’ Facebook and Twitter accounts. Group and media tours are available as well. For additional information and to register, visit www.nnss.gov/pages/PublicAffairsOutreach/NNSStours.html.

Since the NNSS is a restricted-access government facility, visitors must apply well in advance to attend a tour. Tour participants must be at least 14 years old. Pregnant women are discouraged from participating in tours because of the long bus ride and uneven terrain at the Site.

Casual clothing is recommended (light clothing in the summer and layers in the winter), and sturdy shoes are required for the rugged terrain. No shorts or sandals are permitted.

What will I see?
- **Mercury** is the main base camp for the NNSS.
- **Frenchman Flat** is the location of the first atmospheric nuclear test, Able, on the NNSS, in January 1951. Thirteen subsequent atmospheric nuclear tests were conducted on Frenchman Flat between 1951 and 1962.
- **The Nonproliferation Test & Evaluation Complex (NPTEC)** is used by the chemical and petroleum industry, and government agencies to test spill dispersion, test sensors, and mitigation, as well as first-responder training procedures. It is also the world’s largest facility for open air testing of hazardous toxic materials and biological simulants.
- **The Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex** is the depository for low-level radioactive waste from the dismantlement and cleanup of Department of Energy and Department of Defense weapons production complexes.
- **News Nob** is the viewpoint from which journalists, such as Walter Cronkite, and visiting dignitaries witnessed atmospheric tests.
- **Sedan Crater** resulted from an experiment conducted as part of the Plowshare Program which explored the peaceful uses of nuclear explosives.

Background
Since the establishment of the Nevada Test Site (now known as the Nevada National Security Site – NNSS) in 1951, thousands of people from around the world continue to visit this vast outdoor laboratory with public, civic and technical tours provided by the U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Field Office (NNSA/NFO).

Larger than the state of Rhode Island, the site features artifacts and archaeological sites from the early settlers, as well as the many relics remaining from nuclear weapons tests, nuclear rocket experiments and a variety of other defense, environmental and energy-related programs.

Transportation
The NNSS is located 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas, Nevada, with each tour covering approximately 250 miles. Transportation is provided in the form of a chartered coach bus, equipped with a restroom. Tours depart from the National Atomic Testing Museum.

Items to Bring
Participants are given the option to either bring a lunch or eat at the Bistro on site. (The Bistro only takes credit or debit cards. No cash!) Alcoholic beverages are strictly prohibited.
The 104-kiloton nuclear explosion displaced about 12 million tons of earth, creating a crater 1,280 feet in diameter and 320 feet deep.

- **The Icecap modular tower** was built for a joint United Kingdom/Los Alamos National Laboratory underground nuclear test scheduled for the spring of 1993. What would have been the 929th test came to a halt when President Bush signed the Underground Nuclear Testing Moratorium Oct. 3, 1992. The tower still stands in Area 7 of the NNSS.

- **T-1 Training Area.** To increase domestic preparedness to combat terrorist threats, the NNSA/NFO provides a unique radiological/nuclear weapons of mass destruction training center at the NNSS. Emergency responders are trained to take immediate, decisive actions in response to terrorist use of radiological or nuclear weapons of mass destruction.

- **Apple-2 Houses.** Apple-2 was a 29-kiloton nuclear device placed on top of a 500-foot tower for a May 5, 1955 test in Area 1 of the NNSS. A typical American community – complete with three one-story and two two-story homes, real food, American-made automobiles, mannequins and more – was constructed to measure the effects of a nuclear test. Today, the houses that remain after the Apple-2 blast are the high point of many NNSS tours.

### Security Requirements

Prospective visitors must supply the following information:

- Full name as it appears on driver’s license or other photo identification
- Date and place (city and state) of birth
- Home and business address, to include name of employer
- Home and business phone number
- Citizenship (foreign citizens will be asked to supply additional information)

***Foreign nationals are required to provide additional information at least six weeks before their visit.***

### Prohibited Articles

- Visitors are not permitted to bring cell phones, cameras, binoculars, telescopes or tape recorders on the tour.
- Firearms are not permitted under any circumstances.
- Visitors may not remove soil, rock, plant samples or metal objects from the NNSS.