

JOINT OFFICE OF TEST INFORMATION
Washington 25, D. C.

408830

**DANGER AREA FOR JOHNSTON ISLAND NUCLEAR TESTS ANNOUNCED;
UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY PROHIBITED**

As part of the safety precautions for the forthcoming nuclear tests at Johnston Island, the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission today issued public notice of a surface danger area which will be established around the island effective July 25, 1958.

On May 2, 1958, it was announced that certain short-range defensive missiles with nuclear warheads would be fired from Johnston Island, as part of the HARDTACK series of nuclear tests in the Pacific. Johnston Island is located about 540 statute miles southwest of the nearest inhabited island of the Hawaiian chain and about 900 statute miles from the next nearest inhabited island.

Effective July 25, all ships are cautioned to remain clear of an area bounded by a circle of 400 nautical mile radius centered at the following geographic coordinates:

Longitude $169^{\circ} 31'$ West

Latitude $16^{\circ} 45'$ North.

It is estimated that the surface danger area will remain in effect for a period of approximately three or four weeks. This notice is being given the widest possible distribution through marine and international organizations.

An air danger area will be established by warnings to aircraft issued by the Civil Aeronautics Administration shortly before the firing time planned for each test. This will permit maximum utilization of the area by normal air traffic.

(more)

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Entry into the danger area surrounding Johnston Island by U. S. citizens and all other persons subject to the jurisdiction of the United States is prohibited beginning July 25, 1958.

The action is taken through an amendment of an Atomic Energy Commission regulation issued April 11, 1958, which prohibits entry into the danger area of the Knisvick Proving Ground. The amendment is effective from July 25, 1958, until the disestablishment of the Johnston Island danger area. As amended, the regulation prohibits entry, attempted entry or conspiracy to enter the Johnston Island danger area.

The amendment to Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 112 was filed today with the Federal Register. A copy is attached.