



CHEMICAL STOCKPILE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

A ready public set to protect itself in an emergency.

Umatilla
Public Information
Group

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Time: 9 a.m.

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE and
MEDIA OPPORTUNITY**

Annual Emergency Preparedness Drill May 5

The annual CSEPP emergency preparedness drill will be held Wednesday, May 5.

First responders, emergency management personnel and volunteers from three counties, Umatilla and Morrow in Oregon and Benton County, Wash., the states of Washington and Oregon, and the Army's Umatilla Chemical Depot will participate.

An estimated 10,000 school children in the two-state area will be involved in shelter-in-place and evacuation drills during the exercise.

The American Red Cross will set up simulated evacuation shelters at Pendleton and The Dalles. Additionally, a unified Red Cross headquarters will be set up in Kennewick at the Benton-Franklin County Chapter office, 7202 W. Deschutes.

The exercise will start with a simulated chemical emergency at the Umatilla Chemical Depot and demonstrate emergency preparedness activities throughout the communities surrounding the depot.

This year's exercise will start at mid-morning on May 5. Emergency planners have changed the drill time to a daytime start after three years of holding night drills to allow participation from area schools.

During the early stages of the exercise, Morrow and Umatilla counties in Oregon will test outdoor sirens, highway message reader boards, tone alert radios, as well as sending Emergency Alert System test messages to local radio and television stations. Highway advisory radio systems will also be tested. Benton County county emergency management officials will simulate disaster response activities in the Plymouth and Paterson areas.

People are urged to listen to the sirens and the test exercise messages as part of their overall emergency preparedness. The public will hear Westminster chimes in Umatilla, Morrow and southern Benton counties.

(MORE)

Several emergency preparedness activities are planned in Umatilla and Morrow counties in Oregon and in southern Benton County in Washington.

Although they will not be participating in the exercise, residents and businesses are urged to practice their disaster plans during the event.

The Joint Information Center, located on the top floor of the Umatilla County Criminal Justice Building, across from the Pendleton airport off of I-84, Exit 207, will be activated to respond to mock public and media phone calls.

Federal, state and other evaluators will observe the drill and provide their comments on how the performance of the exercise players could be improved.

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR MEDIA

Media representatives may view portions of the exercise taking place with assistance from Army and Federal Emergency Management Agency escorts, starting at the Chemical Disposal Outreach Office at 190 E. Main Street in Hermiston, Ore., beginning at 9 a.m., Wednesday, May 5. There, media representatives will receive information on the exercise scenario. Contact Jesse Seigal, FEMA representative, (541) 310-9631 by 4 p.m., Monday, May 3, to make arrangements to cover the events. (See the attached Media Advisory).