



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

Umatilla Chemical Depot

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Nov. 2, 2004
TIME: 7 p.m.

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Workers report odor

Umatilla Chemical Depot, Hermiston, Ore. – Two individuals working near the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) this afternoon reported smelling an odor that was described as a light, waxy smell. One worker experienced watery eyes and a runny nose, but both were medically evaluated at the depot's clinic and released. While chemical warfare agent is not suspected as a cause, blood and urine samples were taken as a precaution and will be analyzed.

Additionally, depot monitoring and safety personnel have monitored the area where the individuals were working for chemical warfare agent, industrial chemicals and other possible causes. All results have been negative. The UMCDF was not processing rockets or destroying chemical warfare agent today.

The depot will continue to investigate this incident. The investigation will include looking at any similarities between today's incident and one on Oct. 16 involving two depot security guards who reported a rotten egg smell while on routine patrol.

To help keep surrounding communities informed, depot officials notified the off-post emergency operations centers in Umatilla and Morrow counties, Ore., Benton County, Wash., those in Oregon and Washington states, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality.

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