



CHEMICAL STOCKPILE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

A ready public set to protect itself in an emergency.

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Public Information
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Date: Wednesday, April 27, 2005

Time: 8 a.m.

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE and
MEDIA OPPORTUNITY**

Annual Emergency Preparedness Drill set for May 10

The annual CSEPP emergency preparedness drill will be held on Tuesday evening, May 10.

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

Participants will include first responders, emergency management personnel and volunteers from Umatilla and Morrow counties and Benton and Walla Walla counties in Washington; the states of Washington and Oregon; the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and the Army's Umatilla Chemical Depot.

School children in communities surrounding the depot will be involved in shelter-in-place and evacuation drills earlier in the day.

Exercise officials plan to set up various decontamination stations in Oregon at the Hermiston Community Center, Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston, St. Anthony's Hospital in Pendleton, the Boardman Rest Stop, Lexington Public Works Compound and Pioneer Hospital in Heppner.

American Red Cross will set up shelters in six communities surrounding the depot. The Oregon counties will be activating reception centers at the Wildhorse Casino near Pendleton and at the old Kinzua plant just outside Heppner. Additionally, an American Red Cross Emergency Communications Response Vehicle will participate in the exercise and will be located at the Umatilla County Criminal Justice Building, across from the Pendleton airport off I-84, Exit 207. The vehicle will be set up for demonstrations on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

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.

(MORE)

Annual Emergency Preparedness Drill, May 10

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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 Emergency Management officials will simulate disaster response activities in the Plymouth and Paterson areas.

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

Residents and businesses are encouraged to practice their disaster plans during the event.

The Joint Information Center, located at the Umatilla County Justice Building at Pendleton, will be activated to respond to mock public and media phone calls.

Federal, state and other evaluators will observe and evaluate the drill.

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR MEDIA

Media representatives may view the exercise start with assistance from Army and Federal Emergency Management Agency escorts, starting at the Umatilla Chemical Depot, Westland Gate, off the Westland Rd. Exit of I-82 near Hermiston, Ore., beginning at 3:45 p.m. Tuesday, May 10. Media representatives will be escorted to the depot Operations Center and will be asked to leave their vehicles in the Westland Gate parking lot. Contact Jim Hackett, UMCD Public Affairs Office , (541) 564-5418/5312 by 4 p.m., Monday, May 9, to make arrangements to visit the depot. To cover off-post events that will be going on concurrently at the depot and to visit the Joint Information Center, contact Jesse Seigal, FEMA, (541) 567-3652 by 4 p.m., May 9. To find out more information about the American Red Cross Emergency Communications Response Vehicle contact Tony Scheibe at (541) 966-3704.

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