



# PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

## Umatilla Chemical Depot

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Depot Monitors Detect Trace Amounts of Agent Vapors

**UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT, Hermiston, Ore.** – This morning, depot chemical operations monitoring crews detected trace amounts of chemical agent vapors inside a depot storage structure storing GB-filled (Sarin) M55 rockets and in a structure storing HD-filled (mustard) ton containers.

The crews were conducting routine “headwall” monitoring operations with standard mobile air-monitoring equipment. Headwall monitoring allows crews to connect external monitoring lines to pre-positioned lines inside a structure, also called an “igloo,” through a port connection without having to open the igloo door. The structures have a “passive” filter system, which prevents chemical agent vapor from escaping to the outside atmosphere. However, as a further protective measure, powered filter systems were installed. Depot crews will continue to take readings and monitor the structures.

Even though the readings are so low they are not harmful to the public or the environment, depot officials notify the public when such incidents occur. They also notify 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 Department of Environmental Quality.

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