



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

Umatilla Chemical Depot

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 30, 2005

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Fire at Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility

Umatilla Chemical Depot, Hermiston, Ore. – On 29 July 2005, at approximately 9:16 p.m., a fire occurred at the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF). The fire occurred within Explosive Containment Room (ECR) B, one of the facility's two remotely operated protective containment room, while processing the 188th GB M55 rocket of the day. The Rocket Shear Machine was making the fifth of seven shears when an ignition occurred as the shear blade cut through the rocket motor section. Initiation of this event was similar to prior UMCDF fire events, which occurred on 7 and 23 April and 18 May 2005. The fire protection system functioned with the water deluge system suppressing the fire. Minimal equipment damage was noted through visual observation prior to making entry into ECR B. The incident was maintained under engineering controls and no agent readings were noted outside of expected areas. Operations at the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) were suspended today as a precaution due to a fire in the plant. No injuries were reported.

Operations will resume when site management determines it is safe to do so and in coordination with Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

As is standard procedure, depot officials notify the public when such incidents occur. Also, off-post emergency operations centers in Umatilla and Morrow counties, Ore., Benton County, Wash., those in Oregon and Washington states, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality have been notified. For additional information, please call Mr. Don Barclay at 541-571-0860.

More information will be released as it becomes available.

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