



CHEMICAL STOCKPILE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

MORROW  
COUNTY  
EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

## NEWS RELEASE

*For immediate release*

June 8, 2005

### Morrow County Emergency Management Opens New "Safe Room"

*For more information about how to prepare for an emergency, check our website at [www.csepp.net](http://www.csepp.net).*

*You are also welcome to contact me, especially if you want to schedule a CSEPP presentation for your community group.*

**Maureen Roxbury**  
Information Officer  
PO Box 33  
Irrigon OR 97844-0033

[maureen@csepp.org](mailto:maureen@csepp.org)

Office: 541.922.5262  
FAX: 541.922.5263  
Pager: 503.441.7280  
Cell: 541.256.0118

**Irrigon, OR** - Morrow County Emergency Management, as a cost-share project with the *Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP)*, has built a new "Safe Room" adjacent to the Morrow County Annex in Irrigon. This building is one of seven commercial buildings, identified in a special population study, needing a "safe room" for employees and patrons - in the city of Irrigon. Employees working in the Morrow County Annex, as well as those who may be visiting the Planning Department or attending Justice or Juvenile Court will now have the ability to shelter-in-place in the event of a chemical emergency at the Umatilla Chemical Depot.

An engineering survey done on the Morrow County Annex building determined that it wasn't feasible to create a safe area in that building. Other alternatives were explored, including a mobile shelter unit such as those at located at several Head Start facilities. It was determined to be more cost effective to build a new building.

The "safe room" was designed to be virtually air-tight. The exterior finish is a special material that looks like stucco but has a sealant that keeps airflow to a minimum; there are front and rear vestibules which provide an air lock and sealed windows. The enhanced heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system creates an "overpressurized" atmosphere and the overhead recirculating air filters help keep chemicals out of the air, in the event of a chemical emergency.

An ancillary benefit is that the building doubles as an office for Morrow County Emergency Management's Public Information Officer, Maureen

Roxbury. Roxbury has a facility to hold outreach events and safety classes, for residents who live in the Immediate Response Zone in Morrow County (Irrigon and Boardman). The concept came to fruition this week when the office furniture arrived and Roxbury set up shop.

If you would like more information on sheltering in place or need to schedule a presentation for your group, please contact Maureen Roxbury, Morrow County Public Information Officer at (541) 922-5262 or email at: [maureen@csepp.org](mailto:maureen@csepp.org). You may also check out the CSEPP website: [www.csepp.net](http://www.csepp.net).

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*PHOTO'S ARE ATTACHED.*

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