



# PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

## Umatilla Chemical Depot

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Rocket fire reported Wednesday night at depot

**UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT, Hermiston, Ore.** – A fire occurred Wednesday night during the processing of an M55 rocket in one of the Explosive Containment Rooms (ECRs) at the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF).

Depot officials reported the fire, which occurred about 10:14 p.m. in ECR-B, was extinguished in about five minutes. The rocket's chemical agent, GB Sarin, had been drained and the rocket was at a shear machine when the incident occurred.

As with most of the previous fires, last night's fire occurred during the fifth of seven shears. The ECR was under engineering controls so the fire and chemical agent were contained within the room. There were no injuries.

UMCDF workers made an initial assessment of the ECR last night, and more entries will be made today to assess the damage and make repairs. UMCDF officials said a root cause analysis would be conducted before a decision is reached on resuming processing in ECR-B. ECR-A is available for processing when a decision is made to resume processing on that line.

There was no harm to UMCDF workers, the public or the environment.

Depot officials notified the 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.

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