



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Umatilla County Employee Receives National Recognition

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana – A Umatilla County Emergency Management (UCEM) employee received national recognition last week for his achievements in the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP).

Bill Howard, UCEM Logistics Officer, received one of only a handful of national awards for outstanding contributions to the CSEP Program during the National CSEPP Workshop in Indianapolis. Bob Stephan, Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection, U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) presented the award to Howard during an assembly of nearly 400 of his CSEPP peers from around the country.

Howard was cited for professionalism and “prudent” management of 36 critical collective protection facilities in the communities surrounding the Umatilla Chemical Depot. These facilities include 31 local schools that would either over-pressurized or evacuate during the unlikely event of a chemical accident at the Umatilla Chemical Depot. Howard ensures that the equipment is maintained and operating properly and that school staff members are trained to operate it. Nearly 10,000 children and school staff are protected under this program.

Stephan also recognized Howard for his expertise in administering the Tone Alert Radio (TAR) program, which is used to notify citizens and businesses of a chemical emergency at the Umatilla Chemical Depot. The TARs have also been used on five occasions by the National Weather Service in Pendleton to alert area residents of weather emergencies.

Howard and his wife Ann, both of Milton-Freewater, were present in Indianapolis to receive the award. Howard has been with UCEM since July, 1999.

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Caption for accompanying photo: “Bill Howard, Umatilla County Emergency Management (left), receives “Superior Service” award from Bob Stephan, Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, June 29, during the National Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program Workshop in Indianapolis, IN.