



CHEMICAL STOCKPILE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

A ready public set to protect itself in an emergency.

Umatilla
Public Information
Group

Cheryl Seigal
Umatilla County
Emergency
Management
541-966-3703
cheryl.seigal@csepp.net

Maureen Roxbury
Morrow County
Emergency
Management
541-481-3424
maureen@csepp.org

Steve Sautter
Benton County
Emergency
Management
509-628-8470
s.sautter@bces.wa.gov

Mark Clemens
Washington State
Emergency
Management
253-512-7006
m.clemens@emd.wa.gov

Jim Hackett
Umatilla Chemical
Depot
541-564-5418
james.s.hackett@us.army.mil

Jesse Seigal
Dept. of Homeland
Security
541-567-3652
jesse.seigal@dhs.gov

Date: Thursday, June 1, 2006

Time: 9:15 a.m.

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE and
MEDIA OPPORTUNITY**

Annual Emergency Preparedness Drill set for June 6

The annual CSEPP emergency preparedness drill will be held on the evening of June 6.

People are urged to listen to sirens and test exercise messages as part of their overall emergency preparedness. The public will hear Westminster chimes on the sirens in Umatilla and Morrow County, Ore., and southern Benton County, Wash.

Participants will include first responders, emergency management workers and volunteers from Umatilla and Morrow counties in Oregon and Benton County in Washington; the states of Washington and Oregon; the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and the Army's Umatilla Chemical Depot.

American Red Cross will set up shelters in six communities surrounding the depot. The Oregon counties will be activating assistance centers at the Wild horse Casino near Pendleton and at the old Kinzua plant just outside Heppner.

Tuesday's exercise will start with a simulated chemical emergency at the Umatilla Chemical Depot and demonstrate emergency preparedness activities throughout the communities surrounding the depot.

During the early stages of the exercise, Morrow and Umatilla counties in Oregon will test outdoor sirens, highway message reader boards, tone alert radios, as well as sending Emergency Alert System test messages to local radio and television stations. Highway advisory radio systems will also be tested.

Benton County Emergency Management officials will simulate disaster response activities in the Plymouth and Paterson areas.

Several emergency preparedness activities are planned in Umatilla and Morrow counties in Oregon and in southern Benton County in Washington.

(MORE)

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Benton County Emergency Management officials will simulate disaster response activities in the Plymouth and Paterson areas.

Several emergency preparedness activities are planned in Umatilla and Morrow counties in Oregon and in southern Benton County in Washington.

Residents and businesses are encouraged to practice their disaster plans during the event.

The Joint Information Center, located at the Umatilla County Justice Building at Pendleton, will be activated to respond to mock public and media phone calls.

Federal, state and other evaluators will observe and evaluate the drill.

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR MEDIA

Media representatives may view the June 6 exercise start with assistance from Army and Department of Homeland Security escorts, starting at the Umatilla Chemical Depot, Westland Gate, off the Westland Rd. Exit of I-82 near Hermiston, Ore., beginning at 3:45 p.m. Tuesday, June 6. Media representatives will be escorted to the depot Operations Center and will be asked to leave their vehicles in the Westland Gate parking lot. Contact Jim Hackett, UMCD Public Affairs Office, (541) 564-5418/5312 by noon Thursday, June 1, to make advance arrangements to visit the depot.