



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

Umatilla Chemical Depot

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 21, 2006
TIME: 2:30 p.m.

CONTACT: Public Affairs Office
Jim Hackett
PHONE: (541) 564-5312/5418

Depot detects trace amounts of agent vapors

UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT, Hermiston, Ore. – A depot chemical operations crew detected trace amounts of GB Sarin chemical agent vapors today inside a depot storage structure containing overpacked munitions.

Most munitions in this storage structure called an “igloo,” have previously leaked and are overpacked in larger containers for additional safety and protection.

The structure housing the chemical agent has a “passive” filter system, which prevents chemical agent vapor from escaping outside the structure. However as a further protective measure, a powered filter system was installed.

Even though the readings are so low they are not harmful to the public or the environment, depot officials notify the public when such incidents occur. They also notify off-post emergency operations centers in Umatilla and Morrow counties, Benton County, Wash., those in Oregon and Washington states, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) is a dedicated team whose expertise and oversight sets the standards of excellence and leadership in safely storing the nation's aging chemical weapons and developing programs aimed at effectively recovering, treating and ultimately eliminating the nation's chemical warfare materiel. CMA personnel also enhance national security by providing specialized products and capabilities to our nation's Warfighters, and homeland defense and response capabilities. CMA encourages public participation and is committed to worker and public safety, and environmental stewardship. For more information about CMA and its programs, visit www.cma.army.mil.

www.cma.army.mil

C R E A T I N G A S A F E R T O M O R R O W