



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL
MATERIALS AGENCY

PRESS RELEASE

Umatilla Chemical Depot

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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No. 1

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Late-afternoon storm puts depot on back-up power

Umatilla Chemical Depot, Hermiston, Ore. — A late-afternoon area storm resulted in loss of power to many areas of the depot, including the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF). Currently, back-up generators are providing power to the depot and the UMCDF.

Additional information as of this time is as follows:

- There are no reports of injuries.
- There was an unconfirmed report of a tornado touching down near the depot's nerve agent storage area.
- A depot weather tower had readings of sustained wind speeds in excess of 55 mph and gusts in excess of 85 mph.
- There were no chemical operations being conducted in the chemical agent storage areas prior to the storm. All igloo doors were closed. Depot personnel will be visually inspecting the igloo exteriors as a precautionary measure.
- The UMCDF was not processing ammunition when the storm hit.
- UMCDF administrative personnel were evacuated to a pre-determined depot staging area and are now moving to a depot building in the administrative area along with incoming shift personnel.
- UMCDF personnel remaining at the plant have been masked as a precaution.
- The UMCDF temporarily lost back-up generator capability, but generators are again working.
- Monitoring continues inside the plant; there is no indication of agent outside of engineering controls.
- Entrance on and off the depot is currently restricted.

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A depot crisis management team has assembled at its Operations Center. Depot officials have 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.

Anyone needing more information about emergency preparedness should phone the following CSEPP toll-free numbers: 1-877-367-2737 in Morrow and Umatilla counties, Ore., and 1-800-841-7953 in Benton County, Wash.

Community Advisory: Please do not call 911 or the Depot for additional information. Tune into your local radio or television stations for emergency preparedness information. In Oregon, tune to KUMA Radio, FM 107.7, and in Washington, tune to KONA Radio, AM 610, FM 105.3.

More information will be released as it becomes available.

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.

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