



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL
MATERIALS AGENCY

PRESS RELEASE

Umatilla Chemical Depot

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Public Affairs Office
Mary Binder
Phone: 541-564-5312/5418
Cell: 541-571-1774

Depot, disposal facility remain on back-up power

Umatilla Chemical Depot, Hermiston, Ore. — As of 8 p.m., the depot remains on back-up generators, including the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF), as a result of this afternoon's area storm. Technicians from the depot's public works department and Umatilla Electric Cooperative are working to restore power to the depot and disposal facility.

Additional updated information is as follows:

- The UMCDF second shift has reported to work.
- The UMCDF has maintained monitoring capability at the plant throughout this event as the monitoring system has its own back-up battery system to provide an uninterrupted power source.
- The depot's mobile air-monitoring laboratory vehicles are taking air samples in the depot's nerve-agent storage area and outside the UMCDF as a precautionary measure.
- Depot personnel have completed a visual inspection of the exterior of the igloos in the nerve-agent storage area.
- Cause for the generators failure at UMCDF is under investigation.
- The depot's entrances have been re-opened.

Following is previously released information, with updates:

- There have been no reports of injuries.
- Monitoring continues inside the plant; there is no indication of agent outside of engineering controls.
- 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.

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- There were no chemical operations being conducted in the chemical agent storage areas prior to the storm. All igloo doors were closed.
- The UMCDF was not processing chemical agent when the storm hit.
- UMCDF administrative personnel were evacuated to a pre-determined depot staging area and then moved to a depot building in the administrative area along with incoming shift personnel.
- UMCDF personnel remaining at the plant were masked as a precaution.
- The UMCDF lost back-up generator capability for about 45 minutes.

The depot's crisis management team remains at its Operations Center and is continuing to provide information to 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. Information will also be available at: www.csepp.net.

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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