



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

Umatilla Chemical Depot

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Depot detects trace of mustard chemical agent vapors

UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT, Hermiston, Ore. - A depot chemical operations monitoring crew detected mustard (HD) chemical agent vapors this morning inside a depot storage structure containing bulk storage containers.

The trace of mustard chemical agent was detected during routine monitoring.

The storage structure, commonly called an igloo, has a "passive" filter system that prevents chemical agent vapor from escaping outside the structure. However, as a further protective measure a powered filter system will be installed. The leaking container will be identified, inspected and decontaminated.

Even though the reading detected this morning was so low it did not constitute a danger to the public or the environment, depot officials notify the public when ever such incidents occur. They also notify off-post emergency operations centers in Umatilla and Morrow counties, Ore., Benton County, Wash., those in Oregon and Washington states, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

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