



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

Umatilla Chemical Depot

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Depot detects traces of mustard chemical agent vapors

UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT, Hermiston, Ore. – A depot chemical operations monitoring crew detected mustard (HD) chemical agent vapors today inside a depot storage structure storing bulk storage containers.

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

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, 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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