



# PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

## Umatilla Chemical Depot

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Depot detects trace of GB chemical agent

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

Munitions in this storage structure called an "igloo," have previously leaked and are overpacked in larger containers for additional safety and protection. The trace of GB 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 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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