



**CHEMICAL STOCKPILE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM**

*A ready public set to protect itself in an emergency.*

Umatilla Public  
Information Group

**Cheryl Seigal**  
Umatilla County  
Emergency Management  
541-966-3703  
[cheryl.seigal@csepp.net](mailto:cheryl.seigal@csepp.net)

**Maureen Roxbury**  
Morrow County  
Emergency Management  
541-922-1162  
[maureen@csepp.org](mailto:maureen@csepp.org)

**Steve Sautter**  
Benton County  
Emergency Management  
509-628-8470  
[s.sautter@bces.wa.gov](mailto:s.sautter@bces.wa.gov)

**Mark Clemens**  
Washington State  
Emergency Management  
253-512-7006  
[m.clemens@emd.wa.gov](mailto:m.clemens@emd.wa.gov)

**Jim Hackett**  
Umatilla Chemical Depot  
541-564-5418  
[james.s.hackett@us.army.mil](mailto:james.s.hackett@us.army.mil)

**Jesse Seigal**  
FEMA  
541-567-3652  
[jesse.seigal@dhs.gov](mailto:jesse.seigal@dhs.gov)

**Date: Tuesday, May 15, 2007**

**Time: 11 a.m.**

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE and MEDIA OPPORTUNITY**

**Annual Emergency Preparedness Exercise May 22**

The annual Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness exercise is scheduled for the evening of May 22. More than 600 emergency workers and volunteers will be participating in the major preparedness event in Eastern Oregon and Southeastern Washington.

This annual exercise is one of the largest joint exercises in the Northwest and is one of several annual emergency preparedness exercises held in communities surrounding chemical weapons sites across the country.

The public will hear Westminster chimes from sirens in Umatilla and Morrow County, Ore., and southern Benton County, Wash., during the exercise.

Participants will include first responders, emergency management workers and volunteers from Umatilla and Morrow counties in Oregon and Benton and Walla Walla counties in Washington; the states of Washington and Oregon; the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and the Army's Umatilla Chemical Depot.

American Red Cross will set up simulated shelters at Pendleton, The Dalles, Heppner, La Grande and Kennewick.

The Red Cross will also set up an Emergency Communications Response Vehicle (ECRV) from Spokane for demonstration purposes. On Monday, May 21, the ECRV will be at the Benton-Franklin County Red Cross Chapter Office on Deschutes Ave. in Kennewick.

The annual exercise will start with a simulated chemical emergency at the Umatilla Chemical Depot and demonstrate emergency preparedness activities throughout the communities surrounding the depot.

During the early stages of the exercise, Morrow and Umatilla counties in Oregon and Benton County in Washington will test outdoor sirens using the Westminster chimes tones,

(MORE)

## **Annual Emergency Preparedness Exercise May 22**

Page 2 of 2

highway message reader boards, tone alert radios, as well as sending Emergency Alert System test messages to local radio and television stations. Highway advisory radio systems will also be tested.

Six hospitals will participate, three in Oregon and three in Washington. In Oregon: St. Anthony's, Pendleton; Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston; and Pioneer Memorial Hospital, Heppner. In Washington: Lourdes Medical Center, Pasco; Prosser Memorial Hospital, Prosser; and St. Mary's Medical Center, Walla Walla.

A Mobile Joint Information Center will be activated for the first time in Benton County to respond to the mock crisis. This is a change from normal use of the permanent Joint Information Center in Pendleton.

Residents and businesses are encouraged to practice their disaster plans during the event.

Federal, state and other evaluators from other areas will observe and evaluate the drill.

###

### **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR MEDIA**

**Media representatives may view emergency response activities in connection with the May 22 drill with assistance from Army and FEMA escorts. Contact Jesse Seigal, FEMA Public Affairs, at (541) 310-9631 to find out more information about the events to cover.**