



CHEMICAL STOCKPILE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM  
*A ready public set to protect itself in an emergency.*

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***IMMEDIATE RELEASE and MEDIA OPPORTUNITY***

**Annual emergency preparedness exercise slated May 19**

Hermiston, Ore. – The Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) Exercise will be held on Wednesday, May 19. This annual exercise allows local, state and federal emergency response agencies to practice their response to a simulated event at the Umatilla Chemical Depot and to have that response effort federally evaluated.

This year's exercise will include participation from American Red Cross, Benton County Emergency Services, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Hermiston High School, Incident Command Post (Hermiston), Joint Information Center (Pendleton), Morrow County Emergency Management, Oregon Emergency Management, Oregon Health, Umatilla County Emergency Management, U.S. Army Umatilla Chemical Depot, and Washington Emergency Management Division.

The exercise will begin about 9 a.m. and run throughout the day.

The public in Umatilla, Morrow and southern Benton County will hear CSEPP Tone alert radios and sirens activate with a test message at the start of the drill.

Drivers along I-82 in southern Benton County and I-84 in Umatilla and Morrow counties will see highway reader boards and highway advisory radio systems activated with test messages.

For more information on the exercise, contact Jim Hackett, Umatilla Chemical Depot at (541) 564-5418 or Cheryl Layman, FEMA at (541) 357-2435.

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**MEDIA OPPORTUNITY**

Media representatives may view portions of the exercise taking place with assistance from the Army and FEMA escorts, starting at the main gate of Umatilla Chemical Depot, off Exit 177, I-84, just west of Hermiston, Ore., starting at 8:15 a.m. Media representatives will receive a briefing on the exercise scenario to take place and see the start of the exercise at the depot Operations Center. RSVP's are required.

Contact Jim Hackett, Umatilla Chemical Depot, at (541) 564-5418 by Thursday noon, May 13, or Cheryl Layman, FEMA, at (541) 357-2435 to make arrangements to cover the event.