



CHEMICAL STOCKPILE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

A ready public set to protect itself in an emergency.

Umatilla
Public Information
Group

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

Maureen Roxbury
Morrow County
Emergency
Management
541-481-3424
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

Jim Hackett
Umatilla Chemical
Depot
541-564-5418
[james.hackett@umcd-
emh1.umcd.army.mil](mailto:james.hackett@umcd-emh1.umcd.army.mil)

Jesse Seigal
Federal Emergency
Management Agency
541-567-3652
jesse.seigal@fema.gov

May 3, 2004

Time: 7:30 a.m.

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE and
MEDIA OPPORTUNITY**

Annual Emergency Preparedness Drill Wednesday, May 5

The annual CSEPP emergency preparedness drill will be held Wednesday, May 5.

This year's exercise will start at mid-morning on May 5. Emergency planners have changed the drill time to a daytime start after three years of holding night drills to allow participation from area schools.

People are urged to listen to the sirens and the test exercise messages as part of their overall emergency preparedness. The public will hear Westminster chimes in Umatilla, Morrow and southern Benton counties.

First responders, emergency management personnel and volunteers from three counties, Umatilla and Morrow in Oregon and Benton County, Wash., the states of Washington and Oregon, and the Army's Umatilla Chemical Depot will participate.

An estimated 10,000 school children in the two-state area will be involved in shelter-in-place and evacuation drills during the drill.

The American Red Cross will set up simulated evacuation shelters at Pendleton and The Dalles. Additionally, a unified Red Cross headquarters will be set up in Kennewick at the Benton-Franklin County Chapter office, 7202 W. Deschutes.

The 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 will test outdoor sirens, 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. Benton County county emergency management officials will simulate disaster response activities in the Plymouth and Paterson areas.

(MORE)

Several emergency preparedness activities are planned in Umatilla and Morrow counties in Oregon and in southern Benton County in Washington.

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

The Joint Information Center, located on the top floor of the Umatilla County Criminal Justice Building, across from the Pendleton airport off of I-84, Exit 207, will be activated to respond to mock public and media phone calls.

Federal, state and other evaluators will observe the drill and provide their comments on how the performance of the exercise players could be improved.

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR MEDIA

Media representatives may view portions of the exercise taking place with assistance from Army and Federal Emergency Management Agency escorts, starting at the Chemical Disposal Outreach Office at 190 E. Main Street in Hermiston, Ore., beginning at 9 a.m., Wednesday, May 5. There, media representatives will receive information on the exercise scenario. Contact Jesse Seigal, FEMA representative, (541) 310-9631 by 4 p.m., Monday, May 3, to make arrangements to cover the events. If media specifically want to cover depot activities during the start of the exercise, they should contact Jim Hackett from the depot Public Affairs Office at (541) 564-5418 prior to 4 p.m. Monday, May 3; if they decide to go to the depot, they need to be at the front gate of the depot off the I-84 freeway, Exit 177, by 9 a.m., May 5. The exercise scenario will also be provided to media covering the events at the depot. The off-post events will be going on concurrently as the depot events. (See the attached Media Advisory).