



U.S. ARMY
CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

U.S. Army Umatilla Chemical Depot

Public Affairs Office (541) 564-5312/5418

News Release

Date: April 27, 2004

Time: 4:45 p.m.

Contact: Mary A. Binder or Jim Hackett

Trace amount of chemical agent vapor detected

Umatilla Chemical Depot, Hermiston, Ore. –A depot monitoring crew detected a trace amount of GB (Sarin) chemical agent vapor late this afternoon inside a depot storage structure storing over-packed chemical weapons.

The crew was conducting routine daily monitoring when they detected the vapor.

An air-filtering device was placed into operation and continues to run to ensure vapor is not released into the atmosphere. The igloo is used for storing munitions that have previously leaked.

At no time was there danger to the public or the environment.

As is standard procedure, depot officials notify the public when such incidents occur. Depot officials have also notified off-post emergency operations centers in Umatilla and Morrow counties, Ore., Benton County, Wash., and those in Oregon and Washington states; the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality; and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

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