



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

Umatilla Chemical Depot

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 1, 2006

TIME: 2:03 p.m.

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Fire at Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility

Umatilla Chemical Depot, Hermiston, Ore. – A small fire occurred on 1 April 2006, at approximately 12:39 p.m., a fire occurred at the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF). The fire occurred within Explosive Containment Room (ECR) B, one of the facility's two remotely operated protective containment room, while processing a GB M55 rocket. The Rocket Shear Machine was making the fifth of seven shears when an ignition occurred as the shear blade cut through the rocket motor section. Initiation of this event was similar to prior UMCDF fire events, which previously involved GB M55 rockets. The incident was maintained under engineering controls and no agent readings were noted outside of expected areas. No injuries were reported.

As is standard procedure, depot officials notify the public when such incidents occur. Also, off-post emergency operations centers in Umatilla and Morrow counties, Ore., Benton County, Wash., those in Oregon and Washington states, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality have been notified. For additional information, please call Mr. James Hackett at 541-564-5312.

More information will be released as it becomes available.

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The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) is a dedicated team whose expertise and oversight sets the standards of excellence and leadership in safely storing the nation's aging chemical weapons and developing programs aimed at effectively recovering, treating and ultimately eliminating the nation's chemical warfare materiel. CMA personnel also enhance national security by providing specialized products and capabilities to our nation's Warfighters, and homeland defense and response capabilities. CMA encourages public participation and is committed to worker and public safety, and environmental stewardship. For more information about CMA and its programs, visit www.cma.army.mil.
