



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

Umatilla Chemical Depot

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Aug. 11, 2006
TIME: 2:30 p.m.

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Depot detects trace amount of GB agent vapor

UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT, Hermiston, Ore. – A depot chemical operations monitoring crew detected a trace amount of GB sarin chemical agent vapor today inside a chemical storage structure storing munitions that have previously leaked.

The trace of chemical agent was detected during routine monitoring.

The structure housing the chemical agent has a “passive” filter system, which prevents chemical agent vapor from escaping outside the structure. However, as a further protective measure, a powered filter system was installed.

The GB sarin munitions that have previously leaked in other chemical storage “igloos” at the depot are placed in larger ammunition containers and moved to a “leaker” storage structure that is monitored daily.

Although the readings are so low they are not harmful to the public or the environment, depot officials notify the public when such incidents occur. They also notify off-post emergency operations centers in Umatilla and Morrow counties, Ore., Benton County, Wash., those in Oregon and Washington states, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality.

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