



# PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

## Umatilla Chemical Depot

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 19, 2006  
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### Small rocket fire reported at depot

**UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT, Hermiston, Ore.** – A small fire occurred early this morning during the processing of an M55 rocket in one of the Explosive Containment Rooms (ECRs) at the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF).

Depot officials reported the fire, which occurred about 2:06 a.m., in ECR-B, was quickly extinguished. The rocket's chemical agent, GB Sarin, had been drained and the rocket was at a shear machine when the incident occurred.

Rocket processing resumed at both ECR Rooms A and B after 12:30 p.m. UMCDF workers cleared rocket debris in Room B and undertook a damage assessment before resuming processing.

As with previous fires, today's fire occurred during the fifth of seven shears. The ECR was under engineering controls so the fire and chemical agent were contained within the room. There were no injuries.

Modifications made to the ECR's Fire Suppression System last May helped extinguish the fire immediately, thereby minimizing damage to equipment.

There was no harm to UMCDF workers, the public and the environment.

Depot officials notified the 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.

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