



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

Umatilla Chemical Depot

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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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 2:45 a.m., in ECR-B, was immediately extinguished. The rocket's chemical agent, GB Sarin, had been drained and the rocket was at a shear machine when the incident occurred.

UMCDF workers have cleared rocket debris from the room and completed a damage assessment. Rocket processing is expected to resume later today.

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 UMCDP workers, the public or 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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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.

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