

Press Release

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3:00 p.m.

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Follow Up to Inadvertent Activation of CSEPP Emergency Alert System

Pendleton, Ore. – Umatilla and Morrow County Emergency Management would like to apologize to residents around the Umatilla Chemical Depot for the confusion caused by the inadvertent activation of the Tone Alert Radios (TAR) and Emergency Alert System (EAS).

The message that went out yesterday, Wednesday, November 11, stated that there had been an accident at the Umatilla Chemical Depot. This message should have been a regularly scheduled test message that is sent out every Wednesday at noon. There was no accident at the Depot.

The incorrect message was caused by human error. Procedures are being reviewed and refresher training will be occurring at all five locations where the TARs can be activated in the event of a chemical emergency at the Depot.

“We would like to remind residents that there is a five part warning system in place should there ever be an actual accident at the Umatilla Chemical Depot,” said Jim Stearns, Umatilla County Emergency Manager.

If this had been a real emergency, residents would have heard the TARs, outdoor sirens, and AM/FM radios. In addition, those traveling would have seen the Highway Message Reader Boards light up and the Highway Advisory Radio signs would alert travelers to tune in to radio station 1610 AM (in Oregon).

We would like to remind residents to listen to the Tone Alert Radios or tune in to 107.7 KUMA (FM) for information if there is a real emergency at the Umatilla Chemical Depot.

In a real emergency, the Tone Alert Radios would give additional information every 15 minutes. Residents should not call 911, unless there is a life threatening emergency.

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