



NEWS RELEASE

--For immediate release--

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Tone Alert Radios to be Activated for School Emergency Preparedness Drill

Pendleton, Oregon - Tone Alert Radios will be activated at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, October 7 for an emergency preparedness drill in the Umatilla County school districts. The public will hear the test message on the Tone Alert Radios which will signal the schools to begin their drill.

Special plans to protect children have been made with schools located within eight miles of the Umatilla Chemical Depot – in the Immediate Response Zone (IRZ) – in preparation for the unlikely event of an emergency.

All four Umatilla County school districts in the IRZ will participate in the mock drill exercise: Echo School District, Hermiston School District, Stanfield School District and Umatilla School District. Echo and Stanfield schools will practice evacuation, with the cooperation of Mid-Columbia Bus Company, during the drill, while Hermiston and Umatilla schools will shelter-in-place (over pressurize). In the event of an actual emergency, both Echo and Stanfield schools would evacuate via bus to Pilot Rock – Echo to Pilot Rock Elementary and Stanfield to Pilot Rock High School.

While most schools practice evacuation or shelter-in-place drills throughout the year, the schools cooperate with CSEPP and the Umatilla-Morrow Education Service District once a year for a formal drill. This drill will include evaluators who will observe the drills and determine where improvements need to be made at each school.

Residents and businesses are encouraged to practice their disaster plans during the event.

For more information on emergency preparedness, visit www.csepp.net. For information regarding schools, visit www.umesd.k12.or.us

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