



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL
MATERIALS AGENCY

FACT SHEET

WWW.CMA.ARMY.MIL

Newport Chemical Depot

NECDF Ton Container Line *Decontaminating Empty Steel Containers*

During chemical agent disposal operations at the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (NECDF), carbon steel containers, often referred to as ton containers or “TCs,” containing chemical agent VX were moved from the depot’s high-security storage area to the high-security disposal facility. Operators used a chemical agent transfer system (CHATS) to drain the liquid agent VX from the TCs and then transferred the agent to holding tanks. The agent is then transferred from the holding tanks to neutralization vessels where it was neutralized by thorough mixing with heated sodium hydroxide and water.



Coils surrounding the steel chamber in which the containers were placed were heated. This raised the temperature of the containers with radiant heat.

monitored to ensure there was no remaining contamination prior to removal from the CHATS.

The empty steel containers were decontaminated while the liquid agent was neutralized. The final process involved placing the steel container inside a metal (steel) chamber. The temperature of the chamber in which the TC was placed was increased using a process known as induction heating, which used electrical coils to increase the temperature. Induction heating is a proven process that has been used by the metal industry to heat metal for more than 40 years.

Through heat radiating from the surrounding steel chamber, the temperature of the container was raised to more than 1000° F and maintained for at least 15 minutes. This process ensured that the container, which weighs about 1,500 pounds empty, was completely decontaminated. The container was then allowed to air cool, and once this process was completed, the container was transported from the depot to a commercial recycling center.



For more information,
contact the
**Newport Chemical
Stockpile Outreach Office**
(866) 300-9034 toll-free

or contact the
NECD Public Affairs Office
(765) 245-4475

or the
CMA Public Affairs Office
(800) 488-0648



The empty steel containers were triple rinsed with hot sodium hydroxide and water through the glove box.

While in the glove box, the empty containers underwent initial decontamination. Highly trained operators triple rinsed the container with hot sodium hydroxide and water. Following this rinse cycle, hot air was circulated through the interior of the container to evaporate any remaining water. Before leaving the glove box, the interior of the container was examined with an instrument called a “borescope” to ensure the container was clean and dry. The exterior of the container was