



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

Umatilla Chemical Depot

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Feb. 14, 2011

TIME: 7:45 a.m.

UMCDF Equipment Failure (HVAC)

UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT, Hermiston, Ore. – Operations were interrupted Saturday at the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility.

The Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system at the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) was interrupted Saturday afternoon about 4 p.m., causing the plant to stop operations. Employees at the plant donned protective masks as a safety precaution.

HVAC is a key safety system necessary for operations of the plant. The HVAC system balances room pressures within the plant to draw processing area air through carbon filters. Operators successfully restarted portions of the HVAC system within minutes, restoring the required room pressures. The plant has an extensive agent monitoring system that remained fully functional during the HVAC interruption. The monitoring system did not detect any abnormal conditions. There was no release of chemical agent from the plant.

There was an ongoing maintenance entry into the plant when the HVAC system was interrupted. As a precaution the entry was terminated and the shift superintendent requested a medical evaluation of the participants. All personnel were evaluated by the onsite physician and cleared. The superintendent waited until all entrants were cleared before giving clearance for unmasking at 7:45 pm.

At no time during the event was there any danger to the public.

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