



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY Deseret Chemical Depot

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DEPOT WORKERS REACH SAFETY MILESTONE

DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT, STOCKTON, Utah -- Government workers at Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) today achieved a major safety milestone – reaching and surpassing one million consecutive man-hours without a lost workday injury.

Today's unprecedented achievement is a first for the government workforce on this depot and the Army's six remaining U.S. Army's chemical demilitarization storage sites.

Approximately two thousand man-hours are accumulated each day of safe work without a lost workday by the nearly 350 government workers at the depot. This consecutive safe hours string began in September 2009.

"This is a reflection of our worker's commitment to maintaining a safe work environment," said Col. Mark B. Pomeroy, depot commander. "When our employees work safely, it means we are keeping the community and environment safe as well," he added.

The achievement is all the more remarkable considering the challenging chemical hazards and heavy industrial type work that's done on the depot.

One measurement of the effectiveness of a company's safety culture is its rolling (or 12 month) recordable injury rate (RIR). OSHA describes a recordable injury as one that requires medical attention, ranging from stitches to broken bones and other serious injuries. DCD finished last month with an RIR of 0.9 (0.9 recordable injuries for every 100 man-years worked). A man-year is equivalent to fifty 40-hour work weeks or 2000 man hours. According to OSHA, that's comparable to people who work on computer design or in credit card offices.

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The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) with headquarters at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., stores the nation's aging chemical weapons and develops programs aimed at effectively treating and ultimately eliminating chemical warfare materiel. For more information about CMA and its programs, visit www.cma.army.mil.

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